Upper secondary
Week 21

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

SECTION B

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Section B

[20 Marks]

Text 2

The text is a story of a man who had just murdered a pawnshop dealer in order to rob him. In the process of looking for the money, he receives a strange visitor. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

1 So loud was the beating of the rain throughout the house that, in Markheim's ears, he heard the tread of regiments marching in the distance, the creaking of doors held stealthily ajar and from the shop, the sound of the dead man getting to his legs and mounting the stairs of the old pawnshop.

2 He could sense that he was not alone but still the murderer sat, busy and absent when suddenly, he was startled to his feet. A bursting gush of blood went over him, and then he stood transfixed. Fear held Markheim in the vice-like grip of an F-clamp. A hand was laid upon the knob and the door opened. He did not know what to expect; whether the dead man walking, or the official ministers of human justice, or some chance witness blindly stumbling in to consign him to the gallows.

3 But when a face was thrust into the gap, glanced round the room, looked at him, nodded as if in friendly recognition, and then withdrew again, and the door closed behind it, his fear broke loose in a hoarse cry. At the sound of this, the visitor returned.

"Did you call me?" he asked pleasantly, and with that, he entered the room and closed the door behind him.

4 Markheim gazed at him with all his eyes. The creature stood smiling at Markheim. Markheim made no answer, his mind in a fog.

"I should warn you," resumed the other, "that the dead man's maid has left her sweetheart earlier than usual and will soon be here. If Mr. Markheim be found in this house, I need not describe to him the consequences."

"You know me?" cried the murderer; his voice coming out in a highly nervous crackle.

The visitor smiled. "You are a favourite of mine," he said, "and I have long observed and often sought to help you."

"What are you?" cried Markheim, "the devil?"

5 "I know you," replied the visitor, with a sort of kind severity or rather firmness. "I know you to the soul."

"Know me?" cried Markheim. "Who can do so? My life is but a mockery and slander on myself. I have lived to oppose my nature. All men do; all men are better than this disguise that grows about and stifles them. You see each dragged away by life, like one whom bandits have seized and muffled in a cloak."

"I have lived in a land of giants; giants have dragged me by the wrists since I was born–the giants of circumstance. And you would judge me by my acts! But can you not look within? Can you not understand that evil is hateful to me? Can you not read me for a thing that surely must be common as humanity—the unwilling sinner?"

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6 "All this is very feelingly expressed," was the reply, "yet it does not concern me. But time flies; the dead man's servant is dilly-dallying, yet still she keeps moving nearer; and remember, it is as if the gallows itself were striding toward you through the streets! Shall I help you? Shall I tell you where to find the money?"

The sweat started upon Markheim 's brow. Markheim steadily regarded the man. "If I be condemned to evil acts," he said, "there is still one door of freedom open—I can cease from action. My love of good is condemned to barrenness! But I have still my hatred of evil; and from that, I can draw both energy and courage."

The features of the visitor underwent a change then; they brightened and softened with a tender triumph; and then within seconds, the strange visitor had faded away.

7 But Markheim did not pause to watch. He opened the door and went downstairs very slowly. His past went soberly before him; he saw it as it was, ugly and strenuous like a dream, a scene of defeat. Life tempted him no longer. The bell once more broke out into impatient clamour. Having unburdened himself earlier, and feeling then like a blameless culprit, Markheim confronted the maid upon the threshold.

"You had better go for the police," said he, "I have killed your master."

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 makes it seem as though the rain was playing tricks with Markheim's mind.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1. [3]

6. At the end of paragraph 2 (line 8), 'He did not know what to expect; whether the dead man walking, or the official ministers of human justice, or some chance witness blindly stumbling in to consign him to the gallows.'

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

(i) the law – [1]

(ii) a clumsy movement – [1]

7. In paragraph 2 (line 7), 'Fear held Markheim in the vice-like grip of an F-clamp.'

(i) Which two words suggest that the fear Markheim experienced was like a tool? [1]

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(ii) Why does the narrator describe the fear in this way? [1]

8. From paragraph 5 (line 25), the writer writes,' 'I know you,' replied the visitor, with a sort of kind severity or rather firmness. 'I know you to the soul.'

What does this suggest about the visitor and Markheim's conscience? [1]

9. In paragraph 7, (line 49), what is unusual and effective about the phrase 'blameless culprit? [2]

10. The writer uses similes 'like one whom bandits have seized and muffled in a cloak' (line 30) and 'as if the gallows itself were striding toward you through the streets' (line 37).

What do these similes suggest about Markehim's view of a man's life and the visitor's views about what would likely happen to Markheim ? [2]

Similes		Markheim
like one whom bandits have seized and muffled in a cloak	Markheim –	
as if the gallows itself were striding toward you through the streets	The visitor –	

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11. In paragraph 5 (line 32), 'I have lived in a land of giants; giants have dragged me by the wrists since I was born —the giants of circumstance.' [1]

(i) What are the 'giants' Markeim spoke about in the sentence given?

(ii) In paragraph 5, why does Markheim give reasons for how his life turned out?

12. (i) What happened in paragraph 6 to change Markheim's attitude towards crime?

(ii) With reference to paragraph 6, what evidence is there to suggest that the strange visitor might have been a supernatural being? [1]

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings Markheim experienced throughout that evening. 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. [4]

Markheim's feelings

apologetic	determined	unrepentant	lamenting
engrossed	jittery	petrified	

Flow Chart

Paragraph 3 : (i)

↓

Paragraph 4 : (ii)

↓

Paragraph 6 : (iii)

↓

Paragraph 6 : (iv)

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