

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the young Pip is alone in the churchyard when a convict suddenly appears from among the graves.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. “Keep still, you little devil, or I’ll cut your throat!”

A fearful man, all in coarse gray, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

“Oh! Don’t cut my throat, sir,” I pleaded in terror. “Pray don’t do it, sir.”

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick!”

“Pip, sir.”

“Once more,” said the man, staring at me. “Give it mouth!”

“Pip. Pip, sir.”

“Show us where you live,” said the man. “Pint out the place!”

I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat in-shore among the alder-trees and pollards, a mile or more from the church.

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, An escaped convict seizes Pip in the marshes and threatens him.
Explain the importance of crime and fear elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how crime and fear is presented
- the effects crime and fear has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

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Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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(b) In this extract, An escaped convict seizes Pip in the marshes and threatens him.
Explain the importance of the character of Magwitch elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 8 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Pip has been brought to Satis House for the first time and meets Miss Havisham.

She was dressed in rich materials,, satins, and lace, and silks,, all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks, were scattered about. She had not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on,, the other was on the table near her hand,, her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her bosom lay with those trinkets, and with her handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a Prayer-Book all confusedly heaped about the looking-glass.

It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of them in the first moments than might be supposed. But I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its lustre and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes.

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip sees Miss Havisham in her faded wedding dress and thinks she looks like a waxwork or a skeleton.

Explain the importance of the past and obsession elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the past and obsession is presented
- the effects the past and obsession has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

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(a) Explore how Dickens presents the past and obsession in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip sees Miss Havisham in her faded wedding dress and thinks she looks like a waxwork or a skeleton.

Explain the importance of the character of Miss Havisham elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Miss Havisham is presented
- the effects Miss Havisham has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 8 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Pip is playing cards with Estella at Satis House while Miss Havisham watches.

So she sat, corpse-like, as we played at cards; the frillings and trimmings on her bridal dress, looking like earthy paper. I knew nothing then of the discoveries that are occasionally made of bodies buried in ancient times, which fall to powder in the moment of being distinctly seen; but, I have often thought since, that she must have looked as if the admission of the natural light of day would have struck her to dust.

“He calls the knaves Jacks, this boy!” said Estella with disdain, before our first game was out. “And what coarse hands he has! And what thick boots!”

I had never thought of being ashamed of my hands before; but I began to consider them a very indifferent pair. Her contempt for me was so strong, that it became infectious, and I caught it.

She won the game, and I dealt. I misdealt, as was only natural, when I knew she was lying in wait for me to do wrong; and she denounced me for a stupid, clumsy laboring-boy.

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Estella mocks Pip's coarse hands and thick boots, and he begins to feel ashamed.

Explain the importance of class and social ambition elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how class and social ambition is presented
- the effects class and social ambition has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(a) Explore how Dickens presents class and social ambition in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Estella mocks Pip's coarse hands and thick boots, and he begins to feel ashamed.

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

In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 19 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Pip has just said a sad goodbye to Joe and is leaving the village for London.

I walked away at a good pace, thinking it was easier to go than I had supposed it would be, and reflecting that it would never have done to have had an old shoe thrown after the coach, in sight of all the High Street. I whistled and made nothing of going. But the village was very peaceful and quiet, and the light mists were solemnly rising, as if to show me the world, and I had been so innocent and little there, and all beyond was so unknown and great, that in a moment with a strong heave and sob I broke into tears. It was by the finger-post at the end of the village, and I laid my hand upon it, and said, "Good-bye, O my dear, dear friend!"

Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, for they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts. I was better after I had cried than before,, more sorry, more aware of my own ingratitude, more gentle.

(a) Explore how Dickens presents the character of Pip in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip walks away from the forge and breaks into tears, realising how ungrateful he has been.

Explain the importance of guilt and ingratitude elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how guilt and ingratitude is presented
- the effects guilt and ingratitude has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

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Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, for they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts. I was better after I had cried than before,, more sorry, more aware of my own ingratitude, more gentle.

(a) Explore how Dickens presents guilt and ingratitude in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip walks away from the forge and breaks into tears, realising how ungrateful he has been.

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

In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 33 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Pip, now a young gentleman, has walked with Estella and is reminding her of their first meeting.

I showed her to a nicety where I had seen her walking on the casks, that first old day, and she said, with a cold and careless look in that direction, "Did I?" I reminded her where she had come out of the house and given me my meat and drink, and she said, "I don't remember." "Not remember that you made me cry?" said I. "No," said she, and shook her head and looked about her. I verily believe that her not remembering and not minding in the least, made me cry again, inwardly,, and that is the sharpest crying of all.

"You must know," said Estella, condescending to me as a brilliant and beautiful woman might, "that I have no heart,, if that has anything to do with my memory."

I got through some jargon to the effect that I took the liberty of doubting that. That I knew better. That there could be no such beauty without it.

"Oh! I have a heart to be stabbed in or shot in, I have no doubt," said Estella, "and of course if it ceased to beat I should cease to be. But you know what I mean. I have no softness there, no, sympathy, sentiment, nonsense."

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Estella tells Pip she has no heart and no softness.
Explain the importance of love and rejection elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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

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(b) In this extract, Estella tells Pip she has no heart and no softness.
Explain the importance of the character of Estella elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 38 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Miss Havisham is speaking to Pip about Estella just before Jaggers interrupts them.

“Hear me, Pip! I adopted her, to be loved. I bred her and educated her, to be loved. I developed her into what she is, that she might be loved. Love her!”

She said the word often enough, and there could be no doubt that she meant to say it; but if the often repeated word had been hate instead of love, despair, revenge, dire death, it could not have sounded from her lips more like a curse.

“I’ll tell you,” said she, in the same hurried passionate whisper, “what real love is. It is blind devotion, unquestioning self-humiliation, utter submission, trust and belief against yourself and against the whole world, giving up your whole heart and soul to the smiter, as I did!”

When she came to that, and to a wild cry that followed that, I caught her round the waist. For she rose up in the chair, in her shroud of a dress, and struck at the air as if she would as soon have struck herself against the wall and fallen dead.

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Miss Havisham urges Pip to love Estella and describes real love as blind devotion.

Explain the importance of love and revenge elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and revenge is presented
- the effects love and revenge has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Dickens presents love and revenge in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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(b) In this extract, Miss Havisham urges Pip to love Estella and describes real love as blind devotion.

Explain the importance of the character of Miss Havisham elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Miss Havisham is presented
- the effects Miss Havisham has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 39 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, a stranger has come to Pip's rooms at night and revealed himself to be the convict from the marshes.

I could not have spoken one word, though it had been to save my life. I stood, with a hand on the chair-back and a hand on my breast, where I seemed to be suffocating,, I stood so, looking wildly at him, until I grasped at the chair, when the room began to surge and turn. He caught me, drew me to the sofa, put me up against the cushions, and bent on one knee before me, bringing the face that I now well remembered, and that I shuddered at, very near to mine.

“Yes, Pip, dear boy, I've made a gentleman on you! It's me wot has done it! I swore that time, sure as ever I earned a guinea, that guinea should go to you. I swore arterwards, sure as ever I spec'lated and got rich, you should get rich. I lived rough, that you should live smooth; I worked hard, that you should be above work. What odds, dear boy? Do I tell it, fur you to feel a obligation? Not a bit. I tell it, fur you to know as that there hunted dunghill dog wot you kep life in, got his head so high that he could make a gentleman,, and, Pip, you're him!”

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Magwitch reveals that he, not Miss Havisham, has paid for Pip to become a gentleman.

Explain the importance of identity and social class elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how identity and social class is presented
- the effects identity and social class has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(a) Explore how Dickens presents identity and social class in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Magwitch reveals that he, not Miss Havisham, has paid for Pip to become a gentleman.

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

In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract from Chapter 59 of *Great Expectations* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, which is the ending, Pip has met Estella again among the ruins of Satis House.

“But you said to me,” returned Estella, very earnestly, “God bless you, God forgive you! And if you could say that to me then, you will not hesitate to say that to me now,, now, when suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but, I hope, into a better shape. Be as considerate and good to me as you were, and tell me we are friends.”

“We are friends,” said I, rising and bending over her, as she rose from the bench.

“And will continue friends apart,” said Estella.

I took her hand in mine, and we went out of the ruined place; and, as the morning mists had risen long ago when I first left the forge, so the evening mists were rising now, and in all the broad expanse of tranquil light they showed to me, I saw no shadow of another parting from her.

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

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip and Estella leave the ruined garden together after she says she has learned from suffering.

Explain the importance of redemption and reunion elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how redemption and reunion is presented
- the effects redemption and reunion has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

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(a) Explore how Dickens presents redemption and reunion in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Pip and Estella leave the ruined garden together after she says she has learned from suffering.

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

In your answer, you must consider:

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

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)