a/ candidates should describe his character and explain his role in the book. He was the mosque attendant who told Ismail all about the history of the saint’s lamp when he was young and was the one who saved him from the crowd. Candidates should discuss the symbolism of his role and decide for themselves if he was a positive or negative character with opinions and reasons.

b/ Candidates must discuss what he did immediately after his return from abroad. When he sees his mother treating Fatima’s eyes with oil from the saint’s lamp, he makes impious references to Umm Hashim. He goes to the mosque and breaks the lamp in a state of anger and the crowd almost kill him. He stays in bed for several days thinking about his hatred for these people and, in his view, their backwardness. He has just returned from England and looks on them with disdain. Candidates would follow this with their point of view which should be logical.