



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

2012 HSC French Extension '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:

Ugolin's scheme to make his fortune by cultivating carnations on a neighbouring farm, '*Les Romarins*', has been overturned by Jean Cadoret's inheritance of this property. Le Papet and Ugolin had already blocked the natural spring on this property to make the land useless, and now Ugolin has come to Le Papet with reports of Jean's '*vastes projets*': to farm rabbits on a large scale. Ugolin is fretting about what this will mean for his own scheme for '*Les Romarins*'.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

We see that Ugolin is quite a weak character, vacillating between his two sides: the sentimental and the greedy.

He has the same feeble-minded spirit of generosity as his poor mother, who always put herself out for others. Ugolin acts on simple instincts which give the impression that he has a conscience. His action of offering water from his well to the Cadoret family, as he could not let the Cadoret family die from drinking the tainted water from their own well, is an example of this.

However, even though Ugolin shows a sentimental side, it is a shallow emotion, as he is not at all remorseful about having blocked the spring. In his view, this was not a criminal act; it was done for the carnations. We realise that Ugolin's small act of generosity is overshadowed by his greed.

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

Evil intent is conveyed through Ugolin's and Le Papet's plotting and scheming, and the extent to which they are prepared to go in order to achieve what they want by ruining Jean Cadoret. To bring about Jean's downfall is a matter of tactical planning and ruthlessly putting their strategy into place, step by step (*'Nous, étudions bien la situation, et préparons notre plan'*), with Le Papet giving all the orders.

Le Papet masterminds the scheming, mentoring Ugolin in the plot to destroy Jean. Le Papet is cynical, unscrupulous and manipulative. He urges Ugolin to deceive Jean, by painting a false, idealistic picture of the landscape and the climate. His warped logic is to encourage Jean in a venture which is doomed to fail. To say: 'Push him where he is going to fall' demonstrates their evil desire to destroy him.

Evil intent is shown in Le Papet's willingness to lie and deceive. He gleefully decides that he and Ugolin will deliberately mislead the villagers about Jean's background, so that the Bastidiens will see him as an outsider, someone to be suspicious of; and therefore the secret of the spring will be safe.

Evil intent is shown by the way Ugolin's evil intent is to be masked as friendship. Le Papet advises Ugolin to be a friend in 'deed' (but not in 'spirit') to Jean and his family: give Jean a hand, lend him the mule, be nice to the wife, etc. Le Papet's twisted thinking is to seduce Jean into selling the farm to Ugolin, once Jean's enterprise has failed.

Evil intent is shown by Le Papet's complete lack of empathy for Jean. The only reason that the death of Jean and his family (from drinking the tainted water from their own well) would worry Le Papet is because Jean might be replaced by a real farmer who would not be so easily fooled.

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

There are various references to the prejudices, suspicions and insular thinking inherent in this part of France at this time in history. The key points are:

'ces gens de la ville' : these words refer to outsiders who come with their modern ideas. The words pinpoint the suspicion felt by the Bastidiens towards anyone from the town. As an outsider with modern ideas, Jean is a threat to the traditional way of life, and so he is treated with little, if any, compassion. When Le Papet says, *'mieux lui qu'un vrai paysan'*, he implies that Jean is an outsider, and, as such, will be easier to get rid of than one of their own.

The novel shows that there is little contact between town and country. The village and the countryside around it are these people's entire world, one which is isolated in geography (steep and difficult road access) and in communication (only one phone in the entire area).

'... sans parler de Florette, et sans dire son nom': For an outsider with no family ties in the village, there would be no good reason for breaking the 'collective silence' (*'On ne s'occupe pas des affaires des autres'*) which naturally operates in the village. Loyalty to the *'terre de la commune'*, however misguided, always comes before showing compassion to an outsider. On the one occasion when Jean comes into the village, he is treated as an outsider, ignored and even laughed at. And while the villagers watch Jean from afar and are well aware of his struggles, they do and say nothing to help him, as they are not aware of his connection to the village.

'Les Bastides ... Crespin': these villages cling to narrow-minded 'us vs them' prejudices and jealousies. Promoting the idea that Jean Cadoret is from the rival village of Crespin (the hereditary enemy of *Les Bastides*) will do much to alienate him from the community. Past events and grievances are never forgotten, since the villages in which they occur are small and inward looking. Even such matters as where you buy your bread can be enough to ostracise someone.

When Pamphile expresses to his wife his concerns about Jean's struggles, her response is like the voice of the whole village: 'he's from Crespin ... and you know what they're like, the people from Crespin'.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text Part B

Question 2

Sample answer:

NA

Section II — Writing in French

Questions 3 and 4

Sample answer:

NA