



AP[®] English Language 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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In this letter, Downe employs a conversational and extremely personal tone, and emp appeals to his wife's instincts through the use of hyperbole, similies ~~and~~ and examples of the many benefits he recieves in order to persuade her to emigrate. He portrays America as a land of equality and convenience using a common man's tone and vivid imagery. Downe also undermines the difficulties of emigration his wife may face in order to make her more agreeable to the idea.

He opens by exchanging pleasanteries with her, 'My dear wife' and then goes on to describe his current situation. ~~We~~ I get the impression that he is very excited and enthusiastic due to his child-like tone and fast pacing. 'A farmer took me one day...' Downe describes the kindness of the people around him and the benefits he recieved, in a detailed manner ~~and~~ 'I was welcome!' and employs the use of hyperbole to emphasise this. 'everything that a person could wish: Downe especially concentrates on everyday household items since they will hold a special interest for his wife. 'a barrel of cider holding 32 gallons...' Downe places emphasis on these benefits using similies, 'laying underfoot like dog's meat.'



Q1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

H2

and repetition. 'A I went into the market...'

Downe refutes the assumption made by many people that America is getting too crowded. 'that there is too many people... it is quite the reverse' Here Downe uses hyperbole 'and will be for a thousand years...'

in order to reassure his wife. There is a change in mood in the second paragraph, since Downe is trying to justify ~~the reason~~ his emigration, and he turns poetic in order to reinforce his love and deep caring for his wife and children. 'My dear Sutey... You know very well... I would rather cross the Atlantic ten times.'

He Downe states that poverty and deprivation forced him to go abroad in search of a living. It It appears to me that Downe is glorifying his travels in order to ~~reass~~ make his wife ~~emphatise~~ empathise with him and tempt her to come to America. He undermines the difficulties his wife may face during emigration. 'You will find a few...'

Downe then proceeds to portray America as a land of freedom, equality and unlimited opportunity using an inspirational tone. 'This is a country where a man can stand... with rational liberty to its fullest extent.'

Downe recreates some of his experiences



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Q1, ~~Q2~~

H3


in America in a joyful manner, and successfully conjures up an image of America as a country that has not been tainted with crime, poverty and discrimination. ^{- poverty is unknown here} A personal tone that shows his sense of longing and excitement is maintained throughout the letter, especially the conclusion. 'Give all the little ones...'. He uses a pleading manner and hyperbole, similes and romance to persuade his wife to join him in America.

#

In this convincing letter to his wife, John Downe starts off by narrating the wonderful things that have happened since he arrived. The continuation of the letter is a mixture of this narration with argumentative proofs against what he assumes his wife ~~is thinking~~ will think as she reads his writing. Thus, John Downe uses narrative, argumentative and exponential ~~texts~~ ^{strategies} while trying to convince his wife to join him.

The exponential aspect of the letter lies in the 'facts' he ~~gives~~ ^{shows} his wife, such as the fruits and foods she could easily gather or purchase, and the low prices for all the pleasures one could want. In the ~~the~~ presentation of these facts as well as his claim that "poverty is unknown" (67) there, he is not only explaining the situation of the ~~land~~ country, but arguing against his ~~wife's staying~~ wife and children staying in England. He is supporting the argument that life is better in the United States than in Britain.

Another aspect of his argumentation is his attempt at refuting the idea "that there is too many people" (30-31) in the US. His struggle to bring her over to his side of seeing things, to believing that there is room in the land of the United States for herself along with her children, brings itself to an end with his forceful exaggeration that "there is plenty of room yet, and will for a thousand years to come" (34-35). ^{Downe} ~~He~~ uses even more exaggeration and generalization when talking of the equality and understanding between low and high citizens of the society, of the ~~abundance~~



Question 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

G₂

complete absence of poverty, ~~is~~ of beggars, even out in the country.

Thus John Downe has attempted to prove the good quality of life in the country and in the towns, in every aspect and situation of the United States, by narrating the things that happen ~~but~~ better than they would in England, by arguing against the negative things said ~~at his new home~~ and ^{arguing} for the positive aspects of his new homeland; while ^{also} trying to create all of these aspects in her mind's eye by exposing the different facts of existence in New York.

##

In John Downie's letter to his wife, his life in America is portrayed in a flattering and optimistic manner, and ~~he is asking her to join him in this new life.~~ His ~~education~~ ^{education} is educated, but not scholarly, and he presents a clear contrast between the situation that forced him to leave England, and the one he ^{has} found in America.

Downie's main strategy is the juxtapositioning of his old life with his new one. He describes in great detail the benefits of America, stressing in particular the fact that food is plentiful and a man willing to work "need not want virtuals" (ll.29). This atmosphere of plenty and generosity which he found, are then contrasted with what he left behind, stressing the fact that he crossed the Atlantic rather than hear and see his children want for food. A comparison is also presented between the oppression of class which is faced in England, and the class relationships seen in America where merit and character count more than superiority by birthright.

In his description, Downie's tone is continually flattering and coaxing and he depicts the situation his family can expect in an optimistic manner: "Poverty is unknown... You see no beggars" (ll.67) Life in such a place would seem like paradise compared to the situation faced at home. ~~His~~ ^{Downie's} positive attitude when he states that his wife will like America is his assurance to her that the family will be in a good condition, and he attempts to coax her into getting the town parish to fund the family's crossing.



1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

T2

Throughout his letter, and the rich description within it, Donne's diction remains precise yet informal as he lists the items of good to be had and comments on the country's capacity to take in more immigrants. As he emphasizes a point, such as the lack of poverty, the syntax changes from long and almost rambling to short and to the point.

Donne's letter is clearly written as an exposition of the benefits to be found in order to convince his wife and family to come, and does so through his descriptions in meticulous detail of the life to be had in the new land.