Answers

English Language

You should also refer to the mark schemes for AQA English Language when checking your answers.

Paper 1 Section A: Reading

Question 1

Do it! (page 180)

Things that suggest the Englishwoman is surprised or puzzled:

- Her 'face looked puzzled'.
- She seems surprised that Hortense's husband did not go to meet her.
- She frowns when Hortense uses unfamiliar language and says, 'What?'.
- She asks Hortense if the luggage on the pavement is hers.

Question 2

Work it! (page 182)

Just as the words chosen show misunderstanding and a sort of clash of cultures, the styles of speech and narrative also stress collision between the two women. Hortense tries to give herself authority by speaking in flowing, extended sentences. By contrast, the Englishwoman speaks in short, abrupt sentences: 'What?'; 'It's the size of the Isle of Wight'; 'Hang on here'. The narrative confirms this abruptness too: 'She then shut the door in my face' is factual and direct and complements the way the Englishwoman speaks.

Do it! (page 183)

Answers could explore:

- Hortense's over-formal vocabulary and grammar suggest she is feeling vulnerable and is trying to sound impressive and full of authority.
- The Englishwoman's informal speech suggests she feels relaxed and in control: 'It's', 'he's', 'Hang on'.
- Simple, short sentence, 'She then shut the door in my face', suggests Hortense is surprised/confused/offended.
- The Englishwoman's colourful hyperbole (exaggeration), 'It's the size of the Isle of Wight', suggests that the woman is feeling playful and humorous.

Do it! (page 184)

Answers could explore:

- The contrast in the two women's registers of language – Hortense is absurdly formal, the Englishwoman is very direct and informal.
- The Englishwoman's use of very direct, short questions.
- The 'white island' pun is used to draw attention to the two women's very different cultural backgrounds.
- Hortense's description of the woman's 'gentle giggle that played...', which tells us how much more relaxed the Englishwoman is than Hortense.

Question 3

Do it! (page 187)

Answers could explore:

- The clear and striking description of the Englishwoman at the beginning, so that we have this as a reference point for the rest of the episode.
- The use of dialogue rather than narrative to reveal the mutual misunderstandings of the two women, so that we share the confusion with Hortense.
- The contrasting patterns of language used by the two women.
- The role of the last paragraph in providing a sort of amazed commentary by Hortense, as she tries to account for her confusion.

Question 4

Do it! (page 190)

Answers could explore:

- To what extent *do* you agree? After all, Hortense's behaviour and confusion might be caused by her sense of vulnerability, so we could wonder if her behaviour is not typical of her.
- What impression of Hortense do you get? Is she a snob? Is she foolish to use language that she clearly cannot control? Is she over-concerned with appearances and with giving an impression of her 'superiority'?
- How do you feel about Hortense? What is your reaction to her? Do you feel sympathy for her?
- Look at some particular details in the text and ask yourself how these affect your reaction to Hortense. For example, explore the effect on you of her imagining that she will need 'ropes and pulleys to hoist me up'. The choice of 'hoist' creates an amusing mental picture.

Do it! (page 191)

Answers could explore:

- To what extent do you agree? Do you find yourself warming to her? If so, why?
- What impression of Hortense do you get? Do you think her mistakes make her look foolish?
- Look at some particular details in the text and ask yourself how these affect your reaction to Hortense.

Paper 1 Section B: Writing

Question type 1

Do it! questions (page 194)

Answers could include:

- A description of the whole scene, followed by a section of the scene, followed by one detail in that section – a sort of 'zooming in' approach.
- What is the mood or feeling of the scene? Try to capture/evoke that mood in words.