

iGCSE - Of Mice and Men Study Guide

General Planning:

- Aim for 3 to 4 paragraphs
- Pick contrasting ideas (explained in 'Question Types')
- Use connectives to join ideas together between paragraphs.
- Refer to Steinbeck's intentions, and the effects on the reader and context.

Response Structure:

- **Introduction** - (What and why of the question)
- **Paragraphs 1 ~ 4**
- **Conclusion** - (Summarize the idea - add nothing new)
- Each Main Paragraph:
 - Topic Sentence
 - Use a range of analysis words (presented, suggested, exposes)
 - Concrete Detail
 - Include quotations that best support the topic sentence, and embed them.
 - Aim for at least 2 quotations per paragraph/point.
 - Commentary
 - What is Steinbeck's intention, and what tone is being created.
 - How does it make readers feel?
 - Which word is the most important and what does it signify?
 - Link to Context
 - How does this represent and reflect life on the ranch in 1930's America?
 - What is being revealed?

Focus Points (What the marks are based on) - 40 marks total:

AO1 (20 marks) - Demonstrate a close knowledge and understanding of texts, maintaining a critical style and presenting an informed personal engagement.

AO4 (20 marks) - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

- Knowledge and Understanding of the text
- Personal engagement and a perceptive critical style
- Understanding the relationship between the text and context (integrated convincingly)
- Choice and use of relevant examples (quotations) in support
- Offer alternative examples (in terms of ideas)

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Question Types:

Theme Question:

- Focus on a different character for each paragraph.
- Pick characters that contrast in some way (in terms of theme)

Character Question:

- Focus on a different event or scene for each paragraph.
- Track the character's development chronologically.
- Pick contrasting events that show different sides to a character's personality.

Themes:

- Dreams
- Loneliness
- Inequality - futility of American Dream
- Nature and Animals
- Human (predatory) Nature
- Freedom vs Captivity
- Fear

Characters:

- George
- Lennie
- Curley
- Curley's Wife
- Crooks
- Candy
- Slim

Contexts (of 1930's America):

- American Dream
- Racism - Jim Crow Laws
- Gender Inequality - Sexism
- Wall Street Crash & Great Depression
- Golden California/Dust Bowl
- Migrant Workers