

Exemplar

2012 CAPE Spanish

Unit 2 Paper 03

Question 5

Nature is a test of one's strength and will to live. Discuss.

In this section on literary themes, it is important for the writer to plan his/her essay. An essay should comprise a good introduction with a thesis statement, some three or four points to support one's thesis and at least one point to counterbalance the argument. Underlining key words is very important. It helps to determine what the question is really asking and how you will set about answering it.

In the candidate's introduction, he/she demonstrates that he/she has clearly understood the question by answering it directly in his/her own words. He/she then specifies the text, *La lluvia amarilla*, and sets out that he/she will analyze this issue through the use of the main character. By focusing on one character, this candidate is able to explore several ways in which nature tests one's strength and will to live.

The first paragraph explores how the harsh conditions of the environment and the weather have affected the inhabitants of Ainielle and defeated them, causing them to abandon their home town. The candidate further discusses that not only does Andrés have to suffer directly at the hands of nature but also indirectly through the solitude he experiences when little by little he is left alone.

In the second paragraph, the candidate looks at another element of nature – the harsh winds which imprison and isolate Andrés and his wife in their home. The candidate also selects very apt quotations, describing the wind “como una bestia” to highlight nature's urgency and apparent intention in testing man's will to live.

In the third paragraph, the candidate explores yet another hardship imposed on Andrés by the land – a lack of food. The hunger imposed by nature is yet another element of nature's testing of man's strength.

In the final paragraph, the candidate shows that the statement being discussed is not true in all cases, therefore offering a balanced view. He/she points out that nature actually provides solace and company to ease the loneliness of Andrés so it is not always a hostile force to man. Once more the choice of quotations is very appropriate to substantiate the candidate's argument.

The candidate's conclusion restates all the points discussed in order to prove his/her thesis statement. It is a sound and well written conclusion.

The essay is clearly written and is easy to understand and follow. The question is answered thoroughly and the candidate demonstrates familiarity with the text and the capacity to slant this knowledge to address the issues raised.

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Question 5 Candidate Number
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margin.

It is a very widely held view that Nature accommodates
Man's life in the most convenient manner. However, Nature
is in fact, an exam of one's strength and ability to live.
This viewpoint is exhibited in the book La Urra amarilla
written by Julio Llamazares, which displays ~~the main character~~ ^{Andrés's} struggle to survive Nature's
hostility towards him.

Beforehand, it is worth knowing that due to the mass exodus of
the people of Añelle, solitude has ^{infiltrated every aspect} ~~infiltrated every aspect~~ of Andrés's life, and thus
he is forced to undergo ~~the~~ the environment's harsh ^{repercussions of the} ~~and severe conditions~~
^{winters in isolation} ~~and~~ ^{and} by himself. For instance, "Durante casi una semana, estuve
rachando día y noche sobre Añelle, y ^{and} ~~era~~" no llegó a ser como
aquella gran nevada de mi infancia que obligaba a la gente a salir por
las ventanas de las casas. " ^{in the blizzards and harshness of the} ~~As~~ In this way, the ^{winters tested the people of}
Añelle's strength and will to live, and defeated them, ^{and is testing Andrés's} ~~whereas Andrés had~~
^{strength and will to live} ~~to overcome this test~~ in a rural environment. Thus, Nature tests one's will to live.

Moreover, one sees the extent of Nature's tests via the destruction
of the wind. Taking into consideration that "Aquella vez, el viento había sido
más feo que de estambre," and "como una bestia," it had "les castigaba con
violencia contra los árboles y los cristales de las casas." ^{inevitably,} ~~both~~ the wind damaged
property and resulted in Andrés and Sabine wondering if it will stop,
spending many days and nights inside their home. Therefore, the
natural environment tested their strength and will to survive.

In addition, Llamazares displays Nature's tests yet again when
Andrés had to undergo hunger due to a lack of food from the land ^{and the} ~~for~~
^{decomposition of the food available} ~~for~~ instance, "Durante muchos días, me mantuve únicamente a base de patatas y de
meios del resto de la fauna se había ido perdiendo" so much so that ^{me} ~~the~~ "la situación se ^{se}
hizo ya completamente insostenible," because, "pe pero nunca, hasta entonces, había

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It can be said that the natural environment tests Man's strength and will for survival.

On the contrary, it can be maintained that Nature does in fact accommodate man's existence rather than test it. For example, using the illustration of Andrés Bello, "la comodidad de los chinos me calmaba," so much that "entre los árboles del río tenía siempre la impresión de no estar solo," although he was abandoned and forsaken in Annelle. Andrés needs Nature for solace and company and is connected to the environment due to the fact that the people calmed him. Subsequently, in a rural setting Nature is important and accommodates man's existence rather than test his will to survive.

Taking all factors into consideration, one must submit to the obvious that ^{the} natural environment is a test of Man's strength and will to survive. This is portrayed in the harshness of the winters, the kind of destruction and the inadequacy of food supplies. Although there are rare instances when Nature makes one's life convenient and comfortable, there is no other valid conclusion than saying that Nature is a test of one's strength and will to survive.