



## **2011 French Extension HSC Examination 'Sample Answers'**

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document 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:*

*La Piémontaise* refers to Baptistine, an Italian immigrant who lives with her woodcutter husband Giuseppe in an isolated part of the valley on land inherited by Jean de Florette. Baptistine has been befriended by Jean, Aimée and, in particular, Manon. Manon adores Baptistine, she learns from her about living in harmony with nature – she alone seems able to understand Baptistine's rough foreign dialect. A strong rapport has developed between the child Manon and this peasant woman.

#### Question 1 (b)

*Sample answer:*

Manon is described as a 'little wild animal, light and lively as a fox'; hence, the relationship here is a oneness with nature. In references such as 'the silence of solitudes' and 'the thousand secrets of the hills', a certain mystery and secret allure of the countryside are evoked. References such as 'how to look after animals' and 'the art of setting traps' suggest that living in the natural world requires knowledge and art. Our relationship with nature is also evoked through references to the variety of wild foods, which range from mushrooms, nuts and snails to various kinds of snared birds. The various senses are evoked through reference to colour (*sanguine*), size (*grosses*), texture (*spongieuses*), smell and taste (*thym, myrte, genièvre*).

#### Question 1 (c)

*Sample answer:*

This extract shows the power of the attachment of a young girl to her father. Manon's absolute devotion to, and belief in, her father are illustrated in this extract. Manon 'parents' her father with a maternal tenderness. She is attentive to his every need, checking his glass and his plate when they're at the table; choosing the best of the food for him. She unlaces his boots at the end of his working day. This motherly tenderness springs from her concern for Jean's physical deformity. Manon's moods match those of her father. When he finds something funny, she laughs along with him. She is willingly influenced by her father. When reluctant to eat the birds she has trapped in the hills, her father is instrumental in changing her view. With his words about eating wild birds as opposed to lamb cutlets, her scruples evaporate. When the family is together, Manon is a willing listener and her father a willing talker (*elle parlait peu à la maison, elle préférait écouter son père*).

She is also willingly entertained by him, as illustrated by the happy family times when her father played all the roles of a Molière play for her amusement, and when they shared sessions on the harmonica. Her world seems to revolve around her father; she is single-mindedly devoted to him.

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

What Jean refuses to admit to himself here is that the game and wild foods that his family is reduced to eating because of their poverty is less nutritious or delicious than traditional fare. Similarly, he dismisses the lack of three coffees a day as no problem and sees it as, in fact, a benefit. He declares himself able to better appreciate coffee on Sunday, says he sleeps better and that, because of other herbal drinks he now consumes, his health has improved. Throughout the novel, Jean shows himself to be an avowed optimist, refusing to admit or accept defeat. As his dreams of breeding lots of rabbits and making lots of money are worn down by the lack of water, he happily scales down his expectations of success. As the family's money runs out, he hopefully resorts to schemes such as pawning Aimée's necklace and then taking out a mortgage on the farm. Jean resorts to increasing amounts of alcohol to feed this blind optimism, and his final frenzied plans to use dynamite to blast out a well are testament to how far he is prepared to go in refusing to face the precariousness of his and his family's situation.