47101H
S7
Full marks
(section B only)
2. In the passage, the reader reads that the "walls were white washed" and the floor unpainted, indicating the lack of individuality among the inhabitants as they are all uniform and the same. The surroundings are a representation of the inhabitants' personalities and, in this case, it shows how their bunkhouse was not a territory that they could personalize, but rather it serves just one function—to house people. One can infer that there is a lack of individual spirit within the inhabitants as the walls, bunk houses, and floor seem to represent the clinical nature of a hospital where you are seen as patients and not individuals with individual problems. Hence, the bunkhouse is a symbol of their souls being cleaned out and not as a place to freely express them.

The "soap" and the "talcum powder" also emphasize that in the bunkhouse lived lives to stay hygienic, but also a lack of personal possessions, showing that the bunkhouse life at the time of the Great Depression was to be alone but not to be human. Steinbeck wants to show the reader that the reality for the ranch workers was universal and here, the reader is treated to an empathetic perception of their lives. I feel this is why Steinbeck moves in the third person to fully demonstrate the idea that this was the life for virtually every ranch worker.

He refers to them as "men" as if they are one homogenous group as Steinbeck wrote "those Western magazine ranch men love to be read". The reader can understand that they all shared one ambition as he is presenting the ranch men as aspiring to fulfill the American dream just...
like the stories of the men read about in the magazines. The inhabitants are therefore not isolated on the bunkhouse, but rather part of the Great Depression and the effects on their lives are shown through these magazines—they treat it as an opportunity to fulfill their dream despite the fact that it is something that every American aspired for at the time of Steinbeck. Irrespective of their bunkhouse, those magazine kept the reality alive for them.

George picked up a "small yellow can" that the reader can infer from Steinbeck's description that it is a pesticide. Steinbeck does this to serve as a symbol that the inhabitants had to cope with the devastating reality of the effect of the Great Depression as they were living in it. It indicates that they were living with pests such as "lice" and "roaches" to show that the inhabitants lives were full of bad events that they had to face up to. As they were living in the bunkhouse it shows that they were surrounded by those pests with no hope of escape from it. The little problems of their lives accumulate, and because it is a shared problem, they had to learn to work together to face off these problems. Steinbeck conveys to the reader the importance of cooperation despite the lack of individuality in the "white-washed" bunk house.

b) In the novel, George is mentioned saying "I'll make my month and I'll take my fifty bucks". This highlights how the ranch workers are only working for the sake of earning their keep to survive, so Steinbeck wanted to give a message to the reader that they were working for the sake of staying alive. It implies that they did not enjoy their jobs as the only thing they seem to get out of it was their "fifty bucks." This shows how important money was at the time
in Og More and Hen, especially considering the fact that Steinbeck wrote this novel at a time when America was going through hard economic times. The reader can sense that the ranch workers are no longer just chasing the American Dream in the pursuit of being happy, but as George says, "impossible," what signifies how the ranch workers do not look forward to the long-term, preferring to live for the present.

The ranch workers had to accept their cruel reality and the act of Carlson shooting Candy's dog is a reminder to the ranch workers that when they are "naive," they are not able to work and are not useful in the ranch. Their subsequent fate is an immediate death. Carlson says, "I'd kill the gun right here," indicating that the ranch workers are only valued for being able to do work and therefore Steinbeck presents their lives as being relentless—perhaps as a symbol of the seemingly endless economic depression. Steinbeck uses the words "right here" to foreshadow the ranch workers' further deaths in the ranch and this implies that they would be dying here failing to achieve the American Dream. The gun also symbolizes that it is inevitable that they will never achieve the American Dream, and in this case, it foreshadows the workers' departure from the world.

Throughout the novel, Steinbeck repeatedly refers to the "cat house" that the ranch workers spend their earned money on. The reader can infer that the ranch workers have accepted their fate and therefore focus on immediate pleasures such as drinking and being with prostitutes. Steinbeck portrays their lives as very lonely as due to the fact that they seek companionship from strangers to fill that void in their lives, and through drinking, they also forget about their problems and of reality.
This is indicative of the social-historical background of the ranch-workers lives showing that their freedom has been limited as a result of the Great Depression, and the only things to make them feel good about life would be escape from meaningless sex and continued drinking. Steinbeck portrays their lives as being unhappy and trying to accept the reality through focusing on the short term.

All Band 6.