



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2010 HSC French Extension Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answers could include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

In his conversation with Ugolin, Jean seems to be indicating that he is going to sell the property (les Romarins), their home; and Manon does not want this to happen.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

Jean’s use of the future tense points to his loss of contact with present reality. It conveys his absolute certainty of future success and his blind faith that each link in the chain of future events will come to fruition. He doesn’t consider the possibility of failure.

Question 1 (c)**Sample answer:**

Certain elements of Jean's character (his tendency to control, his showmanship and his single-mindedness) have always been in evidence but here these elements are out of control to the point where they cause hurt to his family. His wife is pale and distressed, and Manon is in tears because Jean has not involved them in his plans and so lets them fear the worst (that the farm will be sold). He cuts them off dismissively when they try to speak. Here his controlling position is shown by the way that his family's mood shifts in response to him: tears of pain and fear turn into tears of joy when he finally reveals his plans. Jean's sense of superiority leads him to insensitivity to the effect he is having on his family.

Question 1 (d)

NB At least two points need to be made about the nature of the relationship, with detail from the text in support.

Answer may include:

- Ugolin here is a victim of Jean's controlling behaviour. He is unsure of how he should behave in Jean's presence and he is torn between self-advancement and respect for Jean's superior status and knowledge.
- Jean throws Ugolin in confusion with his various pronouncements eg *Jamais de la vie!*
- Jean shows no concern for Ugolin, indicating that theirs is not a relationship where two people know each other well, whereas we see Ugolin's respect for Jean in addressing him as 'Monsieur Jean' and using 'vous'.
- Ugolin, prior to this passage, had shown he does know Jean well but he is constantly surprised and outwitted by him. Jean does not know Ugolin at all. Ugolin knows Jean's foibles and knows enough about him to warn him about the dangers of statistics and dynamite.
- Jean, on the other hand, completely rejects Ugolin's expertise when he says 'J'ai le Manuel du mineur' as he regards himself in every way superior to Ugolin.

Question 1 (e)**Sample answer:**

Jean sees the land as his birthright and values his family connection to it. He initially has a romantic attachment to the land, 'le Paradis de Zola', and finds even weeds to be a source of beauty and inspiration. His artistic side is evoked by the land as he sings and plays the harmonica in response to its attractions. Jean also views the land as something to be tamed through man's superior intelligence and use of books, thus providing a living through his scheme with the rabbits. However, this is at first linked with the sense of mother nature gently providing for him and his family. It is to be harmonious exploitation. In this passage, however, Jean's romanticism has morphed into mania and condemnation of the land's resistance to him. He has become blinded to his own smallness in the face of the power of the environment. He is convinced that he can blow it up into submission. He has respect neither for nature itself nor for the man, Ugolin, who truly belongs there and who can see the folly of Jean's actions.