



GCSE

C700U10-1A



A24-C700U10-1A



TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Component 1
20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Resource Material for use with Section A

SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage below.

The narrator of this story is a friend of two brothers called Tom and George Ramsay.

1 Tom Ramsay had been a problem to his family for twenty years. He had begun life decently
enough. He went into business. He married and had two children. The Ramsays were
perfectly respectable and there was every reason to think that Tom Ramsay would have a
useful and successful life. However, one day, without warning, he announced that he didn't
5 like work and he didn't like marriage. He wanted to enjoy himself. He left his wife and his office
and he spent two happy years travelling around Europe.

The other day I saw his brother, George Ramsay, lunching by himself in a restaurant. He
was wearing an expression of deep gloom. He was staring into space. He looked as though
the whole world sat on his shoulders. I suspected that his brother had been causing trouble
10 again. I went up to him and held out my hand.

'How are you?' I asked.

'I'm not in great spirits,' he answered.

'Is it Tom again?'

He sighed.

15 'Yes, it's Tom again,' he replied, miserably.

'Why don't you forget him?' I asked. 'You've done everything in the world for him. You must
know by now that he is quite hopeless.'

Rumours of Tom's activities reached his family from time to time, and they were profoundly
shocked. He had certainly had a very good time. His family wondered what he would do when
20 the money ran out. They soon found out. He borrowed. He was charming and I have never
met anyone to whom it was more difficult to refuse a loan. He always said the money you
spent on necessities was boring; the money that was amusing to spend was the money you
spent on luxuries. For this he depended on his brother George. Tom did not waste his charm
on him. George was a serious and respectable man but once or twice he believed Tom's
25 promises to change his ways and loaned him considerable sums of money. Tom used the
money to buy jewellery and a nice car.

When George realised that his brother would never settle down, he washed his hands of
him. Tom, without a twinge of conscience, began to blackmail him. He pointed out that it would
be embarrassing for a highly respectable lawyer like George to find his brother working as
30 a lowly waiter in George's favourite restaurant. Tom said that there was nothing wrong with
working as a waiter but, if George could oblige with a couple of hundred pounds, he didn't
mind giving it up for the reputation of the family. George paid.

Once, Tom nearly went to prison. George was terribly upset and again concerned about the
honour of the family. Tom had gone too far this time. He had been selfish, thoughtless and wild
35 but he had never done anything illegal before. If he were prosecuted, he would definitely go to
prison. The man Tom had cheated, a man called Cronshaw, was vindictive and determined to
take the matter to court. He said Tom was a scoundrel and should be punished. George could
not allow his brother to go to prison and he paid five thousand pounds to settle the matter. I
have never seen George in such a rage as when he heard that Tom and Cronshaw had gone
40 off to Monte Carlo the moment they cashed the cheque. They spent a happy month there.

For twenty years Tom gambled, ate in the most expensive restaurants, danced with the
prettiest girls and dressed beautifully. He always looked as if he had just stepped out of a
glamorous movie. He was forty-six but you would never have taken him for more than
thirty-five. He was a most amusing companion and though you knew he was perfectly
45 worthless you could not but enjoy spending time with him. He had high spirits and incredible

charm, and I never loaned him money without feeling that I was in his debt. Tom Ramsay knew everyone and everyone knew Tom Ramsay. You could not approve of him, but you could not help liking him.

50 Poor George was only a year older than his brother, but he looked sixty. He never took more than a fortnight's holiday. He was in his office at nine o'clock every day and never left it until six in the evening. He was honest and industrious. He was a faithful husband and a good father to his four daughters. He saved a third of his income and planned to retire at fifty-five to the country where he would tend his garden and play golf. He said more than once that
55 he was glad that he was growing older because Tom was growing older too. George rubbed his hands and said: 'It was all very well when Tom was young and handsome but he's only a year younger than me. In four years he'll be fifty. He won't find life so easy then. I'll have my pension and Tom will end in the gutter. And we shall see how he likes that. We shall see if it really pays best to work or be idle.'

60 As I sat next to George in the restaurant, I wondered what Tom had done now. I sympathised with George. He was clearly upset and could hardly bring himself to speak.

'You're not going to deny that all my life I've been hardworking, decent and respectable.'

'True,' I said.

'And you can't deny that Tom has been an idle, worthless rogue. If there were any justice he'd be living on the streets.'

65 'True.'

George grew red in the face.

'A few weeks ago he became engaged to a woman old enough to be his mother. And now she has died and left him everything she had. A million pounds, a yacht, a house in London and a house in the country.'

70 George beat his clenched fist on the table.

'It's not fair, I tell you, it's not fair. Damn it, it's not fair.'

I could not help it. I burst into a shout of laughter as I looked at George's angry face. I rolled in my chair. I very nearly fell on the floor.

75 George never forgave me, but Tom often asks me to excellent dinners in his charming house in London.

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