

Best Books Study Work Guide:
Tsotsi
for Grade 11 Home Language
Answer key

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**BEST
BOOKS**

Answers to chapter questions

Chapter 1

Pre-reading

1. Open ended. The novel focuses on a young black man who lived some time ago and was involved in criminal activities in an impoverished black community.

Reading

2. Butcher has little interest in words. He is a man of action and particularly enjoys killing people.
3. The mood is sombre, creating an expectation that something bad is about to happen.
4. Listening to the stories makes the time go by much faster./Die Aap and Tsotsi have no other way of passing the time.

Post-reading

- 5.1 His hands are delicate, rather like those of an artist. One would not expect someone who is involved in violence to have hands like those.
- 5.2 The irony is that, instead of being a sign of spiritual activity, his gesture signals the start of violence.
6. Tsotsi says little but his actions and words spur the others to action. He seems to hate goodness or happiness and takes pleasure in killing Gumbboot's happiness, replacing his smile with a grimace of hatred and agonising pain. He delights in the fear and hate he inspires in others.
Butcher actively hates Tsotsi but remains a member of the gang because he recognises Tsotsi's skill as a leader. He has no life outside the gang. His joy and purpose in life is to be an expert killer with a bicycle spoke. When he laughs, it is without feeling.
Die Aap is totally loyal to Tsotsi and always supports what he says. He has very long arms. He uses the immense strength in these arms to immobilise victims.
7. Tsotsi is feared for his ruthlessness. When he appears on the streets on his way to committing a crime, people show their fear by securing their properties or moving out of the way. He is hated.
8. Gumbboot hates being parted from Maxulu and longs to be with her. The time seems to drag by. On the other hand, he works long hours so the days go by quite quickly.
9. Tsotsi chooses Gumbboot for three reasons: First, Gumbboot's happy smile is like a light in the area and, second, the bright red tie he is wearing makes him easy to follow. The third reason is that, when Gumbboot pays for his ticket, he reveals that he has quite a lot of money. He has forgotten to take out a single coin beforehand.
10. After a long time away, Gumbboot has only one week to go before he returns home to his wife and meets his child for the first time.

Chapter 2

Pre-reading

1. Resentment/embarrassment/indignation at an intrusion into your personal affairs.

Reading

2. "sick like a dog"
3. Boston is sickened by the violence of the gang's latest killing. His nerves are on edge and he finds Rosie's behaviour irritating./He knows that she is looking for business and that Butcher and the others are likely

- to treat her badly./He wants to re-establish his credibility as a tough gang member.
4. Soekie's parents have not kept in touch with her at all./Her birth was never registered.
 5. Soekie has to have tough rules. If she waits until her customers have finished their drinks, she may not be paid.

Post-reading

6. Boston is sickened by the violence and he feels the need to raise questions about the morality of what they are doing. The others see killing merely as part of the operation. Butcher actually enjoys killing as it demonstrates his special skill.
7. Some women are abused both mentally and physically and are abandoned by their husbands. They end up as prostitutes desperate for a way of getting alcohol to numb their senses (or food or other necessities).
8. Gumboot is a good man who is concerned about living a good life and meeting his responsibilities as a husband and father. His honesty and trust make him vulnerable to criminals./Tsotsi takes special delight in destroying what is beautiful or good.
9. Boston does not realise that Tsotsi does have feelings – he feels deep hatred towards him. Boston's questions have also made Tsotsi feel fearful because he cannot answer them.
10. It suggests that Boston is taken by surprise. He has no time to plan his fall or to sidestep the kick. He lands with his legs and arms spread out in uncontrolled fashion.

Chapter 3

Pre-reading

1. He would put the attack firmly behind him and not have even a moment's regret.

Reading

2. Tsotsi is confused and deeply troubled. He is trying to make sense of Boston's words.
3. Boston is the strategist who makes sure that there are no flaws in their plans and that nothing has been forgotten, and yet he does not want the plans to succeed.
4. Earlier, Soekie says that she does not want any rough stuff. She is determined not to encourage rowdy or violent behaviour or to give the idea that her shebeen has a reputation for violence./She needs to sell as much alcohol as she can and she does not want anything that might discourage customers./She does not want to attract the attention of the police and give them a reason to shut down her shebeen.

Post-reading

5. Tsotsi makes sure that his knife is ready for use from first thing in the morning. He deliberately forgets any face or incident from the past as soon as he remembers it, and he does not allow anyone to ask him any questions about his past. This means he is able to prevent himself from feeling any sympathy for his victims, and he is always ready to launch a lethal attack without warning.
6. Give any two: Wet newspaper, a spider spinning its web on the ceiling, the baby.
7. Butcher enjoys violence. The policeman is alone and so would be an easy target. He is hoping that Tsotsi will give the signal to the gang to free the prisoner (and hurt or even kill the policeman).
8. He is able to think and explore his feelings. His hatred of Boston subsides and he begins to appreciate Boston's qualities.
9. She is desperate to escape the attack on her that Tsotsi seems about to launch. She realises this could distract him for long enough for her to get away./She knows she has a better chance of escaping if she does not have to carry the baby.
10. Tsotsi has shown no ability to show compassion and so he is likely to abandon the baby or kill it without a second's thought./Any credible answer that can be justified in terms of the first three chapters.

Chapter 4

Pre-reading

1. Discussion could relate to their vulnerability to break-ins, looting and to armed robbery.

Reading

2. The perspective is mainly Cassim's, but we also have something of the old man's perspective.
3. Cassim engages customers in a conversation about a product or other possible choices and draws them into a kind of emotional connectedness with the product.
4. There is safety in numbers. At that point there are eight people in the shop./Tsotsi is unlikely to harm him or his wife, or attempt to rob them, while there are so many people around.
5. The mood is carefree/jubilant. It is broad daylight and people are determined to enjoy themselves. They have the confidence of being in great numbers so they are not cowed by gangsters and do not think of giving way to them.

Post-reading

6. Tsotsi knows he must buy milk for the baby, but he is afraid that he will appear a fool.
7. A "bad egg" is a very mild description for someone who is a hardened criminal./People find Tsotsi repulsive and prefer not to be close to him.
8. Cassim is terrified because he fears that Tsotsi has come to the shop with criminal intent. He is very careful not to upset Tsotsi and speaks very nervously. Tsotsi is actually at a disadvantage because he has no idea what milk to buy and he is afraid of appearing a fool. Cassim gains the upper hand in the end. He is able to cheat Tsotsi into buying condensed milk because Tsotsi is unable to read so cannot check what he says.
9. Tsotsi is now desperate to have all his questions about his previous life answered. This baby appears to be a catalyst.
10. MaRhabatse's home has already been stripped bare so no one is likely to go there. In addition, one of the corners of the building still has a little piece of roofing in place that will offer the baby some shade. Just like the baby, the ruin has been abandoned.

Chapter 5

Pre-reading

1. A funeral is usually an opportunity to take one's leave of someone one has loved or respected. Normally family and friends and colleagues come to a funeral to mourn the person or pay their respects in the sense of acknowledging the contribution the person has made.
2. A successful gang leader has to be able to command the respect and loyalty of the gang members or to be feared by them. He has to be able to lead successful criminal activities that bring rewards to all of the gang members. He has to be ruthless and without moral qualms.

Reading

3. The minister does not even know the name of the person, let alone anything about his life, and no one is there to mourn him.
4. The intention is to make readers feel sorry for him. (He has been abandoned there as if he is no longer of any value/some sort of garbage. We are meant to feel the effects of ongoing violence in the lives of the community. Boston is an object of idle curiosity rather than horror, suggesting that this is not an unusual occurrence. We are also intended to feel horrified/shocked that someone has been so heartless as to steal his trousers as he lies there helplessly.) The horror is that there is no place for sympathy for the victims of violence.

5. Tsotsi has not turned up to meet Die Aap and Butcher and, when he does get back, he is very distant. There is no Boston to help them plan their strategy and to help them to while away the time before they set out on their next operation.

Post-reading

6. Tsotsi sees the woman as a mother and possible nurturer/supplier of milk for his baby. Butcher and Die Aap see her as a sex object and make demeaning remarks.
7. Butcher is a poor substitute. He is unable to weave the stories together and his stories end after only ten words.
8. The writer shows clearly that Tsotsi is no longer able to focus on his role as the gang leader. His mind keeps drifting to thoughts about the baby and he is irritated by Butcher and Die Aap. Without something in Boston's stories to spark some kind of murderous desire in him, Tsotsi is unable to act on impulse and choose a target. He is only able to make a vague suggestion rather than decide on a definite target area.
9. Learner's own motivated response.
10. Before, they have always worked as a unit led by clear instructions and signals that Tsotsi gives. Tsotsi has lost confidence in his ability to make decisions and is much more concerned about the baby's needs than with choosing a victim.

Chapter 6

Pre-reading

1. The robber would have the advantage of speed, height, and strength over a paraplegic.

Reading

2. Few of them would have much money in the early morning, as opposed to after sunset, when some of them would have been paid.
3. "Quidangle" is a double pun which cleverly describes a place where people gather to bargain (wrangle) for better prices.
- 4.1 "Cit-ee-deshin" = City Edition
- 4.2 "Layeet-spotreesilts" = Late Sports Results

Post-reading

5. It is a sign of Morris's deep frustration about being so handicapped. He finds insults from children particularly hard to take because he is a man and therefore should be respected. He finds it humiliating that he is unable to function as a man in so many physical ways. He should at least have the respect of those who are not yet adults.
6. The insult strikes a distant chord in Tsotsi. Since being given the baby, Tsotsi has had recurring images of the yellow bitch that died as a result of his father's vicious attack.
7. Since Friday night Tsotsi has tended to operate on his own. He feels he can manage this operation without the help of the other two./He claims that he chose Morris because he is so ugly.
8. Morris begs because his earnest attempts to find work and not simply be pitied failed miserably. Although he finds it humiliating, begging gives him a way of having enough money for food each day.
9. Morris is one of the many casualties of working underground on the gold mines on contract, a job available to black people. Black people are not allowed to form unions and there is no pension for contract workers, so he has no hope of compensation or a regular monthly income. We also see that black people are viewed generically. He has no hope of being considered by white people for any job on his own merits.
10. Tsotsi allows Morris to think that he has escaped him again and again and then he reappears again. None of Morris's attempts to throw Tsotsi off the scent are successful, not even his long stay at the Bantu

Eating House. Tsotsi gives him a false sense of confidence that he has escaped, only to reveal that he has been nearby all the time. He follows relentlessly, allowing Morris to have a false sense of confidence and then filling him with fear and dread again.

Chapter 7

Pre-reading

1. Morris's existence is such a painful struggle that death must seem attractive./If he is longing for death, why does he struggle so hard to remain alive?
2. Tsotsi does not intercept Morris before he reaches the end of the dark, deserted street. Morris is able to move into the well-lit Main Street where there are other people.

Reading

3. Tsotsi's flashback is prompted by Morris's curse, "whelp of a yellow bitch".
4. This suggests that Butcher and Die Aap are of little interest to Tsotsi now. His priority is fast becoming searching to find out about his past and his true identity.

Post-reading

5. Morris is only able to use his hands and arms to move, just as the bitch was only able to use her front paws and front legs. The back part of their bodies was useless. Both found moving agonising. Tsotsi notes that the skin on Morris's neck bulges and then he looks like a dog pulled up short on a lead. Another similarity is that Morris is vicious with his mouth, just as the bitch snarled at people.
6. Tsotsi's decision is a logical progression of the process that has begun with the baby. He has begun to care about people and to ask questions about the choices he makes. When he finds Morris is able to escape using the cover of the stalled car, he is relieved, not angry. He has begun to feel sympathetic towards Morris.
7. Morris puts all the money he has in a heap under the lamplight, where it can be clearly seen, as an offering to Tsotsi. It is a last desperate attempt to save his life.
8. You should give your own response. (Example: I found it an amazing and moving moment. Instead of a violent encounter which results in Morris's death, they meet in silence and then speak as if they have known each other all their lives. They share their deepest experiences in a way in which only intimate friends can.)
9. Morris realises that although his life is hard and he is misshapen and has little or no respect from others, there are many things that give him joy and give him a reason for living.
10. Tsotsi reaches a turning point, when he encounters the woman under the Bluegum trees who gives him the baby. He chooses to keep the baby and to care for it. His meeting with the beggar makes him even more conscious of the change in himself. Tsotsi cannot go back to making the choice to kill, since he can no longer cut himself off from his victims and their suffering and pain. He has begun to care about people and wants to help them. For the first time, he has realised that he has the power to decide not to kill.

Chapter 8

Pre-reading

1. The bell could foreshadow Tsotsi going to seek peace at the church./Tsotsi's death.

Reading

2. The resounding bell is compared to a heavy bird hovering over the township. It seems to be judgmental because it seems to be casting a shadow./It does not seem to be offering any comfort or relating directly to their lives.
3. Tsotsi is not at all equipped to look after the baby. He lacks even the basic knowledge about the scrupulous care that has to be taken to keep anything that is being used to feed a baby clean and away from insects.
4. Miriam has practical intelligence as she is able to work out how long the queue is going to take and has chosen a time when she will only have to wait half an hour.
5. Black people are not allowed to engage in protests, even when they are peaceful. If they do, they can be summarily arrested and then sentenced to short periods of imprisonment. It is not easy to find people after they have been arrested. Families are often separated – sometimes people disappear and are never seen again.
6. Tsotsi looks over his shoulder to check to see that there is no one around. This action suggests that he may be wanting to sexually assault her.
7. Tsotsi has few social graces and a limited ability to express more complex requests./ He has no experience in explaining a situation and winning sympathy.
8. The baby is foul smelling and its mouth has been attacked by ants. She also finds abhorrent the thought of being asked to feed any baby other than her own.
9. Tsotsi tends to become angry when a raw nerve is touched. He remembers the yellow bitch which was helpless to protect her pups. It is as if she has read his mind.
10. Sunday is the night when people are able to have a peaceful, good sleep after a pleasant day. Without this kind of rest, they will not be able to survive the hard week ahead. It emphasises the normality of other lives with their ability to rest, compared to Tsotsi's sleeplessness. The impression is created that no one in the township is free – it is merely the expression of their captivity that differs.

Chapter 9

Pre-reading

1. Open-ended
2. The peaceful and harmonious mood evokes a safe and happy world.

Reading

3. Tondi's husband is coming home after a long time in jail.
4. There is a community warning system, using stones to tap on lamp posts.

Post-reading

5. Tondi over-protects David because she does not want him to be exposed to the harshness of the world outside their home. (Own opinion: You must make a clear and credible case for or against the way she has chosen to bring up her son. You may want to relate it to his response to being without his mother.)
6. The bitch is pregnant and her pups are due very soon.
7. Learner's own motivated response.
8. The old woman treats David as if he is an adult and gives him full and clear explanations about what she intends to do and what he must do./She expects him to manage being on his own.
9. It shows that the trauma David has experienced has profoundly disorientated him, making him lose all memory of the life he lived before and of the mother to whom he was so deeply attached. He has lost his identity.
10. David has moved from being someone who is defined by his mother's love to being a stereotype who has no individuality or humanity. He mechanically fits into a pattern of ruthless behaviour.

Chapter 10

Pre-reading

1. It is most likely to be one of the gang knocking. Miriam is unlikely to come to his room at that point in the day.

Reading

2. Tsotsi is changing. His first instinct is to nurture, not to ensure that he is suitably armed to kill./Getting answers to questions is his first priority now, rather than being ready to kill.
3. She has needed to replace or strengthen the buttons after Tsotsi tore her blouse open to make the point about needing her to breastfeed the baby.

Post-reading

4. Timeline

Friday night: Given the baby

Saturday: Buys condensed milk at General Dealer Cassim

Feeds baby and cleans him

Hides baby at ruin (Gumboot buried and Boston comes too)

Arrival of gang at his room to plan the next operation

Targets Morris Tshabala at Terminal Place and hunts him. Does not kill him.

Sunday: Finds ants in the condensed milk tin and kills them

Decides to find woman to feed the baby

5. Yes/No possible. Yes, Tsotsi is tending to focus more and more on the baby and the discoveries he is making about himself, leaving his criminal life behind. It is not surprising that he seems to have little knowledge about Die Aap. Die Aap, on the other hand, has little ability to work out complex issues. He is used to accepting Tsotsi's decisions and never questioning them. He accepts that Tsotsi no longer has any use for him.
6. Tsotsi is taking in the detail of Miriam's features and her physical shape with warm appreciation. This is a sign of his genuine interest in others – an entirely new character trait. Before this, Tsotsi tended to view women only as possible prey.
7. Tsotsi identifies with this baby that has made it possible for him to reconstruct his memories and his identity as David Madondo./He sees the baby as his and, like many fathers, chooses to name it after himself.
8. Tsotsi and Miriam are relaxed in each other's presence and tender towards each other. For the first time, Tsotsi is able to speak to her without difficulty and shares the full story about how he has come to have this baby. She is genuinely interested.
9. Tsotsi is recalling his own father whom he never saw. When his father returned from imprisonment, he could not be reunited with his wife, which would have given him the chance to meet his child./Perhaps he connects his own father with a man who was in jail for most of this childhood. His only memory of him is of a violent man who viciously attacked his dog.
10. Tsotsi thinks that Miriam may follow him to see where he hides the baby so he looks back to see whether she is following him.

Chapter 11

Pre-reading

1. The meeting with Morris has shown a surprising side to Tsotsi. Perhaps he will be empathetic./Give any answer that takes account of the changes in Tsotsi.

Reading

2. The stench and Boston's moans and grunts are beginning to upset Marty's customers. She is a pragmatist. The customers are her main concern.
3. The flies are caught in its stickiness just as Tsotsi's victims were helpless to escape death from him.
4. Boston is a coward. One of his ways of coping with the life he leads is to stop himself from seeing clearly.

Post-reading

5. At one stage Boston and Marty had a close relationship. Despite the way he treated her, she would have been willing to pick up the relationship. Now he is a wreck of a man so there is no possibility of a relationship between them.
6. An argument could be made either way. For: His impeccable record and his lack of experience with women could have been used to mitigate his sentence. Or Against: Even attempted rape is a very serious crime and should be dealt with harshly.
7. As we have seen during his time as a student, Boston loses weight when he is anxious or under strain. Since the first murder, he has faced increased strain as a member of the gang. His drinking has probably also affected the amount he eats.
8. It is a mixture of chance and choice. The beginning of his life of crime can be traced to Boston's chance encounter with Johnboy Lethetwa, where Boston chooses to help Johnboy overcome his passbook problem.
9. Tsotsi has been defined by the darkness within him. The light in his eyes means that he is becoming conscious that he has a soul. He is searching for meaning.
10. Boston has realised that he can go back to his old decent life and start again. Like Tsotsi, he realises that he does have a choice. He is determined to return home.

Chapter 12

Pre-reading

1. Open ended. Some possible answers: People who help are those who are encouraging/who offer constructive suggestions/who recognise and praise achievement.

Reading

2. Miss Marriot treats Isaac, who is an old man, as if he were an intellectually challenged child.
3. Tsotsi is unwilling to let people know that he has the baby. This is also a way of protecting the baby from the light.
4. Miriam is beginning to love the baby. She has felt fulfilled by being able to meet the baby's needs./She is drawn to David and so wants to help him.

Post-reading

5. Everything Isaac learns about Miss Marriot when she is in close contact has repulsed him. This includes the way she speaks and her physical attributes.
6. The sheets highlight the movement towards a life of new beginnings (being washed clean suggesting redemption) where doing the morally right thing is affirmed./ The whiteness of the sheets suggests a world of light which makes courage possible.
7. Isaac speaks from the heart. Although he has rather a distorted picture of the gospel message, he is able to present it in a way that makes sense and is directly relevant to Tsotsi. For instance, he makes the point that God wants people to stop killing and robbing, and that all are welcome.
8. In his life as Tsotsi, he was filled with hatred and his life signalled terror and violence. He is no longer Tsotsi. He is David now, and his reason for living is to be a force for good. He feels only goodwill towards others.

9. David dies smiling because a happy smile reflects inner peace and self-acceptance, unlike Gumboot whose joyful smile is distorted into a grimace when he dies./It may be that he thinks he has succeeded in saving the baby and thus has made a meaningful contribution.
10. The answer to this question is speculative. One possible argument for its effectiveness is that Fugard succeeds in allowing the focus to fall on David Madondo and that David's search for redemption/peace has been successful./Another possible argument is that the writer avoids a banal ending that suggests that all the problems can be neatly resolved in an environment that is fraught with complexity. You could argue that the ending is not effective because of the questions that it leaves unanswered. (What happens to Boston? Does the baby die? What happens to Miriam? Where has Tondi been during this time? Does she ever find out what has happened to her son?)

Colloquialisms and instances of code switching

<i>ai siestog</i>	oh shame!
<i>doek</i>	headscarf
<i>hok</i>	coop
<i>jy moet loop</i>	you must go now
<i>kwela-van</i>	police van
<i>medem</i>	madam
<i>strue's gawd</i>	true's God
<i>tickey</i>	small silver coin used before South Africa changed to rands and cents
<i>titcha boy</i>	teacher boy
<i>tula</i>	quiet
<i>wragtig</i>	really
<i>your maag can't take it</i>	your stomach can't take it
<i>zol</i>	hand-rolled marijuana cigarette

Suggested answers to formal assessment tasks

Literature invites you to explore and interpret. The answers suggested here should be used as a guide only. You may have other insights that give evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

1. Task 7.2: Mid-year exam question

Question 6: Essay

Remember that 15 marks are for content and that 10 marks are allotted to presentation. An excellent answer has substantial content, showing that you have grasped the topic and that you can provide relevant evidence from the text and interpret it to support your view. You are also expected to present the argument or discussion clearly and logically.

- There are a number of factors that make people dispirited or despairing.
- The township is a dustbowl in which trees and plants have difficulty in growing.
- Those that do manage to survive are stunted.
- The general atmosphere of sterility is heightened by the demolition crews who destroy what have been thriving communities – nothing seems permanent.
- There are poor facilities – there is only one tap in this section of the township and it does not always work.
- Women are abandoned and end up like Rosie with clear signs of physical and mental abuse.
- The area is shabby and reminds people that there were once better times, but these are long gone.
- There a large number of shebeens that encourage heavy and regular drinking.
- Police raids in the night occur regularly which means that people are constantly losing opportunities.
- Good people are under constant pressure and live in fear. [25]

OR

Question 7: Contextual

- 7.1 Cassim is terrified that Tsotsi has come to rob and even kill him and his wife. ✓ His only hope of preventing this is to make sure someone else (in this case the old man) is in the shop as long as possible. ✓ He is desperate enough to do anything, even give the customer a present. ✓ (3)
- 7.2 The old man thinks they are trying to make him buy more since bargaining is a feature of Indian shops. ✓ He wants to make it clear that there is no point. ✓ He shows his *tickey* so they can see that this is all he can spend. ✓ (3)
- 7.3 Cassim has never treated him with special respect for his age before ✓ so his claim makes no sense. ✓ For no apparent reason he goes on at great length and in complicated fashion (“discourse”) about a person and a country he has no interest in at all. ✓ (3)
- 7.4 Tsotsi is at a loss. ✓ Buying milk for a baby is a completely new situation for him ✓ and he does not want other customers to witness his embarrassment. ✓ (3)
- 7.5 The Reverend Henry Ransome finds it difficult to make the service meaningful in any way. ✓ He is burying someone whose name he does not know ✓ and who seems to have died in a moment of extreme hatred, far from the state of peace with which Christian burial is supposed to be associated. ✓ (3)
- 7.6 Fugard creates a vivid image of the minister’s strands of hair as seeds being dispersed, to highlight the absurdity of the situation. ✓ ✓ The minister does not create an impression of dignity or inspire reverence. ✓ /The focus on his hair highlights the meaninglessness of the service. ✓ (3)
- 7.7 The trees are like the people – placed in environments where it is impossible to thrive. ✓ Development is stunted of those who manage to survive at all. /They are totally unable to reach their potential. ✓ The decisions made by authorities are arbitrary and ill-judged – doomed to failure. ✓ (4)
- 7.8 The novel explores enforced separation. ✓ Gumboot has come to the city on his own so his wife is not there to mourn him. ✓ A frequent feature of the novel is the enforced separation of members of a family or of a community. ✓ (3)

[25]

2. Task 9: Test 2

Question 1: Contextual

- 1.1 He has abandoned his Tsotsi identity and wants to be known as David Madondo. ✓ He has ceased being secretive (nothing to hide) ✓ and has only the best interests of others at heart. ✓ / He is concerned with helping others ✓ (3)
- 1.2 The writer makes it clear that these residents will not rest until all the black people cannot benefit at all from the area. ✓ They have no compassion for the people who have lost their homes ✓ and are desperate to find any building material they can. They think only of their own interests. ✓ (3)
- 1.3 Tsotsi has arrived a few minutes too late to rescue the baby. ✓ He seems poised to start a new life with Miriam or at least to ensure the baby's future. ✓ Other people like Morris Tshabala and Gumboot were also unfortunate in the timing of events. ✓ A few minutes more and Morris would not have been crippled. ✓ / A week later, Gumboot would have been on his way out of Johannesburg. ✓ (4)

[10]

AND

Question 2: Essay

Remember that 15 marks are for content and that 10 marks are allotted to presentation. An excellent answer has substantial content, showing that you have grasped the topic and that you can provide relevant evidence from the text and interpret it to support your view. You are also expected to present the argument or discussion clearly and logically.

After a good start, Boston makes a series of choices that take him off course:

- At first the choices he makes mean that he wins bursaries to good schools and a training college.
- At the training college, he chooses to devote himself to studying.
- This means that his social skills do not develop and he becomes very intense.
- One night he decides to accept an invitation to do some fairly heavy petting.
- He misreads just how far the girl is inviting him to go and she screams for help.
- He is expelled but chooses not to go home, but to go to Johannesburg,
- At the same time, he chooses to lie to his mother.
- His willingness to help Johnboy Lethewa put a false entry in his passbook takes him along the path of regular criminal activity.
- When Johnboy Lethewa is arrested, he chooses to join a gang of hardened criminals.
- He is sickened by the crimes they commit but he feels he has no choice but to go on.
- Despite having been warned not to do so, he persists in asking questions that make Tsotsi very angry.
- The result is that Tsotsi brutally attacks him leaving him severely physically and mentally impaired.
- It is a moot point whether he will survive this attack.

[25]

3. Task 11.2: End-of-year exam question

Question 6: Essay

- As a result of police raids which often violate human rights, children/young adults find themselves without a home or resources.
- As in the case of Tsotsi, the situation is made even worse by the trauma of the event and the subsequent despair.
- Young victims may join bands that engage in petty crime to survive.
- Soon, however, the stakes increase and the bands are edged out by increasingly hardened gangs who engage in ruthless violence.

- Another way in which apartheid legislation encourages violent crime is that it makes it very difficult to get a job, often leading to despair.
- What makes the situation worse is that innocent black people are often detained and then imprisoned after a summary trial, which is a human rights violation.
- A jail record makes it even more difficult to obtain a job and results in deeper despair.
- Those who do obtain work usually have to travel long distances, so they have to use crowded trains or buses. These make them easy prey, as in the case of Gumboot Dhlamini.
- Attempts to protect pay packets just invite more ruthless ways of stealing, using weapons like bicycle spokes.

[25]

AND

Question 7: Contextual

- 7.1 David's father has just been released after a lengthy period in jail. ✓ He arrives home to find that his wife has been arbitrarily arrested during a police raid for passes. ✓ He is so angry and frustrated that he kicks the dog when she snarls at him. ✓ (3)
- 7.2 David is rather timid in the face of adults. He hides behind his mother's skirts, even when the old woman who lives in the back yard comes into the house. ✓ He is frightened of this man whom he does not know. ✓ He is not used to taking the initiative. ✓ (3)
- 7.3 This allows the reader to understand the traumatic effect the bitch's death had on David. ✓ The full horror of the dog's painful struggle is described and the terror David must have felt as she edged towards him as he sat defencelessly. ✓ It explains why he deliberately suppresses any sympathy for someone feeling pain ✓ and why he has forced himself to forget what happened that day. ✓ (4)
- 7.4 There is no respect for her dignity or her basic comfort. ✓ She is forced away from her home half-dressed on a cold night. ✓ (2)

AND

- 7.5 Up till Friday Tsotsi has despised and rejected Boston's education. ✓ He has chosen opportunities to belittle him, for instance by using the pencil to make scribbles and then breaking it. ✓ Now he has sought Boston out as he recognises that he is the one person who can explain the changes that are happening in him. ✓ (3)
- 7.6 Tsotsi thinks Boston means that he has no knowledge of the baby he has been given ✓ and what has happened to him since. ✓ However, Boston means that he recognises that he has missed the most important things in life. ✓ / His knowledge has not helped him at all to make the right choices. ✓ (3)
- 7.7 Fugard is very effective in showing the difficulty Boston has. Unusually, he is the listener. ✓ He is soon tired. ✓ Although Boston is able to piece Tsotsi's half sentences together his mind is confused ("returns to a labyrinth of questions") ✓ and he says the thought that emerges, a totally unrelated thought, "the fields of my youth". This makes no sense to Tsotsi. ✓ / He expresses himself incoherently. ✓ / You may argue that Fugard is not effective, but you need to give credible reasons. (3)
- 7.8 The novel emphasises the darkness that dominates Tsotsi's life. ✓ He finds his security and a way of surviving lies in suppressing any part of his former life. ✓ He does not allow himself to feel any sympathy for his victims, even when they are brutally murdered. ✓ Light is identified with redemption and his new choice to shun the dark. ✓ (4)

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