

Text 2

Section B

The text below describes a strange experience a tourist had as he explored a market square of a city he was visiting. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

- 1 I purposely haunted the market square during the heat of the day for it was then that it was uncrowded. I was completely enchanted by the sights and sounds of the streets then. It almost felt like I was walking into a chapter of the Arabian Nights. Lorries set high on monstrous wheels expertly transporting loads of indescribable variety along streets no wider than the hall of a small house, exhilarated me. Mendicants crying the eternal "Alms" and holding out bare hands or an empty bowl produced a tender sentiment in me I never felt before. Arab merchants selling carpets and the Egyptians holding up embroidered cloth and gossamer veils to allure the eye filled me with a cheerful contentment. 5 10
- 2 Soon, coming to the end of the street in which the shops were situated, I found myself to be the only tourist in the immediate neighbourhood. A group of men hurrying out of the street as I approached it first attracted my attention. They were glancing behind them apprehensively as though at a rabid dog. Then came a white-bearded man riding a tiny donkey. He too was glancing back apprehensively over his shoulder. A mendicant who had been actively procuring money from tourists and passers-by alike, took off abruptly with his hood over his head. He all but collided with me in his blind haste; and, stepping quickly aside to avoid him, I knocked down an old woman who was coming out of the street. 15 20
- 3 The man who had been the real cause of the accident rode off at headlong speed and I found myself left with the poor victim of my clumsiness in a spot which seemed miraculously to have become deserted. If the shopkeepers remained in their shops, they appeared invisible, and must have retreated into the darkest corners of the caves in the wall which constitute native emporiums. Pedestrians there were none. 25

- 4 I stooped to the old woman, who lay moaning at my feet and as I did so, I shrank. How can I describe the loathing, the repulsion which I experienced? Never in the whole of my career had I seen such a hideous face. A ragged black veil which she wore had been torn from its brass fastenings as she fell, and her countenance was revealed in all its appalling ugliness. Yellow, shrivelled, toothless, it was scarcely human; but, above all, it repelled because of its aspect of extreme age. I do not mean that it was like the face of a woman who was just long in the tooth, no; but instead it was like that of a woman who had miraculously survived disease for several centuries! It was a witch's face, a deathly face. And as I shrank, she opened her eyes, moaning feebly, and groping with claw-like hands as if darkness surrounded her. 30 35
- 5 Furthermore, I saw a new pain, and a keener pain, light up those aged eyes for she had detected my involuntary movement of loathing. Those who knew me will bear testimony to the fact that I was not an emotional man or one readily impressionable by any kind of human appeal. Therefore they will wonder the more to learn that this pathetic light in the old woman's eyes changed my revulsion to a poignant sorrow. I had roughly knocked her from her feet and now hesitated to assist her to rise again! Truly, she was scorned and rejected by all. A wave of tenderness, that cannot be described, that could not be resisted, swept over me. My eyes grew misty and a great remorse claimed me. 40 45

Section B [20 marks]

- 5 Explain how the language used tells you that the narrator was captivated by the activities going on at the market square.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1.

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..... [3]

- 6 In paragraph 2, what could have made the narrator feel uneasy?
Give two pieces of supporting evidence from the paragraph to support your answer.

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..... [2]

- 7 In paragraph 3 'The man who had been the real cause of the accident rode off at headlong speed and I found myself left with the poor victim of my clumsiness in a spot which seemed miraculously to have become deserted' (lines 21 – 23).

Identify the words or phrases in the given sentence which suggest

- (i) moving rapidly [1]
- (ii) something happening that is almost unbelievable [1]

- 8 What is unusual about the phrase 'appeared invisible' (line 24)?

.....

..... [1]

- 9 In paragraph 4, the writer uses similes 'like the face of a woman who was just long in the tooth' (line 34) and 'like that of a woman who had miraculously survived disease for several centuries' (lines 35 – 36).

What do the similes suggest about the writer's view of the old lady he had knocked down?

Similes	Writer's view of the old lady
'like the face of a woman who was just long in the tooth'	
'like that of a woman who had miraculously survived disease for several centuries'	

[2]

- 10 In paragraph 4 'And as I shrank, she opened her eyes, moaning feebly, and groping with claw-like hands as if darkness surrounded her' (lines 36 – 38).

- (i) Which words suggest that the lady's hands were like those of an animal?

..... [1]

- (ii) Why was the lady 'groping' as though 'darkness surrounded her'?

..... [1]

- 11 Paragraph 5 starts with 'Furthermore, I saw a new pain, and a keener pain, light up those aged eyes for she had detected my involuntary movement of loathing.'

What does the 'new pain' refer to?

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..... [2]

- 12 In paragraph 5 'Those who knew me will bear testimony to the fact that I was not an emotional man or one readily impressionable by any kind of human appeal (lines 40 – 42).

Is the narrator's view about himself accurate? Give evidence to support your answer:

- (i) 'that I was not an emotional man'

.....
..... [1]

- (ii) 'or one readily impressionable by any kind of human appeal'

.....
..... [1]

- 13 The structure of the text reflects the main feelings of the narrator experienced throughout that day. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

Narrator's feelings

regret	doubt	unease	fury
repulsion	pride	astonishment	

Flow chart

Paragraph 2	:	(i)	
↓			
Paragraph 3	:	(ii)	
↓			
Paragraph 4	:	(iii)	
↓			
Paragraph 5	:	(iv)	

[4]