The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

**In this extract, the novel comes to an end.**

It is useless, and the time awfully fails me, to prolong this description; no one has ever

suffered such torments, let that suffice; and yet even to these, habit brought—no, not

alleviation—but a certain callousness of soul, a certain acquiescence of despair; and my

punishment might have gone on for years, but for the last calamity which has now fallen, and

5 which has finally severed me from my own face and nature. My provision of the salt, which

had never been renewed since the date of the first experiment, began to run low. I sent out

for a fresh supply, and mixed the draught; the ebullition followed, and the first change of

colour, not the second; I drank it, and it was without efficiency. You will learn from Poole

how I have had London ransacked; it was in vain; and I am now persuaded that my first supply

10 was impure, and that it was that unknown impurity which lent efficacy to the draught.

About a week has passed, and I am now finishing this statement under the influence of the

last of the old powders. This, then, is the last time, short of a miracle, that Henry Jekyll

can think his own thoughts or see his own face (now how sadly altered!) in the glass. Nor

must I delay too long to bring my writing to an end; for if my narrative has hitherto escaped

15 destruction, it has been by a combination of great prudence and great good luck. Should

the throes of change take me in the act of writing it, Hyde will tear it in pieces; but if some

time shall have elapsed after I have laid it by, his wonderful selfishness and circumscription

to the moment will probably save it once again from the action of his ape-like spite. And

indeed the doom that is closing on us both has already changed and crushed him. Half an

20 hour from now, when I shall again and for ever reindue that hated personality, I know how

I shall sit shuddering and weeping in my chair, or continue, with the most strained and

fearstruck ecstasy of listening, to pace up and down this room (my last earthly refuge) and

give ear to every sound of menace.

Will Hyde die upon the scaffold? or will he find the courage to release himself at the last

25 moment? God knows; I am careless; this is my true hour of death, and what is to follow

concerns another than myself. Here, then, as I lay down the pen, and proceed to seal up my

confession, I bring the life of that unhappy Henry Jekyll to an end.

Questions

1. Look at lines 1–10. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys the horror of Jekyll’s situation. 4
2. Look at lines 11–23. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys the impact Hyde has had on Jekyll’s life. 4
3. Look at lines 24–27. Analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys Jekyll’s feelings. 2
4. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss the importance of Stevenson’s method of narration in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. 10

***Marking Scheme***

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| **Question** | **Expected Answer** | **Max Marks** | **Additional Guidance** |
| **1** | Candidates should analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys the horror of Jekyll’s situation.  Award 1 mark for comment plus quotation/reference. Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1 | **4** | Possible answers include:   * “useless” suggests he has given up all hope * “time awfully fails me” suggests his dismay at the lack of time • “torments” suggests the pain and suffering he has endured * the parenthesis “— no, not alleviation — ” emphasises that not even time could assuage the torment * “callousness of soul” admits that he no longer cares, has given up * “acquiescence of despair” admits that he has given in to hopelessness * “punishment” suggest he knows he is being made to suffer for what he has done * “calamity” suggests a dreadful catastrophe has struck him * “severed me” suggests he feels totally removed from his true self * the sentence structure in “I sent . . . without efficiency” suggests a panicky series of actions * “ransacked” suggests a frantic, desperate searching for the ingredient * “in vain” suggests it was all futile |
| **2** | Candidates should analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys the impact Hyde has had on Jekyll’s life.  Award 2 marks for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1 | **4** | Possible answers include:   * “the last time” suggests he has been brought to his death by Hyde * “short of a miracle” suggests he knows his doom is inevitable * “how sadly altered!” suggests a despairing reflection on the effect of his transformation into Hyde * “Nor must I delay” suggests he knows the end is near * “destruction” suggests he is aware of Hyde’s capacity to cause harm * “tear it in pieces” suggests he knows Hyde’s violent nature * “wonderful selfishness and circumscription to the moment” suggests he understands Hyde’s twisted way of thinking * “ape-like spite” suggests how much he knows and detests Hyde’s animalistic nature * “that hated personality” suggests the degree of loathing he has towards Hyde * “shuddering and weeping” suggests that Hyde has reduced him to a fearful, desperate state * the parenthesis “(my last earthly refuge)” suggests he is now cut off entirely from civilised society * “every sound of menace” suggests he has come to live in fear of every last sound |
| **3** | Candidates should analyse how the writer’s use of language conveys Jekyll’s feelings.  Award 2 marks awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference. Award 1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2, 1+1, | **2** | Possible answers include:   * use of two consecutive questions suggests uncertainty * “God knows; I am careless” suggests despair, lack of interest, feeling of resignation * “concerns another than myself” suggests he is content no longer to be involved * “proceed to seal up” suggests a kind of dogged determination, to conclude in a business-like manner * “that unhappy Henry Jekyll” perhaps suggests self-pity |
| **4** | Candidates should discuss the importance of Stevenson’s method of narration in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.  Candidates can answer in bullet points in this final question, or write a number of linked statements.  0 marks for reference/quotation alone. | **10** | Up to 2 marks can be achieved for identifying elements of commonality as identified in  the question  A further 2 marks can be achieved for reference to the extract given.  6 additional marks can be awarded for discussion of similar references to at least one other poem by the poet.  In practice this means:  Identification of commonality (2) (e.g.: theme, characterisation, use of imagery, setting,  or any other key element…)  from the extract:  1 x relevant reference to technique/idea/feature (1)  1 x appropriate comment (1)  (maximum of 2 marks only for discussion of extract) from at least one other text/part of the text:  as above (x3) for up to 6 marks  OR  more detailed comment x2 for up to 6 marks  Thus, the final 6 marks can be gained by a combination of 3, 2 and 1 marks depending on  the level of depth/detail/insight.  The aim would be to encourage quality of comment, rather than quantity of references.   * primarily a third person narrative from Utterson’s perspective; this, coming from the calm, rational lawyer gives the impression of detached reliability; leaves readers to form their own opinions * not told in simple sequence — a key feature of a suspense story or thriller; this mirrors the way that the information comes to Utterson in bits and pieces * several other narrative methods are employed, most notably “Lanyon’s Narrative” and “Jekyll’s Statement” * these first person accounts provide an appearance of documentary reliability * the fact that Lanyon’s Narrative has been kept back until his death heightens the tension * the restricted viewpoints allow for information to be kept from the reader, thus heightening the tension and building to the climactic revelations * some other events are narrated at length by others, e.g. Enfield’s account in the first chapter * several letters are used to reveal information; Jekyll’s will is used to create mystery * until last chapter Jekyll is seen through the eyes of others who come from same social milieu, and see him as unquestionably respectable * the final chapter being in Jekyll’s own voice allows the readers to judge Jekyll for themselves — opens up the possibility of some sympathy * the absence of any authorial voice leaves Stevenson’s viewpoint unknown/ambiguous   Other references are possible. |