



**AP[®] English Lit
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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

Question 1

Overseas 1a

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The difference between a rich man and a poor man ~~is~~ not often more evident than in Elizabeth Gaskell's passage in which Wilson crosses the border of one world, dismal, gray, and starving, to the world of Mr. Carson, lavish, merry, and well-fed on delicacies, fit for a king. In its entirety, the passage is descriptive, but the ~~descriptions~~ methods of description are divided according essentially to the first and second paragraphs, in which Gaskell presents a narrative that describes the stark contrast of Wilson's world from Carson's world, and the dialogue between the servants which accentuates the exorbitant lifestyle ^{Mr.} Carson and his "missis" lead. Both descriptions have as an objective a social commentary on the times. Although Gaskell is seemingly objective on the matter, one may guess ~~that~~ from the portrayal of the Carsons as petty, rich snobs without regard to their servants' well-being and who amuse themselves by quarreling over who has the worse headache when beggars roam forsaken streets, that her sympathies lie primarily with George Wilson and would chastize the Carsons.

The extent to which the rich separate themselves from the less fortunate is ~~not~~ not limited to the material comforts and social hierarchy, but even

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Physical distance is an obstacle that Mr. Wilson must face, "two miles to walk before he reached Mr. Carson's house, which was almost in the country." On ~~the~~ his way. Through the course of his walk, Craskell observes as if she were next Mr. Wilson, the state of penury the inhabitants of Manchester are living in with the "trade so flat" and "one ~~or~~ or two miserable-looking women [...] setting off on their day's begging expedition." As quick as an aristocrat will dismiss an orphan pleading for bread, Craskell jumps to the first description of Mr. Carson's house, "furnished with disregard to expense," such a ~~great~~ cost for such trifles that the reader will soon see seems almost a crime when women are begging for survival, ~~for their~~ wages to exist, to eat.

Speaking of eating, Wilson is led into the kitchen where he must endure the tantalizing, mouth watering smells of "broiled steaks, ~~...~~ toasted bread, and boiled eggs," the ^{agonized} fumbling of a man's stomach that has not been fed "since dinner the day before" offset only by the cacophony of kitchen noises. In one of the few direct messages from the author, Craskell says of the servants, "but they were like the rest of us, and not feeling hunger themselves, forgot it was possible another

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might." She is not so much excusing their ignorance as explaining it. Gaskell does not make any allowance of the rich's behavior, but with this line she offers up a reason for it.

In the bright colloquialism of Rosy, lower-class servants in 19th century England, Thomas and the housemaid chat about the night before, a chat which reveals the insensitivity of Mrs. Carson who made Thomas wait two hours before calling him:—"Flesh and blood can't sit to be starved to death in a coach-box, waiting for folks as don't know their own mind." Oh but indeed, Thomas, they can when their mistress is the one giving orders, and Mrs. Carson does not waste any time before giving more. In fact, Thomas is worried to mind his P's and Q's as "she's very black this morning," and should Miss Jenkins have been there the two high-bred women would have squabbled like chickens over who suffered more.

In conclusion, ~~then~~ Gaskell would like to illustrate the tyranny of the rich as well as their triteness, for who would gorge themselves on partridge and coffee and cream ~~stew~~ and complain about the misery inflicted upon them by a little headache ~~when~~ when real misery and desperation is just

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outside their doorstep.

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Question 1

In this passage from her novel, *Mary Barton*, Elizabeth Gaskell shows, through the point of view of a mill worker, the stark contrasts between the conditions of the working class and those of the bourgeoisie in 1840s England. By using specific details to express the abundant wealth of the mill owner and characterized dialogue to convey the hard life of the servants, Gaskell comments on the unjust social situations of Manchester.

From lines 1 through 39, Gaskell describes in long, detailed sentences, Wilson's perception of Mr. Carson's neighborhood and home. Carefully chosen diction such as "lavish expenditure" (l12) and "glittering ~~the~~"^(l23) vividly convey an ~~enormous~~ extreme amount of wealth. ~~Details~~ When Gaskell writes that the house was "almost in the country" (l2-3) she ~~connotes~~^{connotes} the socially ~~and~~^{defined} geographic organization of Manchester at the time. Mr. Carson's house is far from the pollution of the mills of the poverty of the ~~poor~~^{worker} neighborhoods, and this is a concrete symbol of status. When Wilson "amuses himself by guessing" (l25) at the uses for the "numbers of ~~the~~" (l24), the reader gets a clear picture of the foreignness of this upperclass world to a mill worker. Therefore, Gaskell shows the distance that social and economical situations create. The long sentences of this first half of the passage describe

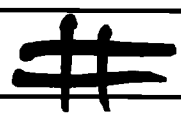
Question 1

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in themselves the excess of the wealthy.

Lines 40 through 87 contrast the earlier ~~part~~^{sentences} with colloquial dialogue that presents the life of the servants. The characters speak with expressions such as "My eye as like!" (l 47) that show not only their personalities and liveliness, but their accents^{and mannerisms} which clearly distinguish them as members of a lower class^{at the period}. The characters consistently use irony to satirize their condition and the Carson family. Thomas refers to himself as "flesh and blood" (l 58) to humorously express how he is treated by his employer. Another servant ironically says, "It's a pity Miss Jenkins is not here to match her," (l 73) to present her view of the pettiness and triviality of the "Missis"'s life.

Through ^{two} clear contrasting styles of writing, Gaskell shows her reader two ~~not~~ distinct conditions of life. She comments firmly on how wide the barrier is between these two social classes, and presents her opinion on the unjust nature of ~~the~~ society.



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Question 1

→ When writing, authors use many different strategies in order to produce a desired effect or give a message to the reader. In an excerpt from Mary Barton by Elizabethaskell, it is evident that Elizabethaskell the author, has used several specific ~~these~~ elements to make a social commentary, criticizing the upper class and sympathizing with the lower class in an 1840's mill town.

dialogue and point of view show differences between classes

→ Firstly, the use of dialogue in this scene indicates that the servants are uneducated, causing the reader to sympathize with them. The author recreates their spoken words by using common ~~common~~ ^{apophyses} and patterns of words.

→ ^{Also} By writing the passage in the point of view of a mill worker, Haskell ~~let~~ encourages the reader to be biased against the upper class. He enters through the servants' door and sees

show their lack of education and why from the upper class

~~What really happens in their lives.~~
~~See furthermore~~ the servant and we see through his perspective what it is like to be lower class as opposed to upper class. Furthermore, when in this perspective, one feels bad for the servants. For example, when one servant describes what the lady of the house would like for breakfast, she says ~~adds~~ she adds, "She thinks there's a roll left, and she would like it well buttered," (81-82). One feels bad for the maids that they should have to wait on someone in such a way.

→ Secondly, Haskell's ~~the~~ selection of detail helps make a social commentary. The description of Mr. Carson's house helps ~~it~~ show differences between the two classes of people. For example, ~~the~~ ~~see~~ the author writes, "But in addition to lavish expenditure, there was much taste shown, and many articles chosen for their beauty and elegance adorned his rooms," (11-14). This detail seems unimportant to the real meaning of the passage.

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Question 1

Questions 1C

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in lines
to be
is author
writes

other lines, it is important.

but contrasted with a ~~previous line~~,
"One or two miserable-looking women
were setting off on their day's begging
expedition, (7-9). These two sentences
contrast each other so drastically,
comparing the rich to the poor,
that it is evident that the author
is making a social commentary.

→ Overall, ~~the~~ Elizabeth Gaskell
Gaskell uses literary techniques
to ~~show~~ make a ~~li-~~ in an excerpt
from "Mary Barton" to make a
social ~~to~~ commentary. She ~~uses~~
includes techniques such as
dialogue, point of view and selection
of detail. This shows ^{how} the powerful
that literature ^{is} ~~has~~ ^{that it can} to give such pressing
messages to society.

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