**PAST PART B QUESTIONS:**

1. How do you think Steinbeck uses the character of Candy in the novel as a whole to convey important ideas about society at that time?
2. How does Steinbeck use their relationship (George & Lennie) in the novel as a whole to convey ideas about America in the 1930s?
3. In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck present the lives of ranch workers at that time?
4. How does Steinbeck present attitudes to women in the society in which the novel is set?
5. In the rest of the novel how does Steinbeck use Crooks to present attitudes to black people at the time the novel is set?
6. In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck show that some people on the ranch are considered more important than others? How does this reflect the society in which the novel is set?
7. In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck present ideas about relationships on a ranch at the time the novel is set?
8. In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck present the brutality of life on a ranch at the time the novel is set?

**POSSIBLE ‘OUTSIDER’ RESPONSES:**

**Mine:** Steinbeck’s use of third person omniscient narration allows the reader to see that Candy still blames Curley’s wife for the loss of his dream. He speaks to her corpse, referring to her as a “God damn tramp” and blames her for “mess[ing] things up”. Readers would perhaps feel a sense of guilt as they too had judged Curley’s wife before Steinbeck allowed them to see that Curley’s wife was actually a misunderstood character. ***Link to question…***

Add one of the following (depending upon your question):

1. Although Candy speaks to her “viciously”, the earlier adverb before he spoke to her is perhaps more telling; Candy had looked at Curley’s wife “helplessly” before becoming angry, suggesting that all he can do is vent his frustration as he has no power as a disabled, old man in a 1930’s American society where opportunities for a new life would be unlikely in such hard economic times.
2. Although Candy speaks to her “viciously”, the earlier adverb before he spoke to her is perhaps more telling; Candy had looked at Curley’s wife “helplessly” before becoming angry, suggesting that his dream had gone. The American Dream was indeed no more than that for poorly paid ranch workers in 1930’s America which was in the middle of the Great Depression; they had little hope of saving money to achieve their dreams.
3. The fact that Curley’s wife is blamed for something that Lennie did, demonstrates the attitudes to women in 1930’s America when women, were expected to stay at home and only concern themselves with their husband’s comfort. Only the reader is able to see through what Steinbeck himself referred to as Curley’s wife’s ‘thousand little defences’.
4. The fact that Curley’s wife isn’t mourned after her untimely death reveals the brutality of life on a ranch, which is perhaps a metaphor for the harsh life for so many during the Great Depression of the 1930s, where…

**AH & NA:** Steinbeck reveals a different side to Curley’s wife’s later in the novel. Again, the use of third person omniscient narration allows the reader to see that her character is actually lonely. The fact that her words “tumbled out” connotes that she has had nobody to speak to, which also suggests that she’s in a loveless marriage with someone who isn’t a “nice fella”. We as readers might feel sympathy for her character. Furthermore, through the use of repetition of “nice clothes”, Steinbeck allows us to see that the reason she was dressed inappropriately earlier in the novel was because her dream was to be in the “pitchers”. ***Link to question…***

**MW & CG:** Steinbeck employs the semantic field of destruction when describing the “barn” where Crooks lives. The repetition of “broken” illustrates what Steinbeck felt was the state of the nation with its backwards and oppressive laws; the “mauled” copy of the “civil code” and repetition of the word “rights” cements ideas of segregation and racism that existed at the time. This obsession with his only “right”, which is to be segregated, causes him to be “aloof” as a defence mechanism. We learn all of this through Steinbeck’s use of third person omniscient narration which makes the reader feel sympathetic to Crooks’ plight. ***Link to question…***