

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

GRADE 12

PAPER 2: MARKING GUIDELINES ON LIFE OF PI

RESOURCES: Grade 12 past examination papers

ANSWERS ON THE AUTHR'S NOTE**QUESTION 1**

- 1.1 To create authenticity. By explaining how the story came about, Martel establishes the circumstances a real.
This blend of fact and fiction allows the reader to believe that the story is about real people and events. (3)
- 1.2 TRUE:
They both had a lack of success in their writings;
The trip to India for inspiration to write a story;
The description of the places that they visited in India e.g. Pondicherry and the Botannical Gardens;
The Canada Council for the Arts who supported his writing of the story;
Mr Scliar who inspired who inspired the author to write the story because of a review of his novel, 'Max and the Cats'. (3)
- FALSE:
There is no evidence that the real author sent his notes to Siberia;
No evidence that Francis Adirubasamy or Pi Patel existed. (3)
- 1.3 Francis tells the author that the story 'will make him believe in God'.
The reason for this is because the author is at a low point in his life and is inclined to listen. (3)
- 1.4 Most fairy tales begin with the words, 'Once upon a time...'.
A fairy tale is known not to be true; it is fictitious.

- Francis Adirubasamy introduces a story which he believes to be true and will persuade the visiting author to believe in God. He tells him to 'pay proper attention' and to believe the story. (3)
- 1.5 The reader is curious to find out what tragic event could have caused such suffering and sadness.
The narrator is also unknown at this stage and the reader wonders about the narrator's character.
The literary device, foreshadowing, (the author HINTS as to what is to come in the novel), leaves the reader in suspense. (3)
- 1.6 The narrator, the adult Pi Patel, reveals his ideas about religions.
He compares the sloth's calm, spiritual demeanour to human yogis and that sloths remind him of God. Therefore, the themes of the coexistence of faith and science, the belief in God and the synchronicity (the simultaneous occurrence of events) between animals and humans are introduced. (3)
- 1.7 The author is suggesting that, while the story he is about to tell is true, or reflects reality, it is fiction and will not be a literal account of 'what really happened,' but a 'twisting' of the facts to bring out their 'essence.' (3)
- 1.8 He had written a book that was published in Canada, but it was not very well received. Feeling defeated and restless, he decided to go to India to work on his next novel. (3)
- 1.9 He thinks that his novel is worthless, so as a mark of his defeat, he mails his manuscript to a place that does not exist. (3)
- 1.10 Mr. Adirubasamy, a man he meets in a coffee house, tells the author the story. We now have a tale based on a story heard from a stranger in a coffee shop, retold by an author we cannot be sure of. (3)
- 1.11 Mr. Adirubasamy says that the story the author is about to hear, and which we are about to read,' will make you believe in God.' (3)

[21]

QUESTION 2

2.1 The Author/narrator is travelling through India after failing to write a successful novel. He finds himself in the small Indo-French town of Pondicherry. He is at the Indian Coffee House on Nehru Street in Pondicherry. (ANY THREE) (3)

2.2.1 The author/narrator is a writer (1)

2.2.2 The Author/narrator suspects that his listener is surprised to hear that he is a writer and that he does not really respect or admire writers as he would a doctor or a lawyer. (3)

2.2.3 No. He interprets Mr Adirubasamy's reaction as condemnatory and thinks that their conversation is thus over but Mr Adirubasamy wants to tell him a story which suggests that he is eager to share Pi's incredible tale with a fellow storyteller who will then share it with others. (3)

OR

Yes. (A positive response is unlikely but will be marked on its merits). (3)

2.3 To Mr Adirubasamy, faith in God is simply/uncomplicated. This is seen in his emphatic statement that the story will make his listener believe/ in his reply 'not so tall that you can't reach' which implies that faith is within every person's grasp. In contrast the narrator says that he 'was suspicious' as to whether the speaker was a Jehovah's Witness or a Muslim evangelist. This shows that he is afraid Mr Adirubasamy is attempting to convert him to a particular religion. / His comment that the story's potential to make him believe in God is a 'tall order' suggest that he is not a man of faith or belief in God. (3)

2.4 To Pi, belief in God is not limited to one particular religion. He sees all the religions that he practices as broadening and deepening his faith rather than placing limitations on what he may believe in. (3)

2.5 Francis Adirubasamy teaches Pi to swim and is described as a great storyteller – both gifts that Pi uses to survive during his time on the lifeboat. (3)

2.6 Most fairy tales begin with the words 'Once upon a time'. When we read/listen to a fairy tale we know that is not true/it is a made-up story, nevertheless we temporarily suspend our disbelief and engage with the story. Here Mr Adirubasamy uses the words to introduce a story which he believes to be true and which he thinks will make the listener believe in God. He is not encouraging the Author/narrator to suspend his disbelief – in fact, he tells him to 'pay proper attention' – but rather to believe the story (ANY FOUR). (3)

2.7 The Author/narrator takes down notes of Mr Adirubasamy's story about Pi. He goes back to Canada to search for Pi. / On Mr Adirubasamy's urging, the Author/narrator phones Pi and sets up an interview. He interviews Pi over the following year and once he listens to a tape recording from the Japanese

Ministry of Transport, comes to agree with Mr Adirubasamy that Pi's story is indeed one to 'make you believe in God.' (ANY TWO) (3)

2.8 The Author/narrator includes it in order to give Pi's story credibility. / It explains how the Author/narrator came to know about Pi. (3)

[25]

QUESTION 3

3.1 The differences in text suggest that the first-person speakers in each section are different people. (3)

3.2 The speaker is Mr. Patel. Structurally, the author's note ended with the introduction to Mr. Patel's story, which the author says he will allow Mr. Patel to tell in his own voice. Then Chapter 1 begins with that story. (3)

3.3 Mr. Patel begins his story by saying that his suffering left him sad and gloomy. He chose to study the sloth because its 'demeanor—calm, quiet and introspective—did something to soothe [his] shattered self.' (3)

3.4 He seems to be a gentle, intensely emotional person. He expresses love for a boy who beat him in a scholarship competition, and he tells us that he once fainted when a faucet was turned on because the experience was so shocking. He is also interested in and knowledgeable about animals. (3)

3.5 Mecca is the holiest city of Islam, one of Pi's three religions; Varanasi is a holy city in the Hindu faith, another of Pi's three religions; Jerusalem is holy to Muslims and Christians, Christianity being the third of Pi's three religions. Paris is a reputedly beautiful and romantic city. Oxford is the site of the great English university and a world-famous seat of academics. (3)

3.6 Patel majored in both zoology and religious studies. He compares religious-studies majors—people who analyze religion but will not commit to believing in God—to sloths; they are confused and hesitant. Sloths, on the other hand, remind him of God. Mr. Patel sees design, order, and beauty in the natural world. The combination of the two majors suggests that animals, God, and faith will play roles in the story Mr. Patel has to tell. (3)

3.7 We can infer that he has suffered great hardship and loss ('My suffering left me sad and gloomy'). He came from India ('I have nothing to go home to in Pondicherry'). We can also guess that the story he has to tell involved illness or injury ('The doctors and nurses at the hospital in Mexico were incredibly kind to me'). (3)

[21]