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

**This extract is taken from Henry Jekyll’s Full Statement of the Case.**

Between these two, I now felt I had to choose. My two natures had memory in common,

but all other faculties were most unequally shared between them. Jekyll (who was

composite) now with the most sensitive apprehensions, now with a greedy gusto, projected

and shared in the pleasures and adventures of Hyde; but Hyde was indifferent to Jekyll, or

5 but remembered him as the mountain bandit remembers the cavern in which he conceals

himself from pursuit. Jekyll had more than a father’s interest; Hyde had more than a son’s

indifference. To cast in my lot with Jekyll, was to die to those appetites which I had long

secretly indulged and had of late begun to pamper. To cast it in with Hyde, was to die to a

thousand interests and aspirations, and to become, at a blow and forever, despised and

10 friendless. The bargain might appear unequal; but there was still another consideration in

the scales; for while Jekyll would suffer smartingly in the fires of abstinence, Hyde would

be not even conscious of all that he had lost. Strange as my circumstances were, the terms

of this debate are as old and commonplace as man; much the same inducements and

alarms cast the die for any tempted and trembling sinner; and it fell out with me, as it falls

15 with so vast a majority of my fellows, that I chose the better part and was found wanting in

the strength to keep to it.

Yes, I preferred the elderly and discontented doctor, surrounded by friends and cherishing

honest hopes; and bade a resolute farewell to the liberty, the comparative youth, the light

step, leaping pulses and secret pleasures, that I had enjoyed in the disguise of Hyde. I

20 made this choice perhaps with some unconscious reservation, for I neither gave up the

house in Soho, nor destroyed the clothes of Edward Hyde, which still lay ready in my

cabinet. For two months, however, I was true to my determination; for two months, I led a

life of such severity as I had never before attained to, and enjoyed the compensations of

an approving conscience. But time began at last to obliterate the freshness of my alarm;

25 the praises of conscience began to grow into a thing of course; I began to be tortured with

throes and longings, as of Hyde struggling after freedom; and at last, in an hour of moral

weakness, I once again compounded and swallowed the transforming draught.

I do not suppose that, when a drunkard reasons with himself upon his vice, he is once out

of five hundred times affected by the dangers that he runs through his brutish, physical

30 insensibility; neither had I, long as I had considered my position, made enough allowance

for the complete moral insensibility and insensate readiness to evil, which were the

leading characters of Edward Hyde. Yet it was by these that I was punished. My devil had

been long caged, he came out roaring. I was conscious, even when I took the draught, of a

more unbridled, a more furious propensity to ill. It must have been this, I suppose, that

35 stirred in my soul that tempest of impatience with which I listened to the civilities of my

unhappy victim; I declare at least, before God, no man morally sane could have been guilty

of that crime upon so pitiful a provocation; and that I struck in no more reasonable spirit

than that in which a sick child may break a plaything. But I had voluntarily stripped myself

of all those balancing instincts, by which even the worst of us continues to walk with some

40 degree of steadiness among temptations; and in my case, to be tempted, however slightly,

was to fall.

Instantly the spirit of hell awoke in me and raged. With a transport of glee, I mauled the

unresisting body, tasting delight from every blow; and it was not till weariness had begun

to succeed, that I was suddenly, in the top fit of my delirium, struck through the heart by a

45 cold thrill of terror. A mist dispersed; I saw my life to be forfeit; and fled from the scene of

these excesses, at once glorying and trembling, my lust of evil gratified and stimulated, my

love of life screwed to the topmost peg. I ran to the house in Soho, and (to make assurance

doubly sure) destroyed my papers; thence I set out through the lamplit streets, in the same

divided ecstasy of mind, gloating on my crime, light-headedly devising others in the future,

50 and yet still hastening and still harkening in my wake for the steps of the avenger. Hyde

had a song upon his lips as he compounded the draught, and as he drank it, pledged the

dead man. The pangs of transformation had not done tearing him, before Henry Jekyll,

with streaming tears of gratitude and remorse, had fallen upon his knees and lifted his

clasped hands to God.

Questions

1. Look at lines 1–27. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to present Jekyll’s difficult choice. 4
2. Look at lines 28–47 (‘I do not suppose . . . topmost peg’). By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer’s use of language reveals aspects of the character of Hyde. 4
3. Look at lines 47–54 (‘I ran to . . . hands to God’). Analyse how language is used to reveal the differing reactions of Jekyll and Hyde to the murder. 2
4. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how Stevenson explores the theme of duality. 10

***Marking Scheme***

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| **Question** | **Expected Answer** | **Max Marks** | **Additional Guidance** |
| **1** | Candidates analyse how the writer uses language to present Jekyll’s difficult choice.  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:   * ‘now with the most sensitive apprehensions…gusto’ parallel sentence structure emphasises Jekyll’s dual reaction − attraction and repulsion − to Hyde’s excesses * ‘as the mountain bandit…pursuit’ emphasises that, to Hyde, Jekyll is a ‘place’ to conceal himself * ‘Jekyll had more…indifference’ suggests a father/son type relationship between Jekyll and Hyde, emphasising Jekyll’s protectiveness * ‘to die to those appetites…secretly indulged’ suggests the longing he feels to enjoy the guilty pleasures provided by Hyde * ‘to die to…aspirations’ suggests desire to remain proud of himself and what he stands for * repetition of ‘to die’ emphasises the extremity of his feelings * ‘the liberty…secret pleasures’ list emphasises the many/varied attractions of being Hyde * ‘tortured with throes and longings’ suggests the intensity of his desire to experience life as Hyde again |
| **2** | Candidates should analyse how the writer’s use of language reveals aspects of the character of Hyde.  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:   * ‘complete moral insensibility’ suggests absolute nature of Hyde’s lack of conscience * ‘insensate readiness to evil’ suggests intuitive immediacy of Hyde’s urge to wickedness * ‘My devil had long been caged’ suggests extreme nature of the evil which Hyde embodies * ‘he came out roaring’ suggests bestial nature of Hyde’s responses * ‘more unbridled, a more furious propensity to ill’ repetitive structure emphasises build-up of the strength and wildness of Hyde’s nature * ‘sick child may break a plaything’ suggests the careless and dismissive way Hyde can be towards others * ‘spirit of hell’ suggests the extreme nature of Hyde’s wickedness * ‘mauled’ suggests Hyde’s savagery * ‘tasting delight from every blow’ suggests Hyde’s sadism/psychopathic tendencies * ‘cold thrill of terror’ extreme fear suggests Hyde’s utter selfishness |
| **3** | Candidates should analyse how language is used to reveal the differing reactions of Jekyll and Hyde to the murder.  **Both Jekyll and Hyde’s reactions should be analysed for full marks**  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:    Hyde   * ‘divided ecstasy of mind’ suggests extreme reactions of pleasure and fear, amounting to madness * ‘gloating on my crime’ suggests feelings of satisfaction about the murder * ‘light-headedly devising others’ suggests playful lack of awareness of enormity of crime * ‘song on his lips’ suggests triumphant/celebratory feelings * ‘pledged the dead man’ suggests lack of respect for victim   Jekyll   * ‘streaming tears’ suggests uncontrollable emotion when he realises what he has done * ‘gratitude’ suggests thankfulness to God for his preservation so far * ‘remorse’ suggests how sorry he is about the crime * ‘fallen upon his knees’ suggests his need to beg for forgiveness * ‘lifted his clasped hands to God’ suggests his desperate need to be forgiven |
| **4** | By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how Stevenson explores the theme of duality.  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.  Commonality:  Jekyll represents the ‘normal’, essentially good man, who is flawed but does his best to behave well towards his fellow people (1) whereas Hyde represents the raw, hidden, undiluted evil which exists in all of us (1)  Extract:  The murder of Carew, who represents the dignity and innocence of humanity, by Hyde at his most vicious, indicates the split between good and evil in humanity (2)  Elsewhere:   * Hyde is younger and less well developed than Jekyll at the start, but grows stronger as the evil in Jekyll develops * Jekyll mistakenly thinks he can control Hyde, just as we humans think we can control the evil within us: he tells Utterson he can be rid of Hyde whenever he wants * Hyde corrupts those around him, eg, the odious landlady enjoys the thought that he is in trouble * The duality in humanity is represented through the buildings which contain elements of Jekyll and Hyde, such as the house in Soho, Jekyll’s house/the laboratory * As Hyde grows stronger, Jekyll finds himself turning into Hyde spontaneously, rather than taking the potion to do so   Other references are possible. |