

The Girl on the Train – Paul Hawkins

Paper 1 Exam

1. Read again the first part of the source from **lines 3 – 6**.
List four things you learn from this part of the text about what she thinks she can see outside of the train window. **[4 marks]**
2. Look in detail at this extract from **lines 18 – 30** of the Source.

The train jolts and scrapes and screeches back into motion, the little pile of clothes disappears from view and we trundle on towards London, moving at a brisk jogger's pace. Someone in the seat behind me gives a sigh of helpless irritation; the 8.04 slow train from Ashbury to Euston can test the patience of the most seasoned commuter. The journey is supposed to take 54 minutes, but it rarely does: this section of the track is ancient, decrepit, beset with signalling problems and never-ending engineering works.

The train crawls along; it judders past warehouses and water towers, bridges and sheds, past modest Victorian houses, their backs turned squarely to the track.

My head leaning against the carriage window, I watch these houses roll past me like a tracking shot in a film. I see them as others do not; even their owners probably don't see them from this perspective. Twice a day, I am offered a view into other lives, just for a moment. There's something comforting about the sight of strangers safe at home.

How does the writer use language here to describe the main protagonist's train journey?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- Words and phrases
- Language features and forms

[8 marks]

3. You now need to think about **the whole of the Source**.

This text is from the opening of a novel. How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- What the writer focuses your attention on in the beginning
- How and why the writer changes the focus as the Source develops
- Any other structural features that interest you.

[8 marks]

4. Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the Source from **line 21 to the end**.

A student, having read this section of the text, said: "The writer really shows the lack of hope and despair of the main protagonist as she travels on the train. It makes me feel sorry for her because of how sad she seems." To what extent do you agree?

In your response you could:

- Write about your own impressions of the main protagonist's hopelessness
- Evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- Support your opinions with reference to the text

[20 marks]

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Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

5. A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either

Write a description of this woman suggested by this picture:



Or

Write a story about a hopeless situation.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]