

Language Paper 1 Question 4 model answer (Rosabel question) – full marks.

0	4
---	---

Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from **line 19 to the end**.

A student said, 'This part of the story, set in the hat shop, shows that the red-haired girl has many advantages in life, and I think Rosabel is right to be angry.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- consider your own impressions of the red-haired girl
- evaluate how the writer conveys Rosabel's reactions to the red-haired girl
- support your response with references to the text.

[20 marks]

I agree with the statement to an extent. The red-haired girl is described as having "eyes the colour of that green ribbon shot with gold they had got from Paris last week." This metaphorical language highlights almost magical, supernatural aura held by the girl. Most readers would associate the colour "green" with nature and tranquillity, followed by a higher class, expensive "gold". Together, these adjectives have the cumulative effect of displaying how even the girl's physical features are astounding and unique, with the writing having a sense of longing felt by Rosabel. Furthermore, the noun "Paris" is universally associated with romance and materialistic desires, further displaying the advantages the "red-haired girl" has in life. This strongly supports the statement.

The statement also addresses the exquisite nature of the hat sought after by the girl. The hat the finally "charmed" them is described as being "rather large, soft, with great, curled feather, and a black velvet rose, nothing else". The list of adjectives emphasises how every aspect of the hat is perfect, from the "hat" itself to the "feather" and "rose". By listing these, Mansfield creates a sense that the girl and Harry have very distinct tastes. As well as this, the fact that this hat is in a "big, untouched box upstairs" shows that only the best items please the girls; the adjective "untouched" connotes ideas of novelty and importance, supporting the statement.

Additionally, near the end of the extract, Mansfield describes the girl's actions as traditionally upper class and regal: "the girl swept out to her carriage, and left Harry to pay and bring the box with him". The past participle verb "swept" connotes ideas of delicate movement; that the girl is precious and so should be treated in that way. At the same time, the writer structurally juxtaposes the girl's "carriage" with Rosabel's experience of the "sickening smell of warm humanity" on the bus. This stark contrast further highlights the fact that the girl is better off than Rosabel. Some readers may argue that Rosabel is not right to be angry, as the girl is trying to be kind to Rosabel – "it suits you, beautifully" – but it could be argued that this comes across as patronising and synthetic, somewhat supporting the statement.

However, the statement fails to consider the fact that "Harry would demand the impossible" and the girl had to go along with his requests. Mansfield displays the idea that the girl has little freedom of her own and is controlled by Harry, which could be argued to disprove the statement.

Despite this, I believe the statement to be largely correct.