a-1

b1 2

b2-2

c-3

d1-2

d2-2

e-3

Read **Text A**, and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(g)** on the question paper.

**Passage A: The Incident on the Express Train**

*In this extract a young man, named Joe, is walking through the countryside when he witnesses an unusual incident on a passing train.*

Joe came out of the wood on the far side of the hill, next to the railway line. He must have

left the path without noticing in the dark and he was frustrated to find himself following a wide

circle around the slopes above the tunnel. He was about to return when he realised that he was

standing beside the exit of the tunnel. He paused, standing completely still, watching the stars

in the night sky above. The thunderous roar of a train emerging from the depths of the earth,

growing louder and louder by the moment, shattered his tranquillity.

Joe saw the dark mouth of the tunnel lit up, like a gaping furnace filled with burning coal. Then the engine burst out with the dazzling glare of its great big round eye, the lantern in front, illuminating the rails for a long way ahead. It came like a thunderbolt with the carriages following afterwards. The small square windows of the doors, brilliant with light, displayed compartments full of travellers.The train flew past at such a whirling speed that Joe could not be sure about what he saw.

At that precise moment, Joe glimpsed, through a carriage window, one man holding another by

the collar of his overcoat and pinning him struggling against the wall. But, before he could take

it all in, the train had already dashed past, and was disappearing in the direction of the city, and

nothing more could be seen except for the three lights at the back forming a red triangle.

The young man, rooted to the spot, followed the train with his eyes as its thunder gradually died

away. Was he sure about what he had seen? He hesitated. Not one feature of the two men in the carriage remained clear. All the details had become confused, and evaporated as if it was a dream.

For an instant, he had witnessed a dramatic image and then it vanished. All this gave him an icy

chill. It seemed to him so extraordinary, that at last he admitted he must have been seeing things.

For another hour, Joe walked on, his head filled with conflicting thoughts and emotions. Feeling

confused and exhausted he found himself standing in the darkness in front of the signalman’s

house. Seeing a ray of light from under the front door, he pushed it open.

In the corner of the room, the railway worker was searching in a large storage cupboard. Disturbed

by the noise of the door opening, the railway worker turned around.

‘I came to find my lantern, because a little while ago, as I was coming along by the main railway

line, I saw a man lying on the bank on the far side.’

Joe appeared violently upset by the news of this discovery. The scene he had witnessed in the

passing train, the thunderous noise and the brief vision of two men struggling with one another,

returned to him in a vivid flash.

‘A man by the line!’ he exclaimed, turning pale. ‘Where?’

The railway worker was about to explain that he was returning from a long walk, but seeing Joe’s

response, changed his mind. He gestured vaguely in a northerly direction and replied:

‘Over there, about 500 metres up the line. I couldn’t see clearly in the dark if he was alive or not.

I need a light to find out more.’

‘I’ll go with you,’ said Joe.

(a)Which **one** word suggests that Joe is annoyed about losing his way (paragraph 1)?

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(b)(i) **Using your own words**, explain why Joe is uncertain about what he sees happening in the train carriage (paragraph 2).

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(ii) **Using your own words**, explain what is meant by the phrase: ‘Not one feature of the two

men in the carriage remained clear’ (lines 17–18).

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(c) How does Joe explain to himself what he thought he saw through the carriage window

(paragraph 4)?

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(d)(i) **Using your own words**, explain why Joe is confused and exhausted (line 22).

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(ii) **Using your own words**, explain what it is about Joe’s behaviour that the railway worker is

worried about (lines 28–31).

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(e) Re-read paragraphs 1 and 2. **Using your own words**, explain what the writer means by

the words in *italics* in **each** of the following phrases:

(a) ‘The *thunderous* roar of a train emerging from the depths of the earth’ (line 5)

(b) ‘…burst out with the *dazzling* glare of its great big round eye’ (line 8)

(c) ‘The train flew past at such a *whirling* speed’ (line 11).

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