

## AVAILABLE PAST PAPER QUESTIONS ON OF MICE AND MEN

### June 2006 Paper:

#### EITHER

6 Write about **two** places in the novel which you think are important.

Write about:

- what the different places are like
- how they are presented by Steinbeck
- why you think these places are important. (27 marks)

#### OR

7 In *Of Mice and Men* Steinbeck presents some of his characters as being weak in some way.

Choose **two** characters you think are weak. Write about these characters and how they are presented. (27 marks)

### June 2007 Paper:

#### EITHER

6 Read the passage below, which is the beginning of Section 6 of the novel, and answer the question that follows.

The deep green pool of the Salinas River was still in the late afternoon. Already the sun had left the valley to go climbing up the slopes of the Gabilan mountains, and the hilltops were rosy in the sun. But by the pool among the mottled sycamores, a pleasant shade had fallen.

A water snake glided smoothly up the pool, twisting its periscope head from side to side; and it swam the length of the pool and came to the legs of a motionless heron that stood in the shallows. A silent head and beak lanced down and plucked it out by the head, and the beak swallowed the little snake while its tail waved frantically.

A far rush of wind sounded and a gust drove through the tops of the trees like a wave. The sycamore leaves turned up their silver sides, the brown, dry leaves on the ground scudded a few feet. And row on row of tiny wind waves flowed up the pool's green surface.

As quickly as it had come, the wind died, and the clearing was quiet again. The heron stood in the shallows, motionless and waiting. Another little water snake swam up the pool, turning its periscope head from side to side.

Suddenly Lennie appeared out of the brush, and he came as silently as a creeping bear moves. The heron pounded the air with its wings, jacked itself clear of the water, and flew off down-river. The little snake slid in among the reeds at the

pool's side.

Write about:

- the ways the writer uses details in this passage to make the reader think about the characters, events and ideas in the novel
- the ways the writer uses details in this passage to prepare the reader for the ending.

(27 marks)

**OR**

7 Many readers find that *Of Mice and Men* is a sad book. How far do you agree? (27 marks)

**June 2008 Paper:**

**EITHER**

6 Choose **two** characters from the list below, say why you think they are important in the novel and how Steinbeck presents them:

Candy; Crooks; Curley; Curley's wife; Slim. (27 marks)

**OR**

7 *Of Mice and Men* has been described 'as nearly perfect as any book can be'. How do you respond to the novel as a whole?

Write about:

- how you respond to the novel
- how Steinbeck makes you respond by the ways he writes. (27 marks)

**June 2009 Paper (Foundation Only Available):**

**EITHER**

6 How do you respond to Crooks in *Of Mice and Men*?

Write about:

- what Crooks says and does
- how Steinbeck presents Crooks by the ways he writes about him
- the importance of Crooks in the novel. (27 marks)

**OR**

7 What did you enjoy about reading *Of Mice and Men*?

Write about:

- what you enjoyed about the characters and events, and why
- what you enjoyed about the ways that Steinbeck writes. (27 marks)