

**YEAR 11**

Edexcel Paper 1: Reading Practice

Year 11, pitched at Pearson Edexcel GCSE English Language. Harder extracts and full exam thinking: how the paper works, the skills on the text, then top-band judgement. The extract is real Mary Shelley, from 1818.

From Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, published in 1818. Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist, has spent two years trying to bring a body to life.

- 1 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
- 5 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
- 10 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
- 15 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,
- 20 that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

A. Warm-up

Know the paper before the text.

- 1 How many marks is the whole of Paper 1?

- 2 How long is Paper 1?
 - (a) 1 hour
 - (b) 2 hours 30 minutes
 - (c) 45 minutes
 - (d) 1 hour 45 minutes

- 3 About how long should you spend on Section A, the reading?
 - (a) About 1 hour
 - (b) About 15 minutes
 - (c) About 2 hours
 - (d) About 45 minutes

- 4 Question 4 asks you to evaluate. That means
 - (a) summarising the plot
 - (b) judging how successfully the writer creates an effect
 - (c) counting the techniques
 - (d) copying out quotations

- 5 Question 3 must cover
 - (a) language only
 - (b) structure only
 - (c) both language and structure
 - (d) the writer's life

B. Where you should be now

Questions 1 to 3 on the extract.

- 6 Question 1 style: which phrase from paragraph 1 shows the setting is gloomy?
 - (a) the accomplishment of my toils
 - (b) the instruments of life
 - (c) a spark of being
 - (d) the rain pattered dismally against the panes

- 7 Paragraph 1: what is the first sign that the creature is alive?
- (a) its dull yellow eye opens
 - (b) it speaks
 - (c) it stands up
 - (d) it smiles
-
- 8 'With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony' shows Victor is
- (a) bored
 - (b) extremely tense
 - (c) calm and confident
 - (d) angry with himself
-
- 9 'my candle was nearly burnt out' adds to the scene by showing
- (a) Victor is poor
 - (b) the room is on fire
 - (c) it is very late and the light is failing
 - (d) it is morning
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- 10 Paragraph 2 opens with a question: 'How can I describe my emotions...?' The effect is
- (a) to ask the reader for advice
 - (b) to slow the plot down
 - (c) to show he is calm
 - (d) to show his feelings are almost too strong for words
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- 11 'Beautiful! Great God!' These short exclamations show
- (a) his shock and horror
 - (b) his pride
 - (c) his joy
 - (d) his boredom
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C. Stretch

Question 4: judge how well Shelley creates horror, with evidence.

- 12 Victor chose the features 'as beautiful', but the result horrifies him. This is
- (a) a flashback
 - (b) a contrast between his hopes and the reality
 - (c) a rhetorical question
 - (d) a cliffhanger
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- 13 Why mention the 'lustrous black' hair and 'pearly' teeth?
- (a) To show the creature is handsome
 - (b) To describe Victor
 - (c) The attractive details make the rest seem even more horrid by contrast
 - (d) To show the room is clean
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- 14 Structurally, the extract moves from
- (a) a happy ending to a sad one
 - (b) the creature's view to Victor's
 - (c) the future to the past
 - (d) the moment of creation to Victor's horror at what he made
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- 15 Calling the body 'the lifeless thing' suggests
- (a) Victor does not see it as a person
 - (b) Victor loves it
 - (c) the creature is a machine
 - (d) it is very small
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- 16 Which is the strongest Question 4 judgement?
- (a) Shelley uses lots of techniques.
 - (b) Shelley creates horror very successfully: she builds anxious expectation in the dark, then breaks it with one dull yellow eye.
 - (c) The extract is about Frankenstein.
 - (d) I found it scary because it is scary.
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