**Extract from ‘Great Expectations’ by Charles Dickens**

*This extract is the beginning of the novel. The narrator, Pip, encounters a stranger.*

Ours was the marsh country, down by the river, within, as the river wound, twenty miles of the sea. My first most vivid and broad impression of the identity of things, seems to me to have been gained on a memorable raw afternoon towards evening. At such a time I found out for certain, that this bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard; and that Philip Pirrip, late of this parish, and also Georgiana wife of the above, were dead and buried; and that Alexander, Bartholomew, Abraham, Tobias, and Roger, infant children of the aforesaid, were also dead and buried; and that the dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with mounds and gates, with scattered cattle feeding on it, was the marshes; and that the low leaden line beyond, was the river; and that the distant savage lair from which the wind was rushing was the sea; and that the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was me: Pip.

I was like a timid mouse, eyes wide, huddled round the grave of my parents. What was the faint noise? I could make out the sound of something, but between my sobs I took no notice.

`Hold your noise,' cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. `Keep still, you little devil, or I'll cut your throat!'

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

`O! Don't cut my throat, sir,' I pleaded in terror. `Pray don't do it, sir.'

`Tell us your namel' said the man. `Quickly'

`Pip, sir.'

`Once more,' said the man, staring at me. `Give it mouth!'

`Pip. Pip, sir.'

`Show us where you live,' said the man. `Pint out the place!'

I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat in-shore among the alder-trees and pollards, a mile or more from the church.

The man, after looking at me for a moment, turned me upside down, and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread. When the church came to itself-- for he was so sud- den and strong that he made it go head over heels before me, and I saw the steeple under my feet -- when the church came to itself, I say, I was seated on a high tombstone, trembling, while he ate the bread ravenously. My knees did shake, shiver and knock together. I was pertrified.

`You young dog,' said the man, licking his lips, `what fat cheeks you ha' got.'

I believe they were fat, though I was at that time undersized for my years, and not strong.

`Darn Me if I couldn't eat em,' said the man, with a threatening shake of his head, `and if I han't half a mind to'tl'

I earnestly expressed my hope that he wouldn't, and held tighter to the tombstone on which he had put me; partly, to keep myself upon it; partly, to keep myself from crying.

`Now lookee here!' said the man. `Where's your mother?'

`There, sir!' said I.

He started, made a short run, and stopped and looked over his shoulder.

**Glossary**:

Parish: neighbourhood

Briars: thorns

Q1. Read lines 1-10. List four things the writer tells the reader about the location of the narrative. [4]

Q2. Read through lines 12-20. How does the writer use language to present the narrator, Pip’s, fear?

* Words and phrases
* Language features and techniques
* Sentence forms [8]

Q3. You now need to think about the whole of the extract.

How has the writer structured to the text to make the encounter between Pip and the stranger engaging and exciting?

You could write about:

* What the writer chooses to focus on in what order
* How the writer changes the focus on the extract
* Any other structural features you notice [8]

Q4. Focus your answer on the second half of the source, from line 20 to the end.

A student, having read this section of the text said: “The writer really focusing in this section on representing the helplessness of the narrator, Pip.”

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

* Write about your own impression of the character
* Evaluate how the writer has created that impression
* Support your opinions with reference to the text **[20 ]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**