

**English Olympiad 2020
Consequences: Aftermath**

Study guide – Memo

Please note:

- 1) The answers offered are suggestions and other responses may be valid.**
- 2) Answers have only been supplied for the individual work questions. Group questions should vary greatly in responses.**

Literature Section

A Bag of Sweets - Agnes Sam

6) The writer mentions: ‘the past three years’. What has happened over the past three years?

Khadija, from an Islamic family, has married a Christian man, although she has not converted. Khadija has been cut from her family because of this.

7) How would you describe Kaltoum’s initial description of Khadija?

Kaltoum describes her sister’s entrance into the family shop as ‘beaming at me’ and extremely happy to see her. She first compares Khadija to ‘a good Muslim woman’ as she keeps her hair tucked away and does not wear overbearing makeup. After this Kaltoum’s description becomes harsher. She criticizes her sister for having bare legs and depicts her sister as something of a simpleton who has forgotten the past. Kaltoum marvels at how her sister can babble on about her life as if she is interested.

8) Do you think Kaltoum really has distain for her sister or do you think she is putting up a front/ has convinced herself that she does not like or feel anything loving towards her sister?

While Kaltoum’s behaviour and narration leans more towards the reader being convinced that she has complete distain for her sister, there are moments when one wonders whether this is not a veneer. **Draw up your own table of actions or words that demonstrate: Kaltoum’s distaste for her sister and moments when she seems to drop her harsh exterior.**

9) What, do you think, does the bag of sweets mean? Does it carry symbolism?

It is mentioned that one would give a bag of sweets to a child to keep them quiet, make them go away or, perhaps make them happy. The bag of sweets seems to be more of a brush off than a treat. The fact that the sweets are cheap shows that Kaltoum does not even have enough regard for Khadija to give her a decent ‘go-away’ bribe. The bag of sweets is an insult as they suggest that the giver is childish or of little consequence.

10) Kaltoum says: ‘It isn’t as if she turned Christian. She just married one.’ What does this say about Kaltoum’s outlook?

Kaltoum (and her siblings) shun Khadija for marrying a man who has a different religion – even though she has kept her own. In this line, Kaltoum admits that her sister has not abandoned her religion and culture but still punishes her by excommunicating her from the family. It could suggest that Kaltoum is narrow-minded and sees life and others’ behaviour as right or wrong – ‘completely’ Christian or Muslim or neither. There is no in between.

11) How do you think Kaltoum feels about her sister at the end of the story?

It seems that Kaltoum may regret her harsh treatment of her sister. Previously she mentions that might never have forgiven her if she turned Christian pointing to a possible 'pardon' in the future. Kaltoum waits for her sister – even past the shops closing time which shows that she hopes for Khadija to visit again.

Death by Cell Phone - Bongani Sibanda

4) What does Mdala's taking his cell phone to the meeting say about his relationship with his son?

Mdala and the rest of his family rely on his son's financial contributions. He feels that he must take his phone – and answer his son's calls as: 'to ignore it would have been letting hunger eat his family as they depended upon his son's remittances'.

5) This story contains a lot of irony. Draw up a list of the ironies.

It is ironic that:

- A man called Ghandi call the assembly. Ghandi is an Indian name and one would not expect anyone in this Afro-centric village to have someone by that name.
- The king of the Barosi people now shuns all things from the West, yet his son Thembani is 'rumoured [to have] received the best Western education'.
- There is dramatic irony in Mdala's outwardly agreeing to get rid of 'everything that smells of the West', while he and the reader know that he is hiding a phone and expecting a call from his son who is living overseas.
- Mdlala is chased by men who were his own drinking friends. One would assume from their age that they have all been friends for a long time, yet now they are hunting him down.

6) Thembani and the king use some propaganda techniques in their speech. Make a list of these techniques with specific examples from the text.

- The king calls his subjects 'comrades' and Thembani uses the inclusive 'we' both to create group unity.
- Thembani pinpoints the Gokwe and white people as the Barosi people's enemy and calls for the people to reject everything tied to the West or colonialisation.
- Repetition is used in his speech when Thembani explain the perceived evils of Western schools.
- Selection and downright lying is used in Thembani's rhetoric when he exaggerates about Zimbabwe's mining activities; mechanical innovation and trade with India and Asia; cosmic discoveries and Zimbabwe being the birthplace of science.
- People at eh assemble get worked up and excited by Thembani's words as he inspires a sense of admiration in the villagers for their ancestors' great works. This can be seen as a form of bandwagoning.

A Broken Appointment – Thomas Hardy

3) The opening line is a statement. Why do you think Hardy chose to start his poem like this?

The monosyllabic words are rather emphatic. One could argue that share the tone of a grumpy child. However, the words sum up the reason for the poem's creation and the poet's disappointment.

4) Quote a few words to show that Hardy was aware that perhaps his friend did not love him.

'And love alone can lend you loyalty'; 'was it not worth a little hour or more'

5) Does he truly believe his friend had no feelings towards him? Why do you say this?

Hardy does appear somewhat amazed that his friend could have 'soothed' him (and been something of a companion) and now simply abandons him. He asks her directly in lines 14 - 16 'Once you, a woman...you love me not?' trying to make sense of her seemingly contradictory behaviour.

6) What do the words 'time-torn man' suggest about the poet?

'[T]ime-torn suggests that Hardy believes that he has been through a lot of (emotional) hardships and is world-weary.

7) How, do you think, does the poet feel as a result of his friend's action?

Hardy portrays someone who is hurt by his friend's action. One could argue that he experienced rejection, felt a sense of worthlessness and pain.

Tell all the Truth but Tell it Slant - Emily Dickinson

1) Why is Truth capitalized?

Truth is the subject of the poem. The poet deemed truth to be powerful in that it can either liberate or hurt. Dickinson often capitalized words that are not usually so. Some scholars of her poetry claim that certain words in her poems appeared to be capitalized because of the way she wrote (ie. Her handwriting). Others believe Dickinson capitalized words to draw attention to them.

2) What, do you think, Dickinson means by: 'Success in Circuit lies'?

She means that truth is best delivered indirectly as it is often too powerful to be dealt with all at once.

3) Why does Dickinson refer to Truth's 'superb surprise'?

Often, once the news has settled, truth liberates the receiver of the news. The words 'superb surprise' suggest that knowing the truth is advantageous.

4) Dickinson referred to 'Truth' as 'light' which led to enlightenment. Do you agree with her thought? Reason your answer.

What may come as an initial shock or unexpected information can be a source of enlightenment and beatitude.

5) Explain the simile in the second stanza.

In this stanza Dickinson gives the reader an example of how one may 'tell it slant'. Children sometimes find storms - particularly thunderstorms frightening. In this simile she suggest that explaining thunderstorms to them in a mild manner may help them overcome their angst.

6) Does this poem show that Dickinson had faith in her fellow human beings? Why?

The poem would suggest that she has little faith in people, but Dickinson was a radical thinker for her era and her views were not easily digested by most critics or voices of the time.

A Dream Deferred - Langston Hughes (HL and FAL)

3) What is a dream deferred?

A dream that has been delayed, stopped or ignored by both internal and external forces.

4) List the comparisons Hughes makes to deferred dreams and say what you think they could symbolise.

- '[Dries up] like a raisin in the sun' – it could mean that the dream is old and difficult to recognise.
- 'fester like a sore' – it could bother or hurt the person that has put the dream off.
- 'stink like rotten meat' – it may no longer be appealing
- 'crust and sugar over' – it may once have seemed sweet, but now is overly so.

5) Write a poem of 11 lines called 'Dreams Realised' which is similar in style to Hughes' offering.

Individual responses will vary – perhaps individual poems could be read out at a workshop/ study group session.

Christopher Marlowe: Doctor Faustus (HL only)

1 Read the three Chorus speeches in the play and comment on the role the chorus plays.

The Chorus helps set the scene and comments on the action.

2 In the first Chorus speech there is a reference to 'waxen wings'.

2.1 Explain this reference.

It refers to the Greek myth of Icarus who, despite his father's warning, flew too close to the sun with the wings his father had made him out of feathers and wax. The sun melted his wings and he fell into the sea. The myth alludes to one who is hubristic and is filled with pride and arrogance. Icarus challenged the gods and was punished for his over-confidence.

2.2 Quote a phrase from the final Chorus speech that refers back to this reference.

'his hellish fall'

3.1 Quote two words from the soliloquy that mark the point of his dramatic decision to follow very different scholastic direction.

'Divinity, adieu'

3.2 Briefly explain what direction his studies had taken in the past, and what direction he has now decided to embark upon.

In the past he studied conventional science and philosophy, but now he has decided to indulge in necromancy which, he believes, will grant him limitless powers that will grant him 'a world of profit and delight,/ Of power, of honour, [and] omnipotence'.

- 4 **The Good and Evil Angels are a convention that Marlowe borrowed from the early Morality plays.**
- 4.1 **What were the Morality plays?**
These were dramatized Christian allegories in which a person journeying towards death was tempted to sin and strived for salvation.
- 4.2 **What do you think the angels represent?**
Marlowe externalised Faustus's conflict of conscience by means of the Good and Evil Angels.
- 5 **Read scene 5 in which Faustus signs his allegiance to the Devil. He questions why his blood is 'unwilling' and asks 'Why streams it not, that I might write afresh'.**
- 5.1 **Why is blood important here? Does it have a spiritual and Christian significance?**
Blood generally carries spiritual significance. In Christian terms it is particularly important as Christians believe that Christ died for their sins and they are redeemed by his sacrifice and the shedding of his blood. The holy communion/ mass/ Lord's supper celebrates this sacrifice and re-enacts the Last Supper in which Jesus said 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins' (Matthew 26:27).
- 6 **Faustus uses the Latin phrases '*Consummatum est*' and '*Homo fuge!*' in scene 5.**
- 6.1 **The first phrase '*Consummatum est*' would have been considered blasphemy by the Elizabethan audience. Explain why this would be so.**
Consummatum est: 'It is finished'. See John 19: 30. These were the last words of Christ on the cross and for Faustus to say them in making a pact with the Devil would have been seen as swearing against God.
- 6.2 **The second phrase '*Homo fuge!*' that mysteriously appears on his arm is a warning. Can you guess what it means and by whom it might have been sent?**
Homo fuge!: fly man! This is probably the Good Angel or the forces of good warning Faustus to escape.
- 7 **Read scene 6 which begins with Faustus continuing to waiver, but being calmed by Mephistophilis who answers his questions about the universe.**
- 7.1 **There is one question that Mephistophilis refuses to answer. What is this question and why is it significant?**
Mephistophilis refuses to answer the question about who made the world. This is significant as Mephistophilis has rejected God and will not utter his name.
- 7.2 **Name the seven deadly sins. Which of these sins is Faustus most guilty?**
The seven deadly sins are: pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth. Faustus is most guilty of pride, but it could be argued that he is also guilty of lust (Helen) and he is greedy for power and envious of others.
- 8 **Read scene 11 in which Faustus uses Mephistophilis to fly around the world to bring grapes for the Duchess Vanholt.**
- 8.1 **Why do you think Faustus does this? Is it simply a gesture of kindness or is there a hidden motive?**
He wants to show off to these important people. He is full of his own importance and, it could be argued, he displays the sin of pride in doing this.
- 9 **Read scene 12 in which Wagner announces the impending death of Faustus with surprising abruptness and, after Helen's appearance, the Old Man enters.**
- 9.1 **Why does Marlowe introduce this Old Man to the play?**
The Old Man represents conscience and faith. In the Morality plays he would have been called 'Good Council' and plays the same type of role as the Good Angel. He tries to persuade Faustus to turn away from necromancy by gentle persuasion, but Mephistophilis intervenes.
- 9.2 **What is the significance of the dagger that Mephistophilis offers Faustus?**

The dagger is a temptation to Faustus to commit suicide. In Medieval and Elizabethan times this would reflect an act of despair which indicated a loss of faith in God and would be considered sinful.

- 10 **Read scene 13 in which Faustus is overwhelmed by fear, horror and remorse.**
- 10.1 **Why does Faustus say that he wished he 'had never seen Wittenberg, never read book'?**
His love of learning and scholarship leads him to desire infinite knowledge and power. He has transgressed and challenged the Christian belief that all human achievements are measured against spiritual truths. He has put himself above God.
- 10.2 **Quote the phrase that the Good Angel uses to lament what Faustus enjoyed in exchange for his pact with the Devil.**
He exchanged eternal bliss for 'riches, pleasures, pomps'.
- 11 **Faustus's final speech beginning 'Ah Faustus ...' is filled with frightening imagery of damnation.**
- 11.1 **Quote the lines which refer to Christ's redemptive power evoking the imagery of blood.**
'See, see where Christ's blood streams in the firmament!'
- 11.2 **Which earlier scene are we now reminded of?**
We are reminded of the scene in which Faustus's bloods would not flow when he tried to sign the document that gave his life to the Devil.

Taxi - Sibusiso Mamba

8) Neither of the men claim responsibility for the accident. What is each man's motive for doing this?

Mzee does not want to get into trouble with his boss or lose his job and Jan does not want to be saddled with the guilt of having a hand in his son's death.

9) Why does Mzee invite Jemma to meet his wife and child (scenes 15 and 19)?

Perhaps Mzee feels that it would help to tell his side of the story and help Jemma understand what his circumstances are. Also, meeting Mzee's family – whether he intends it or not – gather's sympathy from Jemma.

10) Comment on Jan and Pete's treatment of Senzo in scene 18.

Senzo mentions that he feels like he is on trial. Pete and Jan try to cajole Senzo into being a favourable whiteness in their case. They ask him limited questions and do not really make sure of how he will testify. They assume Senzo will damn Mzee, but he does not give firm affirmation that he will do that.

11) What do you think of Dudu's move to Pietersburg?

Dudu seems wary of the life circumstances provided to her in Johannesburg. Mzee seems to spend little time with his family. Dudu most probably seeks that support and comfort of her family in Pietersburg.

12) What is your reaction to Jan's spitting on Senzo?

Jan is extremely angry as he assumed he would win the case with Senzo's help. One could say he felt betrayed probably due to a sense of entitlement that he holds. Jan's spitting on Senzo is demeaning and unacceptable behaviour.

14) In the last line Mzee says: 'After the accident... things change...'. How do things change for Mzee?

Mzee looks towards building his future. He enrolls to further his studies and he gets a second job as a security guard to pay for his schooling. Mzee hopes to find a new job and gain a new future with his family.

Language Section Memo

The group work questions for this section require thought and creative responses, thus a memo for these is not applicable.

Answers for individual work

2.8 Identify the methods used to create the following words:

- a) **gossipmonger** – compound word
- b) **helter-skelter** - reduplication
- c) **golf** – acronym (gentlemen only ladies forbidden)
- d) **gelato** – loanword (from Italian)
- e) **vacay** – clipping/ slang
- f) **antiviral** - derivation
- g) **(be a) Mandela** – and what would that mean? – eponym. Meaning: someone who is peace-seeking, magnanimous, a leader ETC
- h) **plop** - onomatopoeia
- i) **gusband** - portmanteau (gay + husband = a very close gay friend who one spends a lot of time with)

3.2 Correct the following:

- a) **Drive safe!** Drive safely!
- b) **You did good on your exam.** You did well in your exam.
- c) **That house sold quick.** That house sold quickly.
- d) **He got hurt bad in the accident.** He got hurt badly in the accident./ He got badly hurt in the accident.

3.3 Correct the following:

- a) **I wanna talk to you.** I want to talk to you.
- b) **I should of known better.** I should have known better.
- c) **I musta been tired.** I must have been tired.
- d) **She is kinda funny.** She is kind of funny.
- e) **I could of eaten the whole plate of desert.** I could have eaten the whole plate of desert.

3.4 Fill in the correct word - your or you're:

- a) **She's Italian and _you're_ Malaysian.**
- b) **Have you thought about _your_ future?**
- c) **_You're_ getting upset over something that is out of _your_ control.**
- d) **_Your_ marks have dropped because _you're_ using different study methods.**
- e) **_You're_ in a lot of trouble with _your_ aunt.**