Paper 1 Reading: ‘The Adventure of the Speckled Band’.

*This extract is from the opening of 'The Adventure of the Speckled Band', by Arthur Conan Doyle. Earlier in the novel, a young lady, Helen Stoner, visits Sherlock Holmes. She tells him about her stepfather's violent temper, and asks Holmes to investigate the death of her sister. In this extract, her stepfather appears in Sherlock Holmes' rooms.*

Section 1

“What in the name of the devil!"

The outburst had been drawn from my companion by the fact that our door had been suddenly dashed open, and that a huge man had framed himself in the aperture. His costume was a peculiar mixture of the professional and of the agricultural, having a black top-hat, a long frock-coat, and a pair of high gaiters, with a hunting-crop swinging in his hand. So tall was he that his hat actually brushed the cross bar of the doorway, and his breadth seemed to span it across from side to side.

**A1. List five things you learn about the man who opens the door. [5]**

Section 2

having a black top-hat, a long frock-coat, and a pair of high gaiters, with a hunting-crop swinging in his hand. So tall was he that his hat actually brushed the cross bar of the doorway, and his breadth seemed to span it across from side to side. A large face, seared with a thousand wrinkles, burned yellow with the sun, and marked with every evil passion, was turned from one to the other of us, while his deep-set, bile-shot eyes, and his high, thin, fleshless nose, gave him somewhat the resemblance to a fierce old bird of prey.

"Which of you is Holmes?" asked this apparition.

"My name, sir; but you have the advantage of me," said my companion quietly.

"I am Dr. Grimesby Roylott, of Stoke Moran."

**A2. How does the writer show that Dr. Roylott is an aggressive and dangerous character? [5]**

***You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer.***

Section 3

"Indeed, Doctor," said Holmes blandly. "Pray take a seat."

"I will do nothing of the kind. My stepdaughter has been here. I have traced her. What has she been saying to you?"

"It is a little cold for the time of the year," said Holmes.

"What has she been saying to you?" screamed the old man furiously.

"But I have heard that the crocuses promise well," continued my companion imperturbably.

"Ha! You put me off, do you?" said our new visitor, taking a step forward and shaking his hunting-crop. "I know you, you scoundrel! I have heard of you before. You are Holmes, the meddler."

My friend smiled.

"Holmes, the busybody!"

His smile broadened.

**A3. What impressions do you get of Sherlock Holmes from these lines? [10]**

***You must refer to the text to support your answer.***

Section 4

"But I have heard that the crocuses promise well," continued my companion imperturbably.

"Ha! You put me off, do you?" said our new visitor, taking a step forward and shaking his hunting-crop. "I know you, you scoundrel! I have heard of you before. You are Holmes, the meddler."

My friend smiled.

"Holmes, the busybody!"

His smile broadened.

"Holmes, the Scotland Yard Jack-in-office!"

Holmes chuckled heartily. "Your conversation is most entertaining," said he. "When you go out close the door, for there is a decided draught."

"I will go when I have said my say. Don’t you dare to meddle with my affairs. I know that Miss Stoner has been here. I traced her! I am a dangerous man to fall foul of! See here." He stepped swiftly forward, seized the poker, and bent it into a curve with his huge brown hands.

"See that you keep yourself out of my grip," he snarled, and hurling the twisted poker into the fireplace he strode out of the room.

"He seems a very amiable person," said Holmes, laughing. "I am not quite so bulky, but if he had remained I might have shown him that my grip was not much more feeble than his own." As he spoke he picked up the steel poker and, with a sudden effort, straightened it out again.

**A4. How does the writer make these lines tense and dramatic? [10]**

**You should write about:**

* **what happens to build tension and drama;**
* **the writer’s use of language to create tension and drama;**
* **the effects on the reader.**

Section 5

"Fancy his having the insolence to confound me with the official detective force! This incident gives zest to our investigation, however, and I only trust that our little friend will not suffer from her imprudence in allowing this brute to trace her. And now, Watson, we shall order breakfast, and afterwards I shall walk down to Doctors’ Commons, where I hope to get some data which may help us in this matter."

**A5. ‘In the last section of this passage, the writer forces us to rethink our initial impression of Sherlock Holmes and his interaction with Dr. Roylott.’ [10]**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

**You should write about:**

* **your own impressions of Sherlock Holmes as he is presented here and in the passage as a whole;** 
  + **how the writer has created these impressions.**

***You must refer to the text to support your answer.***