

Plot		Vocabulary				Character	
Chapter 1	George and Lennie are chased out of Weed. Whilst making their way to the ranch for work, they set up camp for the night. We learn about their relationship and their dream about owning their own ranch.	Mixed	Stereotype	Isolation	Misogyny	Lennie Bogus	A huge man but with a child like understanding of the world. He has a selective, short-term memory and always gets in trouble. He looks up to George as a father figure and takes pleasure in hearing of the dream ranch and the rabbits they will have.
Chapter 2	At the ranch, they meet most of the main characters: Candy, Curley, Curley's wife, Slim and the Boss. George makes it clear that Curley is potentially a dangerous character and he warns Lennie to stay away from Curley's flirtatious wife.	Atmosphere	American Dream	Personalization	Segregation	George Johnson	He is the opposite of Lennie both in size and intelligence. He is no laughing thing and, although he loves Lennie, he becomes easily frustrated and annoyed with him. He protects Lennie and tells him no more than from Curley's threats.
Chapter 3	Candy's dog is shot by Carlson because he is old and suffering. Candy comforts George and Lennie discussing their dream of owning a ranch and he offers them all his savings to become involved in it. Curley gets a fight with Lennie in front of the men. Lennie crushes his hand and humiliates him.	Novella	Irony	Isotopy	Personas	Slim	Slim is the well-respected and admired ranch foreman. He is a nice figure with 'good-blue' eyes who'd opinion and deserves the men respect. He decides to shoot Candy's dog.
Chapter 4	Candy, Crooks, Lennie and Curley's wife are left on the ranch as everyone else goes into town. It is clear that a momentary hope of being part of the dream until Curley's wife cruelly betrays him and reminds him of his position as a black man.	Context				Lennie	He is the creepiest old 'beastmaster'. After his dog is shot, he makes George and Lennie's dream become more of a reality by offering them all his savings.
Chapter 5	Lennie kills his puppy. He accidentally kills Curley's wife by breaking her neck when he was stroking her hair. Curley and the men bury a piece in the Salinas down. George knows he has to tell Lennie himself.	The Wall Street Crash happened in 1929 when the price on the New York Stock Exchange collapsed. Many people blamed the banks for this disaster because they rubbed people's deposits on the Stock Market. The consequence of this was difficult to accept because The Roaring Twenties was a time of prosperity and the feeling that life was improving again after WW1.				Crooks	Crooks is the 'negro' stable boy who is segregated from the white workers because of his skin colour and lives close to the animals. At first, he is bitter and cynical when Lennie tells him about the dream but finds himself being drawn into it. His hope for the future is destroyed when Curley's wife crushes his dignity and threatens his life.
Chapter 6	George finds Lennie in the brush and as he tells him about their dream ranch, he places him in the back of the head.	America was plunged into The Great Depression after the stock market crashed. By 1932, the country was in the greatest economic depression of its history with over 12 million people unemployed and many people starving and homeless.				Curley's wife	She is the only woman on the ranch and her lack of work in the state of the men is suggested by the fact she is not named, she is just a possession of her husband. She is lonely but she tries to get a negative light and think 'she got the eye'. Sadly, her dream of becoming a movie star ends with her death at Lennie's hands.
Themes		The Great Depression occurred when a series of dust storms in 1930s. America losted major damage to agricultural land in some states. This meant much of the land could not be farmed and as a result farmers lost their livelihoods and were forced into an economic struggle.				Curley	Curley is a violent bully and the son of the Boss. His real reason for hunting down Lennie is to avenge for the humiliation of having his hand crushed, rather than for the death of his wife.
Loneliness	Dreams	The American Dream was the dream of a life that could be better, richer and more fulfilling for everyone. People dreamed of having their own land and being independent after the effects of the dust storm crisis. America had always been seen as the land of opportunity where any dream could be achieved through hard work.				Carlson	Carlson shows Candy's dog and is a representative figure of the tough, unforgiving men on the ranch.
Isolation	Friendship	As a result of the economic and agricultural problems, many farmers migrated to California in search of work. It provided a better chance of employment. George and Lennie are examples of these migrant workers who move from ranch to ranch looking for work and facing to accept low wages. This was a very insecure and unstable way of life.					
Survival of the fittest	Marginalization						
The weak and the strong	Animals						
Assessment Objectives							
A01	Respond to texts critically and imaginatively select and evaluate relevant textual detail to illustrate and support interpretations.						
A02	Explain how language, structure and form contribute to writers' presentation of ideas, themes and settings.						
A04	Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts; explain how texts have been influenced and significant to self and other readers in different contexts and at different times.						

'Of Mice and Men' Sample Exam Essay Question

Text Focus	Time Frame
<p>The title of the novella is from a poem called <i>Ode to a Mouse</i> by the 14th-century poet, Robert Burns. It is a poem that grows as it describes how easily hopes and dreams can be destroyed. This line,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The best laid plans of mice and men Goes oft awry"</p> <p>reminds us of how none of the characters will ever achieve their hopes and dreams and adds to the depressing message of the novella.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The events of the novella take place over 3 hot days. It opens with George and Lennie camping on a Thursday night on their way to the ranch. On Friday evening, Candy's dog is shot, and Lennie breaks Curley's hand. On Saturday, the men go into town and the 'weak' characters are left behind. On Sunday afternoon, Lennie kills Curley's wife. In the evening George shoots Lennie.

You are asked to spend about 40 minutes on this question.

Show how John Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s.

(20 marks)

<p>John Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to highlight several aspects of American society, including the racism and prejudice against black people, the loneliness of migrant Americans, who wandered from job to job, and also the institution that the American Dream, whatever version they have, will never come true, but will instead be destroyed.</p> <p>Firstly John Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to show the racism against the black people who had recently been released from slavery. This is evident from the start of the book when Candy tells George that Crooks 'gets it from the boss every time the boss is angry'. Crooks is unable to do anything about it because he is a black man with a crippled back, who, if fired, will be unable to find work with anyone else. This is again depicted further on in the novel when Curley's wife claims that she can get 'them' (working up to her) to quit even Sunday if he gets her 'into trouble'. This again highlights the fact of racism in American society as it shows that black people were considered as less than married white women; women weren't thought of highly in American society, but only as objects to seduce and possess. Racism is also evident in Curley's use of the word 'nigger' when referring to Crooks, which is a racist and derogatory nickname for Crooks. It shows what he views Crooks' position as justified and rightful or else he wouldn't desire to use that language.</p> <p>Steinbeck also uses Crooks to illustrate the loneliness that was felt by the black people and also the travelling workers in American society who had nothing to do other than wander by themselves looking for work. This is evident in Crooks' refusal to allow Lennie into his room, but eventually relent, which shows that although he wants the idea of people other than him, he is still willing to let a promise to himself to isolate himself and stay because Lennie is unlikely to grasp the meaning of racism.</p>	<p>Steinbeck portrays the institution that the American Dream is nothing but an illusion through Crooks as he is willing to join in with the dream with Lennie and Candy. However, when Curley's wife enters the room, he tells her when he was 'just feeling' showing that because Crooks has been subject to racism and prejudice for the majority of his life, it is easier for him to accept the false nature of the American Dream. I think that while Crooks was able to forget that he was discriminated against, due to the company that was given, Lennie, a dumb-dumb and Candy 'a lousy old shag', he was able to believe in the dream. However, it was shattered as soon as reality pervaded the room on the form of Curley's wife, who had her own dream, that she thinks will cover their undergarments.</p> <p>Finally, Steinbeck uses Crooks to show the things that the black population of America dreamt about, because as Lennie enters the room, Crooks is reading a book about civil rights and quotes to himself as the start of their conversation, "You have no right being in a black man's room" shows that Crooks is considered less than on the social ladder but is also concerned about preserving what little dignity and self-respect he has left. He is eager to ensure that people don't violate his rights. Furthermore, he probably wants to be treated as a normal person, as he accepts the invitation to join the white workers in the bunkhouse at Christmas, even though they prompt just a fight with him and use him as an entertainment.</p> <p>Overall, I think that Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to show the main problems with American society in the 1930s, particularly towards black people and also towards lower class workers and people who didn't have a lot of money.</p>
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Commentary

The answer remains focused throughout with key words from the question present in each paragraph. There is accurate use of relevant detail from different sections of the text and the exploration of the impact of Crooks' presentation becomes more confident as the response develops. There is some detailed reference to salient events and relationships and the reader is kept in.

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**Open University A397/Study
guide, Maureen Cooke, Trevor
Fear, Janet Huskinson, Paula
James, Inga Mantle, James
Robson, Naoko Yamagata**

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Review Text in Latin Two Years Eli Blume, Charles I. Freundlich, 1959 *Latin to GCSE Part 1* Henry Cullen, John Taylor, 2016-07-14 Includes glossary vocabulary appendices and index

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