

AQA English Literature GCSE

Jekyll & Hyde: Question Bank *Setting*

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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.

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1. Soho

It was by this time about nine in the morning, and the first fog of the season. A great chocolate-coloured pall lowered over heaven, but the wind was continually charging and routing these embattled vapours; so that as the cab crawled from street to street, Mr Utterson beheld a marvellous number of degrees and hues of twilight; for here it would be dark like the back-end of evening; and there would be a glow of a rich, lurid brown, like the light of some strange conflagration; and here, for a moment, the fog would be quite broken up, and a haggard shaft of daylight would glance in between the swirling wreaths. The dismal quarter of Soho seen under these changing glimpses, with its muddy ways, and slatternly passengers, and its lamps, which had never been extinguished or had been kindled afresh to combat this mournful reinvasion of darkness, seemed, in the lawyer's eyes, like a district of some city in a nightmare. The thoughts of his mind, besides, were of the gloomiest dye; and when he glanced at the companion of his drive, he was conscious of some touch of that terror of the law and the law's officers, which may at times assail the most honest.

As the cab drew up before the address indicated, the fog lifted a little and showed him a dingy street, a gin palace, a low French eating house, a shop for the retail of penny numbers and twopenny salads, many ragged children huddled in the doorways, and many women of many different nationalities passing out, key in hand, to have a morning glass; and the next moment the fog settled down again upon that part, as brown as umber, and cut him off from his blackguardly surroundings. This was the home of Henry Jeky

“Stevenson presents Soho as a dangerous place.”

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

- How Stevenson presents Soho in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents Soho in the novel as a whole.



2. Jekyll's house and lab

Round the corner from the bystreet, there was a square of ancient, handsome houses, now for the most part decayed from their high estate and let in flats and chambers to all sorts and conditions of men: map-engravers, architects, shady lawyers and the agents of obscure enterprises. One house, however, second from the corner, was still occupied entire; and at the door of this, which wore a great air of wealth and comfort, though it was now plunged in darkness except for the fan-light, Mr Utterson stopped and knocked. A well-dressed, elderly servant opened the door.

'Is Dr Jekyll at home, Poole?' asked the lawyer.

'I will see, Mr Utterson,' said Poole, admitting the visitor, as he spoke, into a large, low-roofed, comfortable hall, paved with flags, warmed (after the fashion of a country house) by a bright, open fire, and furnished with costly cabinets of oak. 'Will you wait here by the fire, sir? or shall I give you a light in the dining room?'

'Here, thank you,' said the lawyer, and he drew near and leaned on the tall fender. This hall, in which he was now left alone, was a pet fancy of his friend the doctor's; and Utterson himself was wont speak of it as the pleasantest room in London.

Starting with this extract, write about how Stevenson presents Jekyll's house. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents Jekyll's house in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents Jekyll's house in the novel as a whole.



3. Victorian England

Mr Utterson the lawyer was a man of a rugged countenance, that was never lighted by a smile; cold, scanty and embarrassed in discourse; backward in sentiment; lean, long, dusty, dreary and yet somehow lovable. At friendly meetings, and when the wine was to his taste, something eminently human beaconed from his eye; something indeed which never found its way into his talk, but which spoke not only in these silent symbols of the after-dinner face, but more often and loudly in the acts of his life. 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 — Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde 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.

“Stevenson’s characters in ‘A Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ are all reacting to the pressures of being in a strict Victorian England society”

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

- How Stevenson presents pressures of Victorian England in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents pressures of Victorian England in the novel as a whole.



1. Victorian England MS

Question 3

“Stevenson’s characters in ‘A Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ are all reacting to the pressures of being in a strict Victorian England society”.

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

- How Stevenson presents pressures of Victorian England in this extract.
- How Stevenson presents pressures of Victorian England in the novel as a whole.

Indicative content:

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

AO1

- Mr Utterson represses his pleasures because society causes him to do so.
- Profession tends to define men in Victorian society
- Good connections and friendships are important in Victorian England
- Mentioning the pressures of Victorian England elsewhere in the novel

AO2

- Multiple clauses and complicated lexicon to reflect amount of pressure
- Juxtaposition to highlight appearance vs reality such as “though he enjoyed the theatre, had not crossed the doors of one for twenty years”
- Biblical allusion to set serious tone
- Listing is used as a technique

AO3

- The importance of reputation is due to the pressure to be a Victorian Gentleman
- The characters are a product of a classist and hierarchical society
- Importance of religion, implied by biblical reference

