

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

FRANKENSTEIN: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Letter 2 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Robert Walton writes to his sister from Archangel about his loneliness as he prepares for his voyage of discovery.

I desire the company of a man who could sympathise with me, whose eyes would reply to mine. You may deem me romantic, my dear sister, but I bitterly feel the want of a friend. I have no one near me, gentle yet courageous, possessed of a cultivated as well as of a capacious mind, whose tastes are like my own, to approve or amend my plans. How would such a friend repair the faults of your poor brother! I am too ardent in execution and too impatient of difficulties. But it is a still greater evil to me that I am self-educated: for the first fourteen years of my life I ran wild on a common and read nothing but our Uncle Thomas' books of voyages. At that age I became acquainted with the celebrated poets of our own country; but it was only when it had ceased to be in my power to derive its most important benefits from such a conviction that I perceived the necessity of becoming acquainted with more languages than that of my native country.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents the character of Walton in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Walton admits to his sister that he longs for a friend who shares his tastes and understands him.

Explain the importance of isolation and the need for companionship elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- how isolation and the need for companionship is presented
- the effects isolation and the need for companionship has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents isolation and the need for companionship in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Walton admits to his sister that he longs for a friend who shares his tastes and understands him.

Explain the importance of the character of Walton elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Walton is presented
- the effects Walton has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 2 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Victor Frankenstein begins to explain to Walton how his boyhood reading first drew him towards science.

Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate; I desire, therefore, in this narration, to state those facts which led to my predilection for that science. When I was thirteen years of age we all went on a party of pleasure to the baths near Thonon; the inclemency of the weather obliged us to remain a day confined to the inn. In this house I chanced to find a volume of the works of Cornelius Agrippa. I opened it with apathy; the theory which he attempts to demonstrate and the wonderful facts which he relates soon changed this feeling into enthusiasm. A new light seemed to dawn upon my mind, and bounding with joy, I communicated my discovery to my father. My father looked carelessly at the title page of my book and said, “Ah! Cornelius Agrippa! My dear Victor, do not waste your time upon this; it is sad trash.”

(a) Explore how Shelley presents the character of Victor Frankenstein in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Victor recalls discovering the works of Cornelius Agrippa and his father's dismissive response.

Explain the importance of dangerous knowledge and ambition elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how dangerous knowledge and ambition is presented
- the effects dangerous knowledge and ambition has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 2 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents dangerous knowledge and ambition in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Victor recalls discovering the works of Cornelius Agrippa and his father's dismissive response.

Explain the importance of the character of Victor Frankenstein elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Victor Frankenstein is presented
- the effects Victor Frankenstein has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 4 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Victor describes how his studies at Ingolstadt have led him to the secret of life and how he imagines the glory of creating it.

No father could claim the gratitude of his child so completely as I should deserve theirs. Pursuing these reflections, I thought that if I could bestow animation upon lifeless matter, I might in process of time (although I now found it impossible) renew life where death had apparently devoted the body to corruption.

These thoughts supported my spirits, while I pursued my undertaking with unrelenting ardour. My cheek had grown pale with study, and my person had become emaciated with confinement. Sometimes, on the very brink of certainty, I failed; yet still I clung to the hope which the next day or the next hour might realise. One secret which I alone possessed was the hope to which I had dedicated myself; and the moon gazed on my midnight labours, while, with unrelaxed and breathless eagerness, I pursued nature to her hiding-places. Who shall conceive the horrors of my secret toil as I dabbled among the unhallowed damps of the grave or tortured the living animal to animate the lifeless clay?

(a) Explore how Shelley presents the character of Victor Frankenstein in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Victor describes his feverish, secretive work and his hope of being worshipped as the creator of a new species.

Explain the importance of ambition and playing God elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how ambition and playing God is presented
- the effects ambition and playing God has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents ambition and playing God in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Victor describes his feverish, secretive work and his hope of being worshipped as the creator of a new species.
Explain the importance of the character of Victor Frankenstein elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Victor Frankenstein is presented
- the effects Victor Frankenstein has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 5 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Victor's experiment finally succeeds and he sees the creature come to life.

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents the character of Victor Frankenstein in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature opens its eyes and Victor is immediately filled with horror at what he has made.

Explain the importance of responsibility and the consequences of creation elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how responsibility and the consequences of creation is presented
- the effects responsibility and the consequences of creation has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 5 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents responsibility and the consequences of creation in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature opens its eyes and Victor is immediately filled with horror at what he has made.

Explain the importance of the character of Victor Frankenstein elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Victor Frankenstein is presented
- the effects Victor Frankenstein has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 10 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the creature confronts Victor on the glacier and pleads with him to listen to his story.

Remember that I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel, whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed. Everywhere I see bliss, from which I alone am irrevocably excluded. I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend. Make me happy, and I shall again be virtuous.”

“Begone! I will not hear you. There can be no community between you and me; we are enemies. Begone, or let us try our strength in a fight, in which one must fall.”

“How can I move thee? Will no entreaties cause thee to turn a favourable eye upon thy creature, who implores thy goodness and compassion? Believe me, Frankenstein, I was benevolent; my soul glowed with love and humanity; but am I not alone, miserably alone? You, my creator, abhor me; what hope can I gather from your fellow creatures, who owe me nothing? They spurn and hate me. The desert mountains and dreary glaciers are my refuge. I have wandered here many days; the caves of ice, which I only do not fear, are a dwelling to me, and the only one which man does not grudge.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents The creature in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature compares himself to Adam and the fallen angel as he begs Victor to take responsibility for him.
Explain the importance of isolation and rejection elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how isolation and rejection is presented
- the effects isolation and rejection has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents isolation and rejection in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature compares himself to Adam and the fallen angel as he begs Victor to take responsibility for him.
Explain the importance of The creature elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how The creature is presented
- the effects The creature has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 15 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the creature tells Victor how he reacted after reading *Paradise Lost* and discovering the truth about his creation.

Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live? Why, in that instant, did I not extinguish the spark of existence which you had so wantonly bestowed? I know not; despair had not yet taken possession of me; my feelings were those of rage and revenge. I could with pleasure have destroyed the cottage and its inhabitants and have glutted myself with their shrieks and misery.

“When night came I quitted my retreat and wandered in the wood; and now, no longer restrained by the fear of discovery, I gave vent to my anguish in fearful howlings. I was like a wild beast that had broken the toils, destroying the objects that obstructed me and ranging through the wood with a stag-like swiftness. Oh! What a miserable night I passed! The cold stars shone in mockery, and the bare trees waved their branches above me; now and then the sweet voice of a bird burst forth amidst the universal stillness. All, save I, were at rest or in enjoyment; I, like the arch-fiend, bore a hell within me, and finding myself unsympathised with, wished to tear up the trees, spread havoc and destruction around me, and then to have sat down and enjoyed the ruin.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents The creature in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, After the De Lacey family reject him, the creature curses Victor and gives way to destructive anger.

Explain the importance of revenge and the effects of rejection elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how revenge and the effects of rejection is presented
- the effects revenge and the effects of rejection has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents revenge and the effects of rejection in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, After the De Lacey family reject him, the creature curses Victor and gives way to destructive anger.

Explain the importance of The creature elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how The creature is presented
- the effects The creature has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 20 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Victor has just destroyed the half-finished female creature and the creature threatens him.

Slave, I before reasoned with you, but you have proved yourself unworthy of my condescension. Remember that I have power; you believe yourself miserable, but I can make you so wretched that the light of day will be hateful to you. You are my creator, but I am your master; obey!”

“The hour of my irresolution is past, and the period of your power is arrived. Your threats cannot move me to do an act of wickedness; but they confirm me in a determination of not creating you a companion in vice. Shall I, in cool blood, set loose upon the earth a dæmon whose delight is in death and wretchedness? Begone! I am firm, and your words will only exasperate my rage.”

The monster saw my determination in my face and gnashed his teeth in the impotence of anger. “Shall each man,” cried he, “find a wife for his bosom, and each beast have his mate, and I be alone? I had feelings of affection, and they were requited by detestation and scorn.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents The creature and Victor in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature claims to be Victor's master, but Victor refuses to create a companion for him.

Explain the importance of power, control and revenge elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how power, control and revenge is presented
- the effects power, control and revenge has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents power, control and revenge in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature claims to be Victor's master, but Victor refuses to create a companion for him.

Explain the importance of The creature and Victor elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how The creature and Victor is presented
- the effects The creature and Victor has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Read the following extract from Chapter 24 of *Frankenstein* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the creature stands over Victor's body in Walton's cabin and speaks of his remorse and his plans to die.

Farewell! I leave you, and in you the last of humankind whom these eyes will ever behold. Farewell, Frankenstein! If thou wert yet alive and yet cherished a desire of revenge against me, it would be better satiated in my life than in my destruction. But it was not so; thou didst seek my extinction, that I might not cause greater wretchedness; and if yet, in some mode unknown to me, thou hadst not ceased to think and feel, thou wouldst not desire against me a vengeance greater than that which I feel. Blasted as thou wert, my agony was still superior to thine, for the bitter sting of remorse will not cease to rankle in my wounds until death shall close them for ever.

“But soon,” he cried with sad and solemn enthusiasm, “I shall die, and what I now feel be no longer felt. Soon these burning miseries will be extinct. I shall ascend my funeral pile triumphantly and exult in the agony of the torturing flames.

(a) Explore how Shelley presents The creature in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature says goodbye to Walton and vows to destroy himself now that his creator is dead.

Explain the importance of suffering, remorse and the cost of ambition elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how suffering, remorse and the cost of ambition is presented
- the effects suffering, remorse and the cost of ambition has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Shelley presents suffering, remorse and the cost of ambition in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The creature says goodbye to Walton and vows to destroy himself now that his creator is dead.

Explain the importance of The creature elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how The creature is presented
- the effects The creature has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)