

AQA English Literature GCSE

Jekyll & Hyde: Question Bank *Context*

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Please note: *these questions have been written and formatted in the same style as AQA exam questions. You can use them to help with extract questions and timed essay practice. These questions have NOT been taken from past papers and they have NOT been made by AQA.*

Mark Schemes

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1. Victorian Gentleman

He was austere with himself; drank gin when he was alone, to mortify a taste for vintages; and though he enjoyed the theatre, had not crossed the doors of one for twenty years. But he had an approved tolerance for others; sometimes wondering, almost with envy, at the high pressure of spirits involved in their misdeeds; and in any extremity inclined to help rather than to reprove. 'I incline to Cain's heresy,' he used to say quaintly: 'I let my brother go to the devil in his own way.' In this character, it was frequently his fortune to be the last reputable acquaintance and the last good influence in the lives of down-going men. And to such as these, so long as they came about his chambers, he never marked a shade of change in his demeanour.

No doubt the feat was easy to Mr Utterson; for he was undemonstrative at the best, and even his friendships seemed to be founded in a similar catholicity of good-nature. It is the mark of a modest man to accept his friendly circle ready-made from the hands of opportunity; and that was the lawyer's way. His friends were those of his own blood or those whom he had known the longest; his affections, like ivy, were the growth of time, they implied no aptness in the object. Hence, no doubt, the bond that united him to Mr Richard Enfield, his distant kinsman, the well-known man about town. It was a nut to crack for many, what these two could see in each other or what subject they could find in common. It was reported by those who encountered them in their Sunday walks, that they said nothing, looked singularly dull, and would hail with obvious relief the appearance of a friend. For all that, the two men put the greatest store by these excursions, counted them the chief jewel of each week, and not only set aside occasions of pleasure, but even resisted the calls of business, that they might enjoy them uninterrupted.

It chanced on one of these rambles that their way led them down a bystreet in a busy quarter of London. The street was small and what is called quiet, but it drove a thriving trade on the weekdays. The inhabitants were all doing well, it seemed, and all emulously hoping to do better still, and laying out the surplus of their gains in coquetry; so that the shop fronts stood along that thoroughfare with an air of invitation, like rows of smiling saleswomen.

“Mr Utterson and Mr Enfield are perfect examples of the Victorian Gentleman.”
Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents the concept of the Victorian Gentleman in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents the concept of the Victorian Gentleman in the novel as a whole. (30)



2. Religion

Instantly the spirit of hell awoke in me and raged. With a transport of glee, I mauled the unresisting body, tasting delight from every blow; and it was not till weariness had begun to succeed, that I was suddenly, in the top fit of my delirium, struck through the heart by a cold thrill of terror. A mist dispersed; I saw my life to be forfeit; and fled from the scene of these excesses, at once glorying and trembling, my lust of evil gratified and stimulated, my love of life screwed to the topmost peg. I ran to the house in Soho, and (to make assurance doubly sure) destroyed my papers; thence I set out through the lamplit streets, in the same divided ecstasy of mind, gloating on my crime, light-headedly devising others in the future, and yet still hastening and still hearkening in my wake for the steps of the avenger. Hyde had a song upon his lips as he compounded the draught, and as he drank it, pledged the dead man. The pangs of transformation had not done tearing him, before Henry Jekyll, with streaming tears of gratitude and remorse, had fallen upon his knees and lifted his clasped hands to God. The veil of self-indulgence was rent from head to foot, I saw my life as a whole: I followed it up from the days of childhood, when I had walked with my father's hand, and through the self-denying toils of my professional life, to arrive again and again, with the same sense of unreality, at the demand horrors of the evening. I could have screamed aloud; I sought with tears and prayers to smother down the crowd of hideous images and sounds with which my memory swarmed against me; and still, between the petitions, the ugly face of my iniquity stared into my soul. As the acuteness of this remorse began to die away, it was succeeded by a sense of joy. The problem of my conduct was solved. Hyde was thenceforth impossible; whether I would or not, I was now confined to the better part of my existence; and O, how I rejoiced to think it! with what willing humility, I embraced anew the restrictions of natural life! with what sincere renunciation, I locked the door by which I had so often gone and come, and ground the key under my heel!

“Religion is a large influence on Stevenson’s novel and the characters within it.”

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents religious influence in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents religious influence in the novel as a whole. (30)



3. Science

'It is well,' replied my visitor. 'Lanyon, you remember your vows: what follows is under the seal of our profession. And now, you who have so long been bound to the most narrow and material views, you who have denied the virtue of transcendental medicine, you who have derided your superiors – behold!'

He put the glass to his lips and drank at one gulp. A cry followed; he reeled, staggered, clutched at the table and held on, staring with injected eyes, gasping with open mouth; and as I looked there came, I thought, a change – he seemed to swell – his face became suddenly black and the features seemed to melt and alter – and the next moment, I had sprung to my feet and leaped back against the wall, my arm raised to shield me from that prodigy, my mind submerged in terror.

'O God!' I screamed, and 'O God!' again and again; for there before my eyes – pale and shaken, and half fainting, and groping before him with his hands, like a man restored from death – there stood Henry Jekyll!

What he told me in the next hour, I cannot bring my mind to set on paper. I saw what I saw, I heard what I heard, and my soul sickened at it; and yet now when that sight has faded from my eyes, I ask myself if I believe it, and I cannot answer. My life is shaken to its roots; sleep has left me; the deadliest terror sits by me at all hours of the day and night; I feel that my days are numbered, and that I must die; and yet I shall die incredulous. As for the moral turpitude that man unveiled to me, even with tears of penitence, I cannot, even in memory, dwell on it without a start of horror. I will say but one thing, Utterson, and that (if you can bring your mind to credit it) will be more than enough. The creature who crept into my house that night was, on Jekyll's own confession, known by the name of Hyde and hunted for in every corner of the land as the murderer of Carew.

“Stevenson uses Dr Jekyll to warn his readers of the negative impact science can have on society.”

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents scientific influence in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents scientific influence in the novel as a whole. (30)



4. The Gothic

Mr Enfield and the lawyer were on the other side of the bystreet; but when they came abreast of the entry, the former lifted up his cane and pointed.

‘Did you ever remark that door?’ he asked; and when his companion had replied in the affirmative, ‘it is connected in my mind,’ added he, ‘with a very odd story.’

‘Indeed?’ said Mr Utterson, with a slight change of voice, ‘and what was that?’

‘Well, it was this way,’ returned Mr Enfield: ‘I was coming home from some place at the end of the world, about three o’clock of a black winter morning, and my way lay through a part of town where there was literally nothing to be seen but lamps. Street after street, and all the folks asleep – street after street, all lighted up as if for a procession and all as empty as a church – till at last I got into that state of mind when a man listens and listens and begins to long for the sight of a policeman. All at once, I saw two figures: one a little man who was stumping along eastward at a good walk, and the other a girl of maybe eight or ten who was running as hard as she was able down a cross street. Well, sir, the two ran into one another naturally enough at the corner; and then came the horrible part of the thing; for the man trampled calmly over the child’s body and left her screaming on the ground. It sounds nothing to hear, but it was hellish to see.’

Starting with this extract, write about how Stevenson presents an influence of the gothic genre. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents gothic conventions in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents gothic conventions in the novel as a whole. (30)



1. Science MS

Question 3

“Stevenson uses Dr Jekyll to warn his readers of the negative impact science can have on society.”

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents scientific influence in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents scientific influence in the novel as a whole. (30)

Indicative content:

Examiners are encouraged to reward and valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- The effects of Jekyll’s scientific experiments are described negatively
- Jekyll has become an animal, a “creature”
- Lanyon is shocked and scared by what he witnesses
- Reference to scientific influence elsewhere, such as in chapter six or ten

AO2

- Semantic field of horror / terror surrounding Hyde / Jekyll transformation
- Physical effect of the horror Lanyon described in detail
- Pain inflicted on Jekyll during the transformation described in detail
- Two doctors belong to the “same profession” but are juxtaposed
- Exclamatives to display Lanyon’s shock

AO3

- The conflict of science and religion - references God, juxtaposes the transformation
- Gothic influence on the extract - the supernatural



2. The Gothic MS

Question 4

Starting with this extract, write about how Stevenson presents an influence of the gothic genre. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents gothic conventions in this extract
- How Stevenson presents gothic conventions in the novel as a whole. (30)

Indicative content:

Examiners are encouraged to reward and valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1 [REFERENCING, MAKING STATEMENTS]

- Violence is a convention of the genre
- Atmosphere of fear and mystery - “black winter morning”, “church”, “odd story”
- Mention of other gothic conventions employed elsewhere in the novel

AO2 [WRITER’S METHODS AND THEIR EFFECTS]

- Introduced as a mystery / story - juxtapose current walk with the story Enfield tells
- Semantic field of darkness
- Horrific language to describe trampling

AO3 [CONTEXT AND SETTING LINKS]

- Religious language - “hellish”, “church” - importance of religion in Victorian society
- Victorians afraid of the effects of change
- “Shilling Shocker” - written for Christmas - popular when Gothic
- Many contemporaries in the literary world such as Dracula

