

Edexcel English Literature GCSE

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Question Bank *Themes*

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Please note: *these questions have been written and formatted in the same style as Edexcel 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 Edexcel.*



1. Duality

The pleasures which I made haste to seek in my disguise were, as I have said, undignified; I would scarce use a harder term. But in the hands of Edward Hyde, they soon began to turn towards the monstrous. When I would come back from these excursions, I was often plunged into a kind of wonder at my vicarious depravity. This familiar that I called out of my own soul, and sent forth alone to do his good pleasure, was a being inherently malign and villainous; his every act and thought centered on self; drinking pleasure with bestial avidity from any degree of torture to another; relentless like a man of stone. Henry Jekyll stood at times aghast before the acts of Edward Hyde; but the situation was apart from ordinary laws, and insidiously relaxed the grasp of conscience. It was Hyde, after all, and Hyde alone, that was guilty. Jekyll was no worse; he woke again to his good qualities seemingly unimpaired; he would even make haste, where it was possible, to undo the evil done by Hyde. And thus his conscience slumbered.

Into the details of the infamy at which I thus connived (for even now I can scarce grant that I committed it) I have no design of entering; I mean but to point out the warnings and the successive steps with which my chastisement approached. I met with one accident which, as it brought on no consequence, I shall no more than mention. An act of cruelty to a child aroused against me the anger of a passer by, whom I recognized the other day in the person of your kinsman; the doctor and the child's family joined him; there were moments when I feared for my life; and at last, in order to pacify their too just resentment, Edward Hyde had to bring them to the door, and pay them in a cheque drawn in the name of Henry Jekyll. But this danger was easily eliminated from the future, by opening an account at another bank in the name of Edward Hyde himself; and when, by sloping my own hand backward, I had supplied my double with a signature, I thought I sat beyond the reach of fate.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents duality in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Dr Jekyll discusses the power Mr Hyde begins to have over him as the narrative progresses. Explain how power is presented elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- who has power
- how power is described (20)



2. Repression

I was born in the year 18 — to a large fortune, endowed besides with excellent parts, inclined by nature to industry, fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellow-men, and thus, as might have been supposed, with every guarantee of an honourable and distinguished future. And indeed the worst of my faults was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition, such as has made the happiness of many, but such as I found it hard to reconcile with my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public. Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look round me and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life. Many a man would have even blazoned such irregularities as I was guilty of; but from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame. It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature. In this case, I was driven to reflect deeply and inveterately on that hard law of life, which lies at the root of religion and is one of the most plentiful springs of distress. Though so profound a double-dealer, I was in no sense a hypocrite; both sides of me were in dead earnest; I was no more myself when I laid aside restraint and plunged in shame, than when I laboured, in the eye of day, at the furtherance of knowledge or the relief of sorrow and suffering. And it chanced that the direction of my scientific studies, which led wholly towards the mystic and the transcendental, reacted and shed a strong light on this consciousness of the perennial war among my members. With every day, and from both sides of my intelligence, the moral and the intellectual, I thus drew steadily nearer to that truth, by whose partial discovery I have been doomed to such a dreadful shipwreck: that man is not truly one, but truly two.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents the theme of repression in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Dr Jekyll explains how he had to conceal part of his personality and his desires. Explain how evil nature is explored elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- which traits are evil
- who has evil characteristics (20)



3. Science vs Religion

I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life. Many a man would have even blazoned such irregularities as I was guilty of; but from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame. It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature. In this case, I was driven to reflect deeply and inveterately on that hard law of life, which lies at the root of religion and is one of the most plentiful springs of distress. Though so profound a double-dealer, I was in no sense a hypocrite; both sides of me were in dead earnest; I was no more myself when I laid aside restraint and plunged in shame, than when I laboured, in the eye of day, at the furtherance of knowledge or the relief of sorrow and suffering. And it chanced that the direction of my scientific studies, which led wholly towards the mystic and the transcendental, reacted and shed a strong light on this consciousness of the perennial war among my members. With every day, and from both sides of my intelligence, the moral and the intellectual, I thus drew steadily nearer to that truth, by whose partial discovery I have been doomed to such a dreadful shipwreck: that man is not truly one, but truly two. I say two, because the state of my own knowledge does not pass beyond that point. Others will follow, others will outstrip me on the same lines; and I hazard the guess that man will be ultimately known for a mere polity of multifarious, incongruous and independent denizens. I for my part, from the nature of my life, advanced infallibly in one direction and in one direction only. It was on the moral side, and in my own person, that I learned to recognize the thorough and primitive duality of man; I saw that, of the two natures that contended in the field of my consciousness, even if I could rightly be said to be either, it was only because I was radically both; and from an early date, even before the course of my scientific discoveries had begun to suggest the most naked possibility of such a miracle, I had learned to dwell with pleasure, as a beloved daydream, on the thought of the separation of these elements. If each, I told myself, could but be housed in separate identities, life would be relieved of all that was unbearable; the unjust might go his way, delivered from the aspirations and remorse of his more upright twin; and the just could walk steadfastly and securely on his upward path, doing the good things in which he found his pleasure, and no longer exposed to disgrace and penitence by the hands of this extraneous evil.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents the conflict between science and religion in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Dr Jekyll reflects on his scientific experiment. Explain how a tone of reflection is included elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- who is being reflective
- how reflection is portrayed in the language and structure of the text (20)



4. Secrecy

Jekyll,' said Utterson, 'you know me: I am a man to be trusted. Make a clean breast of this in confidence; and I make no doubt I can get you out of it.'

'My good Utterson,' said the doctor, 'this is very good of you, this is downright good of you, and I cannot find words to thank you in. I believe you fully; I would trust you before any man alive, ay, before myself, if I could make the choice; but indeed it isn't what you fancy; it is not so bad as that; and just to put your good heart at rest, I will tell you one thing: the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr Hyde. I give you my hand upon that; and I thank you again and again; and I will just add one little word, Utterson, that I'm sure you'll take in good part: this is a private matter, and I beg of you to let it sleep.'

Utterson reflected a little looking in the fire.

'I have no doubt you are perfectly right,' he said at last, getting to his feet.

'Well, but since we have touched upon this business, and for the last time I hope,' continued the doctor, 'there is one point I should like you to understand. I have really a very great interest in poor Hyde. I know you have seen him; he told me so; and I fear he was rude. But I do sincerely take a great, a very great interest in that young man; and if I am taken away, Utterson, I wish you to promise me that you will bear with him and get his rights for him. I think you would, if you knew all; and it would be a weight off my mind if you would promise.'

'I can't pretend that I shall ever like him,'` said the lawyer.

'I don't ask that,' pleaded Jekyll, laying his hand upon the other's arm; 'I only ask for justice; I only ask you to help him for my sake, when I am no longer here.'

Utterson heaved an irrepressible sigh. 'Well,' said he. 'I promise.'

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll's secrecy in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Mr Utterson reassures Dr Jekyll of their trusting bond. Explain how trust is presented elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- who is involved
- how this relationship of trust is presented (20)



5. Good vs Evil

Between these two, I now felt I had to choose. My two natures had memory in common, but all other faculties were most unequally shared between them. Jekyll (who was composite) now with the most sensitive apprehensions, now with a greedy gusto, projected and shared in the pleasures and adventures of Hyde; but Hyde was indifferent to Jekyll, or but remembered him as the mountain bandit remembers the cavern in which he conceals himself from pursuit. Jekyll had more than a father's interest; Hyde had more than a son's indifference. To cast in my lot with Jekyll, was to die to those appetites which I had long secretly indulged and had of late begun to pamper. To cast it in with Hyde, was to die to a thousand interests and aspirations, and to become, at a blow and forever, despised and friendless. The bargain might appear unequal; but there was still another consideration in the scales; for while Jekyll would suffer smartingly in the fires of abstinence, Hyde would be not even conscious of all that he had lost. Strange as my circumstances were, the terms of this debate are as old and commonplace as man; much the same inducements and alarms cast the die for any tempted and trembling sinner; and it fell out with me, as it falls with so vast a majority of my fellows, that I chose the better part and was found wanting in the strength to keep to it.

Yes, I preferred the elderly and discontented doctor, surrounded by friends and cherishing honest hopes; and bade a resolute farewell to the liberty, the comparative youth, the light step, leaping pulses and secret pleasures, that I had enjoyed in the disguise of Hyde. I made this choice perhaps with some unconscious reservation, for I neither gave up the house in Soho, nor destroyed the clothes of Edward Hyde, which still lay ready in my cabinet. For two months, however, I was true to my determination; for two months, I led a life of such severity as I had never before attained to, and enjoyed the compensations of an approving conscience. But time began at last to obliterate the freshness of my alarm; the praises of conscience began to grow into a thing of course; I began to be tortured with throes and longings, as of Hyde struggling after freedom; and at last, in an hour of moral weakness, I once again compounded and swallowed the transforming draught.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents the conflict of good and evil in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Dr Jekyll is reflecting on and condemning Mr Hyde's dangerous and evil natures. Explain how Mr Hyde is presented as dangerous and evil elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- How language is used to make him appear dangerous and evil
- Which characters perceive him negatively (20)



6. Appearance vs Reality

There was no mirror, at that date, in my room; that which stands beside me as I write, was brought there later on and for the very purpose of these transformations. The night, however, was far gone into the morning – the morning, black as it was, was nearly ripe for the conception of the day – the inmates of my house were locked in the most rigorous hours of slumber; and I determined, flushed as I was with hope and triumph, to venture in my new shape as far as to my bedroom. I crossed the yard, wherein the constellations looked down upon me, I could have thought, with wonder, the first creature of that sort that their unsleeping vigilance had yet disclosed to them; I stole through the corridors, a stranger in my own house; and coming to my room, I saw for the first time the appearance of Edward Hyde.

I must here speak by theory alone, saying not that which I know, but that which I suppose to be most probable. The evil side of my nature, to which I had now transferred the stamping efficacy, was less robust and less developed than the good which I had just deposed. Again, in the course of my life, which had been, after all, nine tenths a life of effort, virtue and control, it had been much less exercised and much less exhausted. And hence, as I think, it came about that Edward Hyde was so much smaller, slighter and younger than Henry Jekyll. Even as good shone upon the countenance of the one, evil was written broadly and plainly on the face of the other. Evil besides (which I must still believe to be the lethal side of man) had left on that body an imprint of deformity and decay. And yet when I looked upon that ugly idol in the glass, I was conscious of no repugnance, rather of a leap of welcome. This, too, was myself. It seemed natural and human. In my eyes it bore a livelier image of the spirit, it seemed more express and single, than the imperfect and divided countenance, I had been hitherto accustomed to call mine. And in so far I was doubtless right. I have observed that when I wore the semblance of Edward Hyde, none could come near to me at first without a visible misgiving of the flesh. This, as I take it, was because all human beings, as we meet them, are commingled out of good and evil: and Edward Hyde, alone in the ranks of mankind, was pure evil.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents the separation of appearance and reality in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Jekyll compares Mr Hyde to his own stature and characteristics. Explain how Mr Hyde and Dr Jekyll are compared elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- who is comparing them
- what language is used during the comparison (20)



7. Violence

'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. It wasn't like a man; it was like some damned Juggernaut.³ I gave a view halloa, took to my heels, collared my gentleman, and brought him back to where there was already quite a group about the screaming child. He was perfectly cool and made no resistance, but gave me one look, so ugly that it brought out the sweat on me like running. The people who had turned out were the girl's own family; and pretty soon, the doctor, for whom she had been sent, put in his appearance. Well, the child was not much the worse, more frightened, according to the Sawbones; and there you might have supposed would be an end to it. But there was one curious circumstance. I had taken a loathing to my gentleman at first sight. So had the child's family, which was only natural. But the doctor's case was what struck me. He was the usual cut and dry apothecary, of no particular age and colour, with a strong Edinburgh accent, and about as emotional as a bagpipe.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents violence in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Mr Enfield is recalling the story of the door, when Mr Hyde trampled a young girl. Explain how stories are used as narrative devices elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- what is the story about
- what purpose does it serve in the plot of the novel (20)



8. The Supernatural

There comes an end to all things; the most capacious measure is filled at last; and this brief condescension to my evil finally destroyed the balance of my soul. And yet I was not alarmed; the fall seemed natural, like a return to the old days before I had made my discovery. It was a fine, clear, January day, wet under foot where the frost had melted, but cloudless overhead; and the Regent's Park was full of winter chirrupings and sweet with Spring odours. I sat in the sun on a bench; the animal within me licking the chops of memory; the spiritual side a little drowsed, promising subsequent penitence, but not yet moved to begin. After all, I reflected I was like my neighbours; and then I smiled, comparing myself with other men, comparing my active goodwill with the lazy cruelty of their neglect. And at the very moment of that vainglorious thought, a qualm came over me, a horrid nausea and the most deadly shuddering. These passed away, and left me faint; and then as in its turn the faintness subsided, I began to be aware of a change in the temper of my thoughts, a greater boldness, a contempt of danger, a solution of the bonds of obligation. I looked down; my clothes hung formlessly on my shrunken limbs; the hand that lay on my knee was corded and hairy. I was once more Edward Hyde. A moment before I had been safe of all men's respect, wealthy, beloved – the cloth laying for me in the dining room at home; and now I was the common quarry of mankind, hunted, houseless, a known murderer, thrall to the gallows.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents the theme of supernatural in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Dr Jekyll explains the first time he transitions into Mr Hyde without intent. Explain how transition is presented elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- How the transition takes place
- What language is used to describe the transition (20)



9. Terror/ Horror

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 Jekyll's favourite; of a man who was heir to a quarter of a million sterling.

3 (a) Explore how Stevenson presents an atmosphere of fear in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas. (20)

(b) In this extract, Mr Utterson is accompanying the police to show them where Mr Hyde lives. Explain how Mr Utterson investigates the case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider:

- how people react
- what he discovers (20)



Secrecy Mark Scheme Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde

Q	Indicative Content
4(a)	<p><i>The indicative content is not prescriptive. Reward responses that explore the ways in which Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll's secrecy in this extract. Responses may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stevenson creates a suspicious atmosphere in which characters are forced to keep secrets out of fear of their reputation being ruined. It is clear that the characters in the novella hold their reputation dear to them and fear for it being tarnished. • Utterson references his employment as a lawyer by stating "I am a man to be trusted," which shows he is keen to know more about Dr Jekyll's secrets. • Jekyll uses complex, elongated clauses to confuse both the reader and Utterson, in order to try and keep information surrounding his secrets as confidential as possible. •

REMEMBER ALL CONTENT IS MARKED FOR AO2 IN THIS QUESTION [20].

Q	Indicative Content
4(b)	<p><i>The indicative content is not prescriptive. Reward responses that explain how trust is shown elsewhere in the novel. Responses may include:</i></p> <p>Who is involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of trust directed at Mr Hyde from the majority of characters in the novel, even if they are shown to be very trustworthy characters in other situations. • Trust is shown between Dr Lanyon and Mr Utterson, as Mr Utterson chooses not to open his letter until Dr Jekyll has passed. • Trust is shown throughout the novel through the friendship of Dr Jekyll and Mr Utterson. • Trust is embodied throughout the novel by the character of Mr Utterson, through his language and the frequent referral to his career as a solicitor.



How the trust is presented:

- Utterson later fears that Hyde is blackmailing Jekyll with his secrets. It has commonly been asserted that Utterson assumes that Jekyll may have entered a relationship with Hyde and Hyde is threatening to reveal this to ruin Jekyll's reputation. Utterson states *"It turns me cold to think of this creature stealing like a thief to Harry's bedside"*. The metaphor *"turns me cold"* shows the severity of the implications of this accusation and the animalistic connotations of "creature" further highlight the criminality of the act so the need to keep it a secret.
- The themes of trust and of friendship are very intertwined in the novel, and this connection is fundamental to the plot.
- The narrator observes that *"even [Utterson's] friendships seemed to be founded in a similar catholicity of good nature"*. The verb *"founded"* evokes connotations of security, longevity and reliability. Stevenson's reference to *"catholicity of good nature"* has religious connotations which add to the reader's impression of Utterson's morality and trustworthy nature, as well as implying that he keeps good company.
- The novella is presented to be set in a climate of secrecy by Stevenson's use of the metaphor *"I feel very strongly about putting questions; it partakes too much of the style of the day of judgment. You start a question, and it's like starting a stone. You sit quietly on the top of a hill; and away the stone goes, starting others..."*. Stevenson is presenting the idea that asking untoward questions leads to a cascading effect throughout society which causes all reputation to be destroyed.
- The use of colour imagery and antithesis between *"Dr. Jekyll grew pale"* and *"blackness"* in *"The large handsome face of Dr. Jekyll grew pale to the very lips and there came a blackness about his eyes. 'I do not care to hear more,' said he. 'This is a matter I thought we had agreed to drop'"* highlights a damaging transformation as well as a need to keep it a secret.

REMEMBER ALL CONTENT IS MARKED FOR AO1 IN THIS QUESTION [20].

