



Upper secondary
Week 2

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES SECTION B



Section B (20 marks)

The text describes the arrival of a man in Brazil who wishes to undertake an expedition in the jungles of Brazil. He is met by a curious group of people at the station who promptly take him to a hotel he had not arranged for. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 - 13.

- 1 A great crowd had assembled at the station. The train had hardly stopped when my car was invaded by boisterous people., who embraced me and patted me on the back back in the most approved Brazilian style. Before I could inquire who they were, great many mules for me, that he had engaged men for me, and also procured riding and pack-saddles. harness, implements, clothing and bedding for the men he had engaged, and I do not know what else. Everything was paid for. I could return the sum paid out the next day. Another man said he had already prepared a sumptuous apartment for me in the best hotel in the town. It was all perplexing to me. 5
- 2 It was night when we reached a hotel, where another crowd of loafers had assembled. I was literally dragged into a rundown hotel which incidentally looked depressed-and I soon knew why upon seeing the appearance of the place, then upon being assaulted by waves of a nauseating odour which suggested the non-existence of sanitary arrangements and worse. 10
- 3 "Wait a moment!" shouted the landlord, a murderous-looking creature, whose violent gestures and waving of hands in front of my face were fairly irritating. He dashed into a room on the ground floor - and we outside could hear an altercation between the loud-voiced proprietor and the plaintive moans of a half-dying man. A moment later, the half-dying man, skeleton-like, with livid eyes, a complexion like the colour of a lemon gone bad, and quivering bare legs, was dragged out of the bed and roughly thrown out of the door like he was tossing out a piece of dirty rag. 15 20
- 4 "Here is your room!" cried the landlord triumphantly to me.

The odour alone, as I peeped into the room, was enough to stifle any one with the sense of scent even less delicate than my own. As for the vacant bed - any pariah dog of any other country would have been offended to be offered such filthy accommodation. 25
- 5 In Brazil - as elsewhere - it does not do to lose one's calm. I also wished to avoid an unpleasant quarrel, as I have a belief that quarrels are bad for one's health. I spoke gently and kindly to the hotel - keeper, and said that, although I had ordered nothing, still, I should be very pleased to pay for it, which I would do at once. If he would excuse me, I preferred to go back to sleep in my private car. Upon hearing these words a nasty tragi-comic scene occurred, which, had I not remained cool and collected, might have ended badly. 30



- 6 “Do you know sir.” shouted the landlord, with livid features and eyes shooting out of their orbits, “do you know that I am the Chief of Police here, and that everybody is afraid of me? I have only to give orders and every one will kill any one I like.” Here he discontinued shaking his grimy hands under my nose and stood upon the doorstep of the hotel in order to address the great crowd which had collected. I remained some time trying to collect my baggage, pretending to pay no attention whatever to the absurd oratory. I then repeated my offer, which was again refused. With the protection of his strong rear-guard, the Chief of Police advanced bravely towards me, holding in a suggestive manner with his right hand the pommel of his revolver in the back pocket of his trousers. In a tragic manner he exclaimed,
“We will settle this matter, tomorrow.”
“We will settle it at once,” I placidly replied.
“No, tomorrow,” he repeated, with a vicious look.
“Very good: at what time and where?”
“At ten o’clock,” he eventually grunted, after I had repeated the above question four times.

1. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 makes the situation quite confusing for the narrator.
Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1. (3)

2. In paragraph 3 (line 16), the narrator writes ‘He dashed into a room on the ground floor - and we outside could hear an altercation between the loud-voiced proprietor and the plaintive moans of a half-dying man.’

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

- (i) an argument - (1)

- (ii) sad pleadings - (1)



3. (i) In paragraph 2 (line 11), 'I was literally dragged into a rundown hotel which incidentally looked depressed...'
What is the hotel being compared to?

(1)

3. (ii) Why does the narrator use the word 'depressed'?

(1)

4. At the beginning of paragraph 3, line (15), the narrator writes, "Wait a moment!" shouted the landlord, a murderous-looking creature, whose violent gestures and waving of hands in front of my face were fairly irritating.

(i) What two things about the landlord appear intimidating?

(1)

(ii) How did the narrator react to the landlord and his ways?

(1)

5. At the end of paragraph 5, (line 32), what is unusual and effective about the word 'tragi-comic'?

(2)



6. In paragraph 3, the narrator uses similes 'like the colour of a lemon gone bad' (line 20) and 'like he was tossing out a piece of dirty rag' (line 21)

What do these similes suggest about what the narrator thought of the room occupant? (2)

Similes	Narrator's view of the president
Like the colour of a lemon gone bad	
Like he was tossing out a piece of dirty rag	

7. From paragraph 6, how did the landlord try to frighten the narrator into obeying him? (1)

8. In paragraph 6, line (45), 'We will settle it at once,' I placidly replied. What two things does this sentence suggest about the narrator? Give evidence from the sentence to support your answer. (2)

9. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings of the narrator experienced throughout the day. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarize 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

gracious	frustrated	unflappable	dumbfounded
annoyed	desperate	repulsed	



Paragraph 3	(i)
Paragraph 4	(ii)
Paragraph 5	(iii)
Paragraph 6	(iv)

