



2015 specification
first exams in 2017



The Kite Runner **by Khaled Hosseini**

'Writing about Society'
Re-creative Writing Guide for A Level
English Language and Literature

zigzageducation.co.uk

POD
8469

Publish your own work... Write to a brief...
Register at publishmenow.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@ZigZagEng](https://twitter.com/ZigZagEng)

Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education.....	ii
Teacher Feedback Opportunity.....	iii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iv
Teacher’s Introduction.....	1
Student Introduction	2
Methods of Language Analysis.....	3
Background.....	4
Plot Summary	5
Re-Creative Writing Advice	6
Chapters 1–3	12
Chapters 4–6	16
Chapter 7.....	19
Chapters 8–9	22
Chapter 10.....	25
Chapters 11–13	27
Chapters 14–18.....	30
Chapters 19–21	33
Chapter 22.....	36
Chapters 23–25	38
Further Reading	41
Glossary	42
Indicative Content.....	44

Teacher's Introduction

This guide is designed to meet the requirements of the *Exploring Conflict: Writing about Society* module (Paper 2 Section A) which is part of the AQA A Level English Language and Literature specification, for teaching from September 2015 onwards. It will focus on *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. The page numbers referred to in the guide correspond to the edition of the novel published by Bloomsbury, 2011 (ISBN 9781408824856).

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

What does this study guide include and how will it help my students prepare for the exam?

Contents	Relevance to the exam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background on the author and the text Plot summary Chapter summaries Comprehension questions on the chapters, with indicative content 	<p>These will help the students acquire a detailed knowledge of the plot so that they can contextualise any extract given in the exam. (AO2, AO4)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis tasks Model analysis paragraphs on selected extracts Methods of Language Analysis 	<p>The analysis tasks will help the students explore Hosseini's style, thus preparing them for the commentary section of the exam. The model analysis paragraphs will provide them with examples of how they should write about Hosseini's work when comparing it to their own recasting in the commentary. (AO2, AO4, AO5)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of exam-style recasting and commentary questions Model recasting and commentary Guidelines about how to approach the writing of the recasting and commentary sections 	<p>These will give the students the opportunity to practise exam-style tasks based on different points in the novel and give them ideas about how to structure their work in order to meet the assessment objectives (AO2, AO4, AO5). The model recasting and commentary sections will provide students with exemplar answers, to inform students what is expected of them in the exam, and enable them to reflect upon how top marks can be achieved.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glossary of literary and linguistic terminology 	<p>This will reinforce the students' understanding of the terminology they should use in their commentaries. (AO1, AO4)</p>

How to use this guide

The questions and activities on the novel can be done in class or set for homework. It is possible for the activities to be done by students in groups, in pairs, or individually. I suggest that the indicative content to the questions is given to the students after they have attempted the questions themselves as a way of helping them check the accuracy of their responses.

June 2018

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other English resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

Student Introduction

You will be studying *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini for Paper 2 of the A level Literature specification. It is recommended that you use the edition of the novel (2011) as the page numbers in this resource pack refer to it, although the exam board uses a particular version.

The unit 'Exploring Conflict' features an analytical question on a novel and a recreation on another text. The texts all share a theme of conflict. This could mean conflict relationships, as well as conflict between different social groups, ethnicities or values.

Q: How long is this paper and how many marks is it worth?

A: The whole paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes, and it is worth 40% of the A level. Questions on *The Kite Runner* (a recasting and a commentary question) in Section 1 of *Society*. This section is worth 55% of Paper 2 and you are advised to spend 1 hour and 15 minutes on it.

Q: Can I take a copy of the novel into the exam?

A: Yes, but it should not have any notes or annotations.

Q: What kind of question will I be asked in the exam?

A: You will be asked to rewrite a section of the novel from the point of view of a different character or from the point of view of another character. You will then write a commentary on your language choices with those in the original text.

Q: What skills will I be required to demonstrate in my answer?

A: In your recasting, you will be assessed on your ability to write fluently and on your ability to show that you can sustain your chosen language throughout your piece. (AO5)

In your commentary you will need to show that you can:

- analyse and evaluate using literary and linguistic terminology (AO2)
- compare your recasting to the extract from the novel specified in the question, identifying linguistic and literary features (AO4)
- produce a fluent, accurate and well-organised commentary (AO5)

Explained below are the types of questions and activities you will encounter in the exam.

Active Learning Task

Group or individual activities which help revision of the novel or provide a basis for further learning.



Discussion Question

Debate/prompt-style questions that encourage thinking about actions from different perspectives.

Consolidation Questions

Comprehension-style questions which test what you know about the text itself or literary techniques discussed.



Recreative Exercise

Exam-style questions that provide an opportunity to practice writing.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Methods of Language Analysis

Re-creative writing tasks are designed to determine your ability to write creatively based on the original text and its context. You should demonstrate understanding through your ability to recreate a number of linguistic and literary techniques to reshape the meaning of the text. They should also help you comprehend why an author makes certain linguistic choices and what the effects of these choices should be in the critical evaluation section of the question as you should justify these choices.

In the recreative writing task, answers should be original material to respond to a question. They should be in keeping with the context and style of the original material, and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the concepts listed below.

1. **monologue and dialogue**, and how and why each of these speech styles might be used in a text
2. how the alteration of **point of view, genre, context, purpose, audience and mode** can affect the meaning of a text
3. how some aspects of text are more or less developed than others, and how devices can be used to create meaning
4. how specific moments in time or descriptions of place can be important

High-scoring answers will be those that utilise these concepts to reshape and restructure the original text. In your commentaries, you will need to analyse your own language choices, as well as Hosseini's, and linguistic terminology listed below:

1. **phonetics, phonology and prosodics** – these are features related to SOUND (e.g. alliteration, onomatopoeia, sibilance).
2. **lexis and semantics** – when analysing your own text and Hosseini's, the most important aspect of these will be looking at WORD CHOICES and semantic fields.
3. **grammar** – when discussing word choices, you must label them using the correct grammatical terms. For example, you might write about how you used particular abstract nouns or dynamic verbs to convey a character's feelings.
4. **pragmatics** – you will consider how Hosseini communicates ideas to his audience.
5. **discourse** – you will recreate dialogue in your recasting and analyse the way Hosseini uses his characters' speech to convey ideas.

Following your recreative response, you should be able to evaluate the choices you made and explain why they are effective in reshaping the content according to the writing task. This should be based on a sound understanding of the linguistic techniques in themselves, but also show an understanding of how context can impact on the effectiveness of these techniques. It is particularly important in this section to compare how your chosen devices contrast with those which the author originally used. This will ensure that your answer demonstrates an understanding of how the effects of different devices can alter meaning.

Audience – the person who watches or listens to the text
Context – the situation in which something is done, which someone understands
Dialogue – conversation between two or more people
Genre – categories of literature and writing
Mode – the way something is done
Monologue – a speech by one speaker
Narration – the telling of the story
Narrative style – the way the narrator tells the story
Point of view – the perspective from which the narrator tells the story
Purpose – the reason for something being done
Implication – something that is not explicitly stated but is conveyed or understood
Inference – a conclusion reached by a speaker or listener based on what is not explicitly stated

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

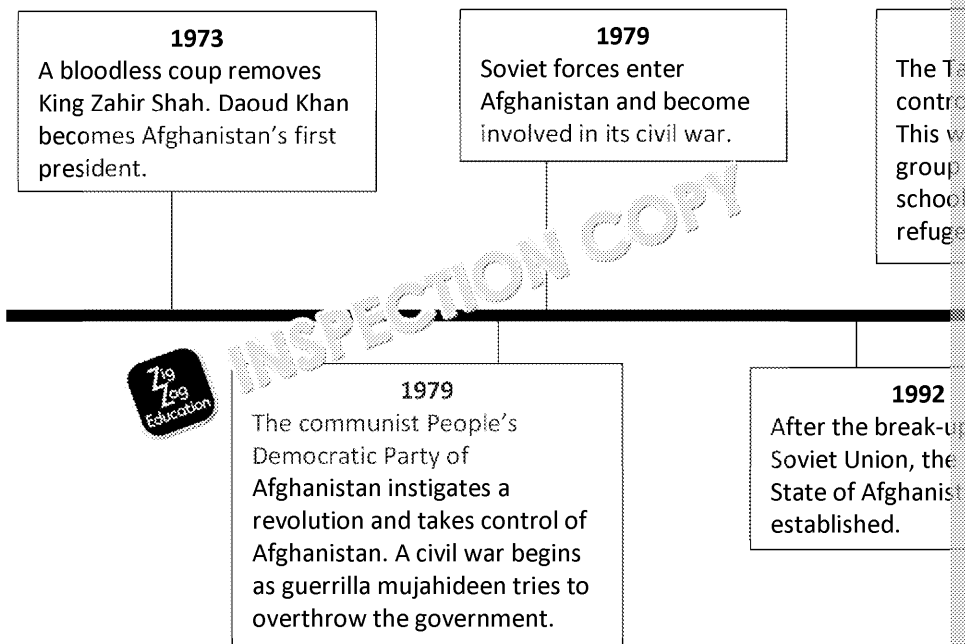


Background

Biographical notes

The novel *The Kite Runner* is largely autobiographical. Like Amir, Khaled Hosseini grew up in a poor neighbourhood in Kabul in a middle-class family. After the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, he fled to Paris, then to America, where he initially felt a sense of cultural alienation. He worked as a translator and he published his first novel, *The Kite Runner*, in 2002. Since then he has written two more novels: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007) and *And the Mountains Echoed* (2013). *The Kite Runner* spent 10 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and was adapted into a film in 2007. Hosseini has always felt a sense of longing for leaving Afghanistan and this emotion is dramatised in the novel. The UN ambassador to the US praised the book, explaining that it was a good way to understand the situation in Afghanistan better. However, the film was banned in Afghanistan as a scene could provoke violence. Some Afghan critics have also argued that Hosseini's portrayal of the Taliban and the relationships between Hazaras and Pashtuns in Afghanistan is biased. Hosseini is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Khaled Hosseini Foundation was set up in Afghanistan to improve the life of its people.

Key dates



COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

Key terms

Pashtun – the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan. All the monarchs of Afghanistan were Pashtuns.

Hazara – the third largest ethnic group in Afghanistan; suffered discrimination at the hands of the Taliban.

Sunni Islam – the largest denomination of Islam in the world (Pashtuns are Sunnis).

Shia Islam – the second largest denomination of Islam in the world, with a different view to Shia Muslims as to who was the prophet Muhammad (Hazaras are Shia Muslims).



Plot Summary

- Amir, an Afghan immigrant living in America, receives a phone call from his father which triggers his guilt about the past.
- The novel's focus switches to Amir's childhood. He came from a wealthy Pashtun family with servants, Ali and his son, Hassan. Hassan and Amir are best friends, but Amir often feels that Hassan's loyalty to him is excessive. Amir's relationship with his family is distant because he is a character who sees his son as weak.
- Amir enjoys writing stories and he is encouraged by his father's friend, Rahim Khan, to write. He is bullied by Assef, who humiliates them by threatening Assef with his slingshot.
- Amir enters a kite-running competition in order to impress Baba. He wins the competition, but afterwards he witnesses Assef raping Hassan and is too cowardly to intervene.
- Amir finds it impossible to deal with his guilt for not helping Hassan. He decides to confess to Baba and Hassan by making it appear as if Hassan has stolen some of his birthday money. When Baba is prepared to forgive them, Ali and Hassan leave.
- The Soviet army occupies Afghanistan and Amir and Baba escape to Pakistan. Rahim Khan prevents a Russian soldier from raping an Afghan woman.
- Baba and Amir eventually settle in America, where Baba takes a job at a gas station and Amir hopes to become a writer. They meet an old acquaintance of Baba's from Kabul, who has his daughter Soraya and they marry.
- Amir and Soraya have a happy but childless marriage. One day, Amir receives a letter from Rahim Khan asking him to see him in Pakistan.
- In Pakistan, Rahim Khan delivers the shocking news that Baba was Hassan's father. He informs Amir that Hassan and his wife have been killed by the Taliban and asks Amir to find Hassan's son, Sohrab.
- Reluctantly, Amir goes back to Afghanistan. When he attempts to find Sohrab in the orphanage, Sohrab is taken away by a Taliban official who abuses children.
- Amir goes to the Taliban compound and finds that the Taliban official is Assef. He kills Assef who blinds Assef and escapes with Amir.
- Back in Pakistan, Amir eventually tries to adopt Sohrab but encounters difficulties. He is put in an orphanage again, Sohrab attempts to commit suicide. He recovers and Amir takes Sohrab back to America.
- Amir takes Sohrab back to America. Despite Soraya and Amir's attempts to help him, Sohrab still refuses to speak. The novel ends with Amir flying a kite for Sohrab that Sohrab is starting to trust him again.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



INSPECTION COPY



Re-Creative Writing Advice

Re-creative writing exercises are intended to test your knowledge of a base text as well as your ability to use language creatively to communicate different things. In the exam you will be asked to reread part of a set text and rewrite it in approximately 300 words from a different perspective or context. Following this, you are required to write a 400-word commentary explaining the writing. Both aspects are important, but more marks are assigned to the commentary, and so it is imperative that you know the correct terminology to critique your writing.

When assessing your work, the examiner checks the Assessment Objectives (AOs) and will assign marks depending on how well your answer aligns with the AOs. All question (AOs 1 and 3 are not) and these are explained in the table below.

AO		Part
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts.	
AO4	Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods.	
AO5	Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.	Writing E

Your creative originality and writing style will be evaluated. Both aspects of the examiners look to identify if you are able to sustain your chosen writing style for this writing style is fitting for the style of the text. In the writing exercise this suitable literary techniques, for example metaphor, to express the thoughts of a words with connotations, and demonstrate the prejudice of a character. The ex action, and you should use these as a starting point for the exercises that follow to replicate the structure and give the best possible idea of an exam question.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Model Answer 1: The Kite Runner, Chapter 3**Question:**

Look at the description of Baba's relationship with Amir and his conversation with Rahim Khan from 'Of course, marrying a poet' to the end of Chapter 3.

Recast the base text into an account that Baba might give to Ali expressing his feelings.

In your transformation you should consider:

- Baba's views on Amir and his behaviour
- the conversation with Rahim Khan and the men's different perspectives on Amir

You should write a minimum of 250 words. [25 marks]

1. In the re-casting task below highlight all the information you recognise from the original text.

After Rahim Khan left, I tried to forget about our argument and busy myself with writing letters from people asking me for donations. A soft knock at the door brought me the signal that dinner was ready.

'Come in, Ali', I called out.

Ali entered the room with a friendly smile in his eyes, which changed to disappointment at Rahim's absence.

'Rahim Khan has had to go home, Ali. He is sorry that he could not stay for dinner. Ali had prepared Rahim's favourite meal and I saw him struggle to contain his disappointment. He went to the coffee table and started to gather our empty whisky glasses.

'Did Amir Agha enjoy the Buzkashi tournament?' Ali timidly inquired.

I thought back to the event of the afternoon. It had been an exciting game, Amir fighting to his death for glory and fame. A real man, full of bravery.

'It was a great time, Ali', I sighed. 'I'm afraid he was rather overwhelmed by the game, and my son...' I struggled to continue, not sure how much I could reveal about his behaviour.

'Amir Agha seemed a little unwell this afternoon and I told him to have a rest. He is a sensitive boy', offered Ali.

'I know, I know', I repeated, beginning to grow angry again. 'Too sensitive. I tried to make him into a man. I signed him up for soccer teams, but he was constantly letting his team down with his incompetence. I took him to the real sportsmanship, real men who don't shy away from conflict. Yet all I could see was a sensitive boy.'

'Perhaps, Agha', Ali began hesitantly, 'it is too much to hope that we can change him.'

'Yes, this is exactly what Rahim Khan has told me tonight. Yet it is easy to be proud of Hassan, he is not scared to defy the bullies, and even when he hides in his books, he is still fighting. What will become of him? If he is too sensitive, how will he ever become a man who stands up for what is right?'

Ali paused and looked down at his feet. Had I said too much? Had I crossed the line between friend and servant and embarrassed him, by talking to him as a friend?


A05: Well-structured writing, with some creative elements. Many details of the story are included in appropriate ways.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



2. Fill in the tables below by analysing how events and feelings are presented in the recasting task.

Narrative and dialogue

	How it reveals characters' feelings in the extract from <i>The Kite Runner</i> (quotation and analysis)	How it reveals characters' feelings in the extract from <i>The Kite Runner</i> (quotation and analysis)
 <p>Homodiegetic narration</p>	Amir's narrative:	Baba's narrative:
Dialogue		

The use of language features

Bullet points from the question	How this is shown in the extract from <i>The Kite Runner</i>	How this is shown in the extract from <i>The Kite Runner</i>
Baba's views on Amir and his behaviour	Quotation and analysis: Quotation and analysis:	Quotation and analysis: Quotation and analysis:
the conversation with Rahim Khan and the different perspectives on the situation	Quotation and analysis: Quotation and analysis:	Quotation and analysis: Quotation and analysis:

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



3. Below is the model critical commentary for the recreative task produced by the student.

Highlight:

- in GREEN all the parts which relate to the extract from *The Kite Runner*
- in YELLOW all the parts which relate to the recasting
- in RED all the comparative links made between the two (focus on individual comparisons)

Discuss with a partner what you notice about the information taken from the text.

I intended to present the way that Baba was affected by Amir's breakdown and the way he tried to justify his style of parenting to Ali after Rahim Khan and Amir were known each other since they were children, there is a social pressure to prevent them from being completely open about their emotions and treat

(Narrative)

Hosseini uses Amir's homodiegetic narration to portray his shame as he realises he is short of Baba's ideal of masculinity: 'Most of all, I will never forget Baba's valiant look on his face as he drove in silence'. I also referenced Baba's embarrassment and weakness by using homodiegetic narration from Baba's point of view: 'I struggled so much I could reveal about Amir's shameful behaviour.'

(Dialogue)

In the novel, Hosseini uses the dialogue between Baba and Rahim Khan to show Amir, which he struggled to conceal on the journey home. He tells Rahim Khan that the doctor pull him out of my wife with my own eyes, "I can never believe he was a doctor". In the dialogue with Ali, Baba has to be more guarded as he cannot reveal his feelings. Overtaken by anger, he does not tell him that 'Yet all I can see in him is a boy who has been overtaken by anger'. The rhetorical question 'How could he do this to me?' reveals the self-consciousness he has about his own actions.

- **(Bullet point 1 – Baba's views on Amir and his behaviour)**

When describing Amir's behaviour in the extract, Hosseini conveys his humiliation and how far Amir is from Baba's ideal, masculine son. Hosseini uses the abstract noun phrase 'blundering ineptitude' to describe Amir's inadequacy on the football field and the dynamic verb 'cried' is used to convey Amir's emotional state after the tournament. In my recasting, I used the abstract nouns 'incompetence' and 'weakness' as part of Baba's description of Amir to confirm that he also viewed Amir's behaviour as a failure. The sentence 'Too sensitive' is used by Baba to reject Ali's attempt to defend Amir.

- **(Bullet point 2 – the conversation with Rahim Khan and the men's differences)**

In his conversation with Rahim Khan, Baba describes Amir as 'buried' in his feelings. In my recasting as Baba argues that Amir's interest in reading is his weakness. Furthermore, I used the noun phrase 'useless writing' to show his contempt for Amir's interests that he doesn't understand his son. Rahim Khan uses the metaphor 'Children are not like us' to show my recasting by Ali's declaration 'I can't do too much to hope that we can change him'. In my direct speech, I want to emphasise the fact that other characters feel that Amir is not like them.

A05: Accurate writing and well-structured points.

A02: Close attention is paid to the language choices made, which are analysed using appropriate terminology. There is also a focus on the use of narrative point of view and tense.

A04: Close links are made between the details, themes and language choices of the student and the base text.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Model Answer 2: *The Kite Runner*, Chapter 19

Questions:

1. Look at the description of Amir telling Wahid about his life in America and Wahid's response (pp. 217–219, from 'So what do you...' to 'I am proud to have you'). Write a short account of the events that Wahid might give to a friend to describe the transformation you should consider:
 - Wahid's perspective of the events and his impressions of Amir
 - his views on his reasons for returning

You should write about 300 words. [25 marks]

2. Write a short commentary explaining the decisions you have made in transforming the account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original description. In your commentary:
 - consider how you have used language to shape your intended meaning
 - demonstrate the connections between the base text and your transformation
 - structure your writing clearly to express your ideas

You should write about 400 words. [30 marks]

Sample Answer: Question 1

'It's good to see you again, my friend', said Wahid.

'Inshallah, I hope you have been well', said Abdul.

'I had a strange visitor last night, a man called Amir. Would you believe he came from America to save a Hazara boy?'

'Surely not', said Abdul. 'If anyone is rich enough to make it to America, why come back?'

'Unless they want to sell their parents' land', chuckled Wahid.

'Exactly', agreed Abdul. 'Everyone these days just thinks of themselves. What do you think?'

'Well, that is an interesting story. He told me that he is the son of his illegitimate father. I don't think that he would tell me this, a complete stranger. Think of the shame that brings to a man.'

'These Americans have no shame. Once someone leaves Afghanistan, they forget their roots.'

'Still, perhaps it does show him to be honourable in some way, risking his life for his friend. Many would have turned their back on their responsibilities', said Wahid.

A05: Some awareness of the appropriate style required for the task, but writing is not fully original. For example, the same reporting clause ('Abdul said') is repeated. There is also no narrative used to describe the setting of the conversation or the characters. The text begins and ends abruptly. There is a lack of information from the base text included.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Sample Answer: Question 2

I decided to structure my recreative piece as a conversation between Wahid and Abdul. Wahid tells Abdul about Amir's visit the previous night. I used dialogue to make the writing more realistic. He implies that he is surprised that Amir came all the way from the US to see a Hazara boy. This connects to my source text where Wahid showed surprise that he travelled to Afghanistan to save his illegitimate brother's son. This connects to the prejudice in the novel, as the Hazara characters are often mistreated because of their ethnicity in the Taliban's brutality towards them.

I also mentioned in my recreative writing that Amir might have come to sell his land. This connects with the base text because Farid suspects Amir is in Afghanistan for selfish reasons.

Lastly, I used Farsi words in order to replicate the style of the original text. 'namoos' are often used in the base text in order to show the importance of honour to the Afghan people. I used them here to show Abdul's surprise that Amir would reveal a shameful secret to a stranger like Wahid.

A05: The writing is organised and accurate.

A02: There is only superficial engagement with the recreated text, as there is no analysis of techniques. Points made about the use of features such as dialogue are unclear.

A04: Connections are consistently made between the texts, but these are broad and, therefore, there is no insight into Hosseini's style.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Chapters 1–3

Summary

The novel begins in America where the protagonist, Amir, has emigrated to from. The opening chapter focuses on Amir's memories of his friend Hassan and the unwelcome incident that occurred between them during their childhood in Afghanistan. We also begin to realise that this friend has a terrible secret which Amir still feels guilty about. The possibility of redemption is introduced here as Amir recalls the message from his father's friend, Rahim Khan, who told him to 'be good again'.

In Chapter 2 the setting switches to Afghanistan as Amir describes his childhood. We learn about his father, who he calls Baba, and his fame and wealth in Kabul. Baba was a brave man who was reputed to have fought a bear, and he is also known for his philanthropic acts such as building an orphanage. However, the relationship between Amir and Baba is distant. Unlike his father, Amir is not interested in stereotypically masculine pursuits such as sport and instead wants to be a writer, something which Baba does not consider to be a valuable pastime.

We also find out about the ethnic and religious divisions between people in Afghanistan. There are Sunnis (a religious sect in Islam) and Pashtuns (an ethnic group in Afghanistan) who are part of the dominant religious and ethnic groups in their country. On the other hand, Hassan and Amir are Shia Muslims and belong to the persecuted Hazara ethnic group. While Hassan and Amir treat their servants with respect and affection, they do not consider them as equals. Also, the added element of Amir's jealousy of the affection that Baba shows towards Hassan is highlighted in terms of strength, agility and courage.

Analysis of a Key Passage

Baba takes Amir to a Buzkashi game, Baba talks to Rahim Khan

Hosseini uses Amir's **homophony** in the narration to portray his fears that Baba is disappointed in his artistic ambitions: 'Of course, marrying a poet was one thing, but fathering a son who preferred burying his face in books to hunting...'. The use of the **verb** 'hunting' suggests that Amir sees Baba as holding traditional views of masculinity and that he wishes his son was more athletic and assertive. Amir's feelings that he is falling short of this standard are reinforced through **parallel phrasing**: 'Real men didn't read poetry... Real men... played soccer'. In a desperate attempt to win Baba's approval, Amir tries to play such sports; however, this ends in failure, suggested by Amir's description of himself through the **noun phrase** 'pathetic, blundering liability'. Amir further embarrasses Baba as he becomes emotional at the Buzkashi game when one of the players is injured. The **declarative sentence** 'I began to cry' portrays Amir as despised by his tough, masculine father. Baba's barely controlled rage towards Amir is shown through the use of the **verb** 'clenched' to describe his hands gripping the steering wheel between them on the way home. Baba finally voices his feelings through his **dialogue** telling him that: 'A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who won't stand up for his friends'. The **repetition** of 'stand up' implies that Baba is concerned that Amir might grow up to be a coward, foreshadowing his inability to help Hassan from the violent attack in Chapter 7. Finally, the **metaphor** 'children are like pouring books' acts as a warning of the damage that Amir's obsession with books will do to his image rather than help him realise his own potential.

Homophony
The use of words that sound alike but have different meanings.
Parallel phrasing
The use of similar phrases to create a rhythmic effect.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Consolidation Questions

Working in groups of three, divide up the questions between you and feed back

Chapter 1

1. Where is Amir at the beginning of the novel? (p. 2)
2. Who does Amir remember saying to him 'For you a thousand times over'?
3. Who does Amir remember saying to him 'The easy way to be good again'?

Chapter 2

4. What distinguishing physical feature does Hassan have? (p. 3)
5. What does Amir persuade Hassan to do to the neighbour's dog? (p. 4)
6. Which of these is NOT true? (pp. 4–6)
 - Amir is wealthy and has a beautiful house
 - He lives in a house with Baba, Ali and Hassan
 - His grandfather knew the former king of Afghanistan
7. Which of the following statements is NOT true? (pp. 7–10)
 - Sanaubar was Hassan's mother
 - She and Ali were cousins
 - She was faithful to him and loved him despite his appearance
 - She ran away from home five days after she gave birth to Hassan
8. Which of the following statements is NOT true? (pp. 7–10)
 - Ali suffered from congenital paralysis
 - Ali had an atrophied leg after suffering from polio
 - Hassan, Amir, Baba and Ali are all Pashtuns
9. Which of the following statements is TRUE? (pp. 7–10)
 - Hazaras are an ethnic group who are part of the Shia sect of Islam. Pashtuns are part of the Sunni sect of Islam. Pashtuns have more power in Afghanistan.
 - Hazaras are an ethnic group who are part of the Sunni sect of Islam. Pashtuns are part of the Shia sect of Islam. Pashtuns have more power in Afghanistan.
 - Hazaras are an ethnic group who are part of the Shia sect of Islam. Pashtuns are part of the Sunni sect of Islam. Hazaras have more power in Afghanistan.
10. Why does Amir consider Hassan to be his brother? (p. 10)

Chapter 3

11. Why was Baba famous in Kabul? (p. 12)
12. How is Baba's generosity presented? (p. 13)
13. Which of these is NOT true? (pp. 13–15)
 - He showed kindness and affection towards Hassan which made Amir jealous
 - He was a prominent businessman
 - He married a highly educated woman
 - He disapproved of drinking alcohol
14. What does Baba say is 'only sin'? (p. 17)
15. Which of these does Amir NOT give as a possible reason for Baba's lack of affection for Hassan? (pp. 18–20)
 - Baba blames his wife's death in childbirth
 - Baba thinks that Amir is not strong and masculine enough
 - Amir likes to play soccer
 - Amir likes to read and write poetry
16. Complete the following quotation from Rahim Khan: 'Children aren't...' (p. 20)

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Active Learning Tasks

Research Task

Research what the following terms mean:

- Sunni
- Shia
- Pashtun
- Hazara

Creative Writing

Think of a powerful memory from your childhood and write a paragraph about it.

- why is this memory important to you?
- how has it affected you and shaped who you are?
- think about how you write about this memory: do you remember particular things that people have said?



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

- Look at the description of Baba's relationship with Amir and his conversation on pp. 19–22, from 'Of course, marrying a poet' to the end of Chapter 3. Reimagine this scene into an account that you might give to Ali expressing your views. Your recreation should include:
 - Baba's views on Amir's behaviour and the conversation with Rahim Khan
 - Baba's relationship with Ali in the way he conveys his recent experience
 Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]
- Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining for this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original description. You should:
 - think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your account
 - foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your commentary
 - structure your writing clearly to express your ideas
 The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

Preparation for writing the recreative task

Four important rules for recreative writing tasks:

- No invention (don't make up anything that is not referred to in the novel)
- Don't use direct quotations from the novel – use your own words
- Impress the examiner with your knowledge of the novel – include lots of detail from different sections/sections you are writing your writing on
- Proofread your work at the end – you will lose a lot of marks for spelling and grammar errors

Before writing your own recreative task, you should look in detail at Hosseini's work and you include the key details from the text. Below are some examples of the aspects you should include:

- Amir's thoughts about how Baba views him, portrayed through his homodiegetic narrative
- the description of Amir's attempts to play soccer
- Amir's desire to win Baba's approval
- the description of the Buzkashi game to which Baba takes Amir
- Amir's reaction to the game and the description of Baba's behaviour towards Amir
- Baba's complaints to Rahim Khan about Amir
- Rahim Khan's defence of Amir

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



INSPECTION COPY



Chapters 4–6

Summary

Chapter 4 outlines Ali's history and how, as an orphan, he came to be a servant in Baba's family home. We also learn more about the closeness between Hassan and Amir through the descriptions of Amir reading to Hassan and his rare. Amir is encouraged by Hassan's positive response to his own story and begins to write his own fiction with the encouragement of Rahim Khan. In Chapter 5, Assef is introduced to Assef, a privileged boy who is known for his violent behaviour and his hatred towards Hassan. Hassan protects Amir from Assef with his slingshot, and Assef threatens that he will revenge himself at a later date, foreshadowing his attack on Hassan in Chapter 7. Chapter 6 focuses on Amir's decision to enter the kite-running competition in order to win Baba's approval and make him proud of him. In these chapters, we also see the unequal power between Amir and Hassan. Amir enjoys the power he has over Hassan by being able to read, as he knows that he lacks his strength and athletic prowess. He also tests Hassan's complete loyalty to him by asking whether he would humiliate himself for his sake by eating dirt if he asked him.

Discussion

Reflection

1. Why do you think Amir is so afraid of Assef?
2. How does Assef's behaviour towards Hassan and Amir change over time?

Symbols and Motifs

- 1) The **pomegranate tree** is the place where Amir and Hassan meet to talk, play and read together. It is a symbol of their **friendship** in the novel.
- 2) Hassan's favourite story is '**Rostam and Sohrab**'. The fact that it involves a father who, unbeknownst to him, kills his son is symbolic of the conflict between **fathers and sons** in the novel, exemplified by Amir and Baba. Amir feels unloved by his father, and therefore is surprised that a father would kill his son.
- 3) Assef's **brass knuckles** are a symbol of the **pain and violence** which this character makes a reappearance in Chapter 22, where Assef, now part of the Taliban, uses them to attack Amir.
- 4) Hassan's **slingshot** is a weapon which, in contrast to Assef's brass knuckles, is used to **protect**. Hassan's defence of Amir in Chapter 5 finds a parallel to Chapter 22, where his son Sohrab uses it to save Amir's life.

Analysis of a Key Passage

The meeting between Amir and Hassan and Assef's gang

In this extract, Hosseini portrays Amir's fear of Assef through his **homodiegetic narrative** being 'not entirely sane', the **adjective phrase** suggesting that he sees the boy as having violent tendencies. Assef is also portrayed as intimidating through the **present participle** emphasising the power imbalance between him and Hassan. Assef's emotion is also portrayed through the **stative verb** 'was' used in a **reporting clause**, connecting the two events. The **dialogue** between Amir and Assef is used to portray his prejudice against Hassan and his hatred for the two friends. Assef's use of the **noun phrase** 'Hitler's project of ethnic cleansing' and the **verb** 'pollute' when commenting on the killing of the Hazaras suggests that he sees the project of ethnic cleansing with the Nazi's project of ethnic cleansing. This **foreshadowing** of the leader involved in the brutal killing of many Hazaras. The **metaphorical description** 'disgust' implies that he can barely contain his hatred. Amir's **homodiegetic narrative monologue** as his cowardice means that he wants to disassociate himself from Hassan. He says 'He's my servant!'. This in turn foreshadows Amir's betrayal of Hassan as he allows himself to justify his actions by denying the bond of friendship between them and seeing Hassan as a servant.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Key Terms

Adjective phrase – a group of words whose head is an adjective (e.g. 'red hair')

Internal monologue – the 'inner voice' of a character

Reporting clause – a group of words placed after a line of speech which reports what the character is saying

Consolidation Questions

- Why does Amir have to live with Baba's family?
 he is a servant
 his parents died in a car accident
 he was a refugee
- What does Amir notice that Baba never calls Ali?
 a friend
 a servant
- Where does Amir write the words 'Amir and Hassan, Sultans of Kabul'?
 on his kite
 on the pomegranate tree
- What is the story 'Rostam and Sohrab' about?
 a father who kills a man who he discovers is his son
 a son who kills a man who he discovers is his father
 a boy who kills his best friend
- What is Baba's reaction to Amir telling him that he has written a story?
 he offers to read it
 he doesn't offer to read it
 he asks Rahim Khan to read it
- What is Assef's weapon of choice?
 slingshot
 knife
- Why does Assef attack Amir?
 he is friends with Baba
 Amir threatens him with a slingshot
 Hassan threatens him with a slingshot
- What operation does Hassan have?
 to fix his hare lip
 he had his appendix removed
 broken elbow
- What does Amir ask Hassan if he would do if he asked him?
 beat up Assef
 give him his slingshot
- Why does Amir want to win the kite-running competition?
 to impress Rahim Khan
 to win Baba's love

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Active Learning Tasks

Group work

Make notes on the following bullet points, trying to be as detailed as possible to support your ideas:

Chapter 4

Group 1

1. Ali's history (pp. 23–24)
2. the parallels between Baba's relationship with Ali and Amir's treatment of Hassan
3. the relationship between Amir and Hassan (consider the significance of the importance of books and reading in the boys' lives, the significance of the kite) (pp. 25–28)
4. Baba's reaction to Amir's story (pp. 29–30)
5. Rahim Khan's reaction to Amir's story (pp. 30–31)

Chapter 5

Group 2

1. The political changes in Afghanistan (pp. 33–34)
2. The presentation of Assef (pp. 35–36)
3. The incident between Assef and the boys (pp. 36–40)
4. Baba's birthday present to Hassan and Amir's reaction to it (pp. 40–44)

Chapter 6

Group 3

1. The description of the kite running and its significance (pp. 47–48)
2. What kite running reveals about the Afghan spirit (p. 48)
3. The conversation between Amir and Hassan about 'stealing dirt' (p. 50)
4. Why Amir wants to win the kite-running competition (p. 52)

Summary of key ideas (Chart 13.4)

Consider the headings in the chart and write down one key thing that happens in the text which is significant about these characters or relationships:

- Ali
- Amir's relationship with Hassan
- Amir's relationship with Baba
- Amir's relationship with Rahim Khan
- Baba's relationship with Hassan
- Assef

Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of the meeting between Assef and his friends, Wali and Hassan, from 'Now he was walking toward us' to 'They turned around and ran'. Reimagine this scene into an account that Kamal might give to another friend. Your recreation should include:
 - Kamal's perspective of the meeting, his view on Amir and Hassan and
 - Kamal's relationship with his friend Ali (the way he conveys his recent feelings)

Your recreation should be about 120 words long. [25 marks]

2. Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene. Your commentary should include:
 - how you have used particular vocabulary to create your account
 - foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own account
 - structure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Chapter 7

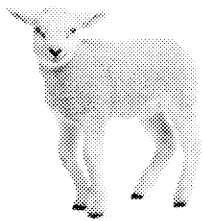
Summary

Chapter 7 is very significant in the novel because it provides a turning point in Amir's relationship with Hassan after he fails to defend Hassan from Assef's attack. There is a real contrast in the chapter between Amir's joy at winning the kite-running competition and his deep sense of guilt after betraying his friend. Amir's need to win Baba's love and approval provides a key to his behaviour in this chapter. Amir desperately wants to win the competition because he wants to impress Baba that he possesses the masculine qualities of strength and competitiveness which Baba respects. As he watches Hassan being raped by Assef, he thinks largely about gaining possession of his trophy, the blue kite. His decision not to help Hassan contrasts to Hassan's unwavering loyalty towards Amir portrayed through the motif of Hassan's chant as he flies the kite: 'For you, a thousand times over'. Amir justifies his lack of intervention by reasoning that Hassan is just the 'price' he will have to pay in order to win Baba's love. Through Amir placing such a low value on Hassan, as he regards him as a mere Hazara servant, we see the depth of ethnic prejudice and the social hierarchies ingrained in Afghan society.

Analysis of Key Passage:

Amir watches Assef's rape of Hassan

Hosseini uses Amir's **homodiegetic narration** to portray his conflicting feelings as he watches Hassan being raped by Assef. The **present participle verb** 'weeping' portrays Amir as being pained by the actions of his closest friend. The **repetition** of the **modal auxiliary verb** 'could' ('I could step into that yard') highlights his internal conflict within him as he tries to decide which course of action to take. The **repetition of the verb** 'ran' highlights his cowardice as he chooses to watch Hassan being raped, and the **repetition of the verb** 'ran' highlights his cowardice as he chooses to watch Hassan being raped, and the **repetition of the verb** 'ran' highlights his cowardice as he chooses to watch Hassan being raped. The potential violence of the situation is highlighted by the **parallel phrase** 'I was afraid of Assef. I was afraid of getting hurt'.



However, Hosseini brings in another dimension to the story through Amir's need to justify his actions through his references to the Hazaras and Pashtuns in Afghanistan. Amir's **rhetorical question** ('Was he just a Hazara, wasn't he?') reflect his desire to reassure himself of Hassan's value in their world. This is reinforced through his **metaphor** of the 'lamb' which he must sacrifice to attain his goal of bringing back Baba's respect.

Key Terms

- Modal auxiliary verb** – verbs used in conjunction with other verbs (e.g. 'should', 'could')
- Present participle verb** – verb in the present tense ending in 'ing'

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



Consolidation Questions

- What happens in Hassan's dream?
 - a) a monster eats Amir
 - b) Amir kills the monster in the lake
 - c) Amir proves that the monster in the lake doesn't exist
- How is Amir feeling before the kite-running competition?
 - a) Nervous
 - b) Excited
- At the end of the kite-running competition, Amir has to cut down the kite. What colour is the opposite of green?
 - a) Green
 - b) Blue
- What is Amir's 'single greatest moment of my twelve years of life'?
 - a) winning the kite-running competition
 - b) celebrating with Hassan
 - c) watching Baba cheering him after he won the competition
- What does Hassan say as he runs the blue kite?
 - a) 'For you a thousand times over!'
 - b) 'Amir and Hassan, Sultans of Kabul'
 - c) 'Rostam and Sohrab'
- Why does Amir go searching for Hassan after the competition?
 - a) he wants to thank him
 - b) he wants the blue kite so that he can give it to Baba
 - c) he wants to check that he is OK
- What does Assef want from Hassan?
 - a) an apology
 - b) a promise that he will stay away from Amir
 - c) the blue kite
- How does Amir react to Assef's rape of Hassan?
 - a) he goes to Assef for help
 - b) he hides in the shadows and doesn't intervene
 - c) he threatens Assef

Active Learning Tasks**Close analysis of a key passage**

Look at the description of the events after Hassan's rape on pp. 72–74 and analyse how the text presents Amir's feelings and Hassan's behaviour.

Consider:

- the use of verbs
- the use of simple and minor sentences
- rhetorical questions
- metaphors and similes
- nouns and noun phrases
- the use of Amir's first person narrative

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of the events after Hassan's rape on pp. 72–74, from the end of the chapter.

Reimagine this scene into an account that Hassan might give to his wife, an adult.

Your recreation should include:

- Hassan's perspective of the meeting, his views on Amir and attitudes
- Hassan's relationship with his wife in the way he conveys his recent experience

Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene for this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original description. Your commentary should:

- think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your account
- foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own account
- structure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Chapters 8–9

Summary

In these chapters, we see how Amir's overwhelming guilt about witnessing Hassan's second betrayal of his friend. Initially, the victory of the kite-running tournament leads to a period of closeness between Baba and Amir, but Amir is aware that spending too much time alone with him is preventing him from having the excitement and attention he desires. After the party, where Hassan retreats from Amir due to guilt and shame after the attack, Amir expresses his unconditional love and loyalty for Hassan and tries to resume their friendship. This self-sacrificing loyalty is symbolically represented when, in a gesture of friendship, Amir gives Hassan pomegranates and punishing him like he asked for. The fact that this event takes place at the pomegranate tree, a symbol of their friendship, symbolises the way the friendship has been destroyed by Amir's betrayal of Hassan comes when he plants his birthday money and watch in Hassan's room, leading his father to sack him for theft, as Amir feels unable to cope with the reminder of his betrayal. However, his decision to forgive Hassan rather than sack him surprises Amir, as Baba had always said that he would sack anyone who stole. However, his decision to forgive, as well as his earlier anger when Amir saw Hassan's servants, is better understood by him later on in the novel when he finds out from Baba that Hassan was Hassan's real father.

Analysis of Key Passage

Amir and Rahim Khan's conversation at the party

Hosseini uses Amir's **homodiegetic narration** to portray the close relationship between Amir and Rahim Khan. Rahim Khan finds Amir on his own at his party and expresses his unhappiness that Amir is alone. This affection is conveyed in the **minor stylistic device** 'Elbowed me playfully', where 'playfully' creates a clear distinction between Amir's friendship and Baba's more distant relationship. The **dialogue** between Amir and Rahim Khan depicts the older man as gently trying to help Amir overcome the challenges facing him in the ethnically divided society of Afghanistan. Rahim Khan's advice to Amir about his relationship with his Hazara servant Homaira, a girl as 'beautiful as a parrot', is a complex relationship between Hassan and Amir. Rahim Khan tells Amir how they should handle their relationship, using the **adverb of manner** 'gently' implying that such relationships would be frowned upon due to the social divide between Hazaras and Pashtuns in Afghan society. Rahim Khan uses **personification** 'the truth always wins', subtly suggesting to Amir that he shouldn't torment himself for his betrayal, as the pressures on them from society are very difficult to overcome. Rahim Khan's confession 'anything' to him asserts his endless loyalty to the young boy. However, Rahim Khan's statement 'I told him everything, but then, what would he think of me?') conveys the immense respect and affection that Rahim Khan has for Amir.

Discussion Question

Why do you think that Amir betrays Hassan for the second time? Which betrayal do you think is worse? Do you have any sympathy for Amir at this point?

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Active Learning Tasks

For each of these statements, find quotations from Chapters 8 and 9 which support them and which contradict them. Explain why you have chosen these quotations.

1. Hassan's love for Amir is destroyed after the violent attack.
Evidence for:
Evidence against:
2. Amir is consumed by guilt for not protecting Hassan.
Evidence for:
Evidence against:
3. The Taliban's victory brings Baba and Amir together.
Evidence for:
Evidence against:

Close analysis of a key passage:

Look at the passage where Rahim Khan talks to Amir at his birthday party, pp. 190-191. How does Hosseini present Rahim Khan and his relationship with Amir.

Consider:

1. Rahim Khan's behaviour towards Amir
2. the significance of telling him the story about his past
3. his birthday gift to Amir
4. Amir's feelings towards Rahim Khan



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of Ali telling Baba that he and Hassan are leaving (from 'They'd both been crying' to the end of the chapter). Reimagine the events that Ali might give to his cousin in Hazarajat. Your recreation should:
 - Ali's perspective of the events, his views on the alleged theft, the real feelings towards Baba and Amir
 - the influence of his relationship with his cousin on the way he conveys the newsYour recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]
2. Develop a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining for this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original description should:
 - think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your account
 - foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own
 - structure your writing clearly to express your ideasThe commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

Planning the recreative writing task

a) Planning the content:

1. What is Ali and Hassan's gift to Amir? Why do you think they choose this? What does it show about Ali and Hassan's feelings towards Amir?
2. How do you think Ali would have felt about Amir's reaction to the gift?
3. What does Hassan say when Baba asks him whether he stole Amir's watch? What do you think he is really thinking at this point?
4. Why do you think that Baba decides to leave Baba's employment?
5. How do you think that Ali feels as Baba pleads for him and Hassan to stay?
6. Why do you think that Ali does not tell Baba the truth about what Hassan has done?
7. What is the atmosphere when Ali and Hassan leave? Think about Amir's feelings.
8. Why do you think that Ali chose to go to Hazarajat? Why do you think they drive them all the way there?
9. Why do you think that Hassan leaves all his toys behind in the hut?

b) Considering Ali's voice

- Consider how Ali will feel about Baba and Amir after these events. Will he try to defend them? Would he feel any sense of loyalty towards them or guilt?
- Consider how he might present his feelings to his cousin.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



INSPECTION COPY



Chapter 10

Summary

There is a jump in time to five years later, in 1981. The chapter begins with a description of Amir sitting in the back of a truck with other Afghans who are trying to cross the border illegally. We see that Afghanistan has rapidly changed since the Soviet occupation and the fate of the characters, as Baba changes from being one of the most powerful men in the country to an illegal immigrant. When the truck is stopped by a Russian soldier who wants to take the women as 'payment' for allowing them to pass, Baba defends her despite being threatened with a gun, claiming that he will take a thousand of his bullets before he lets this indecent act take place. In defending the woman, a complete stranger, from the attack, Baba shows his bravery. In contrast, not defending his friend Hassan from the rape. Baba's actions also concern with the theme of war and the extent to which people's sense of morality is affected, as Baba insists that 'war does not negate decency'. The events of the day are brought back to Amir through an ironic coincidence: Kamal, one of the boys who was raped during the attack, is one of the passengers on the truck, who eventually dies on the journey when the fuel tank is hit. Through a form of 'poetic justice', we learn that while still in Afghanistan, Amir has been raped by Russian soldiers, mirroring the attack on Hassan in which he was

Analysis of a Key Passage

The confrontation between Baba and the Russian soldier, pp. 121-122

In this passage, we see how the war with the Soviets in Afghanistan has created despair and hopelessness for ordinary people. As Amir and Baba attempt to leave Afghanistan in the back of a truck as refugees, a Russian soldier accosts them. In an attempt to rape the women in the vehicle. This is described repeatedly as 'his price' that the group must pay in order to be allowed to pass, an **abstract noun** which reflects the way in which individual human lives have become devalued in the war and become no more than bargaining chips. The Russian soldier is **metaphorically** described as 'bulldog faced', portraying him as a frightening and intimidating figure. While the rest of the group are too frightened to oppose him, it is Baba who is willing to risk his own life to defend the woman. The fact that he challenges the soldier echoes the rumours introduced in Chapter 3 about how Baba had once fought with his bare hands. His use of **hyperbole** 'I'll take a thousand bullets before I let this indecency take place' illustrates his willingness to sacrifice his own life in order to protect his moral values. His **declarative sentence** 'War doesn't negate decency' portrays how he feels that no matter what the situation might be, people must remain humane. The use of the **abstract noun** 'decency' is important as it shows how important his moral values are to him, despite the dangers he is facing.

Active Learning Tasks

Look at Chapter 10 and find quotations to support each of the significant points. Write your own significant points of your own:

1. Following the Soviet invasion, Afghanistan had become a place of confusion and despair.
2. Baba and Amir's lives never returned to normal after Ali and Hassan left.
3. The war led to corruption and human suffering.
4. Baba has the courage to protect those without power and maintain his moral values in a time of crisis.
5. Amir's perception of Baba's heroism is a shameful contrast to his own cowardice.
6. In the final chapter, Amir encounters one of Assef's friends, Kamal. Kamal's experience of being raped by Soviet soldiers have ironic echoes.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Discussion Questions

In this chapter, we see a debate between Baba and the Russian soldier about moral conduct. While the soldier asserts that ‘There is no shame in war’, Baba negates decency. It *demands* it, even more than in times of peace’.

- What do you think that Baba means? What do his actions in this chapter tell us? Does this chapter change our view of Baba in any way?
- Research the following historical figures and explain what their actions suggest about how different people responded to life during a time of war and political oppression.
 - Josef Mengele
 - Erich Priebitz
 - Oskar Schindler
- Discuss what you think is the most important moral principle by which you would live in any situation that **you might be in that would make you give up this moral principle**.

Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of the confrontation between Baba and the Russian soldier (‘Boot heels clicked’ to ‘Moments later, we were pulling away’). Reimagining the scene, Baba might write in a letter to Rahim Khan once he arrived in Pakistan.

Your recreation should include:

- Baba’s perspective of the events, his views on the soldier’s behaviour and the situation in Afghanistan during the war and his thoughts about Amir’s reaction to the events
- Baba’s relationship with Rahim Khan in the way he conveys his recreation

Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Develop a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene for the new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini’s original description. Your commentary should:

- think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your recreation
- foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own recreation
- structure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



INSPECTION COPY



Chapters 11–13

Summary

These chapters are set in America, where Amir and Baba eventually emigrated after leaving Afghanistan. We see a contrast between Amir and Baba's attitudes to America. While Baba struggles to adjust to the new American way of life and misses his community in Kabul, Amir embraces the fresh start which America gives him. Their relationship develops in these chapters as Baba, particularly after his diagnosis with cancer, eventually accepts Amir's dream to become a writer and is even proud of him.

We are introduced to the characters of General Taheri, one of Baba's friends, Khanum Taheri, and his daughter Soraya, who Amir eventually marries. General Taheri, as they were both men of high rank in Kabul, who value honour beyond all else. General Taheri has failed to integrate into American society, and, unlike Baba, is unemployed. He also has more traditional, patriarchal views than Baba, forbidding public and controlling his daughter's relationships.

Soraya is presented as a positive influence on Amir. Despite, like Amir, feeling she had run away with a man, she is able to confess this to Amir and put this behind her. She is involved with American society and help others by becoming a teacher, despite her lack of formal education. Her honesty and strength of character provide a contrast to Amir who still struggles with betraying Hassan.

Analysis of Key Passage

Amir and Baba meet General Taheri at the 'swap meet'

Hosseini uses Amir's **homodiegetic** narrative to convey his first impressions of General Taheri. The general suggests that he is a man who once had a high status in Afghanistan but has been unable to find a similar position in America. The **simile** 'the general laughed on cue' suggests a formal part of a performance. The **noun phrase** 'important people' suggests the general's social status. The **metaphor** 'laughed on cue' shows his need to flatter those with power to power and status even while living as an unemployed immigrant in America. Hosseini's references to his 'gold chain of a pocket watch' and the 'iron gray three piece suit' have connotations of wealth and formality.

The use of **dialogue** also portrays the General's keen desire to please Baba, a man who is very important in Kabul. He tells Amir that 'your father had the distinction of the mind [of greatness]'. This **hyperbole** strikes Amir as insincere and his **internal monologue** compares the general's words to his 'often used' suit, implies his distrust of the general.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Active Learning Tasks

In groups, find quotations to support the following statements and explain them.

Baba's attitude to America

1. Baba feels uncomfortable and out of place in America (p. 117)
2. Baba doesn't understand American customs and misses the trust that exists in the community in Afghanistan (p. 118)
3. Baba misses Kabul and misses the old way of life there (pp. 119–120)
4. Baba remains a proud and honourable man, preferring to do a low-status job than to benefit from the money (p. 118)

Amir's attitude to America

1. For Amir, America represents the possibility of being freed from his past and his guilt (p. 120)
2. America represented a vast array of possibilities and the promise of freedom (p. 120)

The relationship between Amir and Baba

1. Amir recognises the sacrifice that Baba has made for him by bringing him to America (p. 120)
2. Baba is finally proud of Amir after he graduates from university (p. 122)
3. Amir's guilt about Hassan still casts a shadow over his relationship with Baba (p. 122)
4. Baba still has clear ideas about what Amir should study and what he should do, but Amir is confident enough now to make his own choices rather than trying to please his father (p. 125)
5. Amir takes on the role of Baba's carer as he is diagnosed with cancer, exposing the emotional distance between them (p. 146)
6. As Baba is close to dying, he finally accepts Amir's desire to be a writer and encourages him to pursue it in his work (p. 159)
7. After Baba dies, Amir begins to understand that as well as being a courageous man, he was also a loving father (p. 160)
8. Baba's death forces Amir to take responsibility for his own life and shape his future (p. 160)

Soraya (Amir's wife)

1. The relationship between Amir and Soraya develops slowly, as both are aware of the strict rules regarding relationships between men and women in Afghan society (p. 139)
2. Soraya is presented as an educated, ambitious woman who wants to do more than just follow the rules of society (p. 139)
3. Soraya's memory of teaching her servant Ziba how to read is a contrast to Hassan, who he enjoyed humiliating for being less educated (pp. 139–140)
4. Soraya is supportive of Amir when Baba is diagnosed with cancer (p. 148)
5. Soraya is similar to Amir as she too has a guilty secret about her past, yet she is able to face it and receive forgiveness (pp. 151–152)
6. Soraya is angry at the double standard in Afghan society where women are judged more harshly than men for having sexual relationships outside marriage (p. 164)
7. Although, like Baba, General Taheri attempts to control his daughter's choices, Soraya is determined to live her life by her own values (p. 167)
8. When Soraya and Amir attempt to have a child fail, Amir feels that it is his fault because of his guilt from the past, and he feels a sense of emptiness seeping into his life (pp. 173–174)

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Active Learning Tasks

General Taheri (Soraya's father)

1. General Taheri, Baba's old friend from Kabul, is presented as a man who, impoverished, needs to hold on to appearance and present himself as strong.
2. The General is portrayed as holding traditional views regarding family life.
3. He intimidates Amir as he safeguards Soraya's honour and makes sure they do not violate Afghan customs (p. 141).
4. However, General Taheri's offer of support to Amir after Baba is diagnosed as representing more positive Pashtun qualities of loyalty and brotherhood.
5. General Taheri is not happy in America (p. 162).
6. Unlike Baba who always worked, General Taheri refused to do any work with him. Instead received social benefits (p. 162).

Khanum Taheri (Soraya's mother)

1. Khanum Taheri used to be a talented singer before she was married (p. 159).
2. General Taheri is presented as the one in control of their relationship (pp. 159–160).
3. Khanum Taheri is presented as a traditional Afghan woman whose main priority is to be married to a respectable man (pp. 163–164).

Overview questions

1. To what extent does Baba's relationship with Amir change after they move? What are the reasons for these changes?
2. How does Hosseini present the experience of Afghan immigrants in America? How do they move have a positive impact on each of their lives?
3. How does Hosseini present the position of women in Afghan society through Khanum Taheri's experiences? What are the differences in the women's attitudes between Afghanistan and America?
4. What is the impact of Soraya on Amir's life? What are the differences and similarities between their relationships?

Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the passage where Baba and General Taheri meet at the 'swap meet on Sunday morning' to 'For the rest of the day...' (pp. 128–130). Reimagine the scene from the perspective of General Taheri that he might give to his wife, Khanum Taheri, at home. Your recreation should include:
 - General Taheri's perspective of the meeting, his views on Baba and Amir in America
 - the effect that General Taheri's relationship with his wife will have on her, drawing on her recent experience to her

Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene from the novel for this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original scene. Your commentary should:
 - think about how you will have used particular vocabulary to create your recreation
 - make links between the extract from the novel and your own recreation
 - ensure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Chapters 14–18

Summary

These chapters deal with Amir's visit to Rahim Khan in Pakistan, where his father Rahim Khan has asked Amir to come to see him because he wants him to go back to Sohrab, Hassan's son, and bring him to safety in Kabul. Sohrab became an orphan as his wife were killed by the Taliban. Rahim Khan also reveals that Baba was actually Amir's father, therefore, Amir has a duty to rescue his nephew. Amir is shocked by this, as the revelation challenges his father's moral character and integrity, but does eventually agree to go to Afghanistan.

The **theme of loyalty and betrayal** becomes prominent once again. Hassan's unwavering loyalty is portrayed as he agrees to leave his home in Hazarajat and look after Baba in Kabul, eventually sacrificing his life while defending the house from the Taliban. Amir's betrayal of Hassan without reproach, showing that he still loves him despite Amir's betrayal of him. Amir's friend provides a parallel to Baba's own betrayal of Ali, as he had an affair with his wife, Sanaubar, and thus became Hassan's father.

The **political situation in Afghanistan** is also explored here, in particular in relation to the cruelty of the Taliban. Despite initially being seen as saviours by the Afghan people for bringing peace, their brutal treatment of the Hazaras and strict religious rules are criticised here. The **theme of courage** is also explored, as Amir realises that despite his fear of returning to Kabul, he must live up to Rahim Khan's expectations of him and fulfil his responsibilities towards Sohrab.

Analysis of Key Passage

Sanaubar's return

Hosseini uses **modified first-person** narration in this extract as the story of Sanaubar's return to Rahim Khan. **Retrospective** narration is used to show the contrast between the young Sanaubar she once knew and the older woman who returns to her son. **Noun phrases and abstract nouns** (e.g. 'a vision') are used to portray the beauty of the young Sanaubar, yet these contrast with **evaluative adjectives** ('grotesque') to describe her scarred, older face. Hosseini also uses the **metaphor** of 'transformation' to describe Sanaubar's physical and emotional transformation. There is a **motif** in the novel relating to facial wounds and scars – Amir is scarred by fighting for Sohrab, Sanaubar also has to experience pain before she can be reunited with him. The repetition of the **past tense verb** 'wept' implies Sanaubar's regret for abandoning her son. As the son accepted by his family, Sanaubar strives to redeem herself for failing in her maternal duty. As Amir, in caring for his son, Sohrab. As in the case of Amir who also failed to protect Hassan, Sanaubar's return becomes their chance to redress the wrongs they have done to him. Hosseini uses the **metaphor** of 'centre of her existence' to portray Sanaubar's complete devotion to the young boy. The extract conveys the contrast between Sanaubar's loyalty and love for Sohrab and her rejection of Amir in the novel.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Consolidation Questions

1. What does Rahim Khan say on the phone to Amir when he asks him to come home? (p. 177)
2. What happens to Ali? (p. 191)
3. Why does Rahim Khan go to Hazarajat? (p. 192)
4. Which of these statements about Hassan is NOT true? (pp. 191–193)
 - a) he has learned to read and write
 - b) he has married a woman named Gulila
 - c) his wife gives birth to a stillborn baby
5. What is Hassan's reaction when his mother Sanaubar returns? (p. 195)
6. What is different about Sanaubar's appearance since Rahim Khan last saw her? (p. 195)
7. Why is Hassan's newborn son named 'Sohrab'? (p. 195)
8. What does Sanaubar do to redeem herself for abandoning Hassan? (p. 196)
9. What does Hassan NOT teach Sohrab? (pp. 196–197)
 - a) kite running
 - b) how to build toys from scraps of wood and rags
10. What did the Taliban ban? (p. 197)
11. What does Hassan write to Amir in a letter about what happened to his wife? (p. 202)
12. How does Hassan refer to himself in his letter to Amir? (p. 202)
13. Why is Hassan shot by the Taliban? (p. 202)
14. Why does Rahim Khan want Amir to go back to Kabul? (p. 203)
15. What does Rahim Khan reveal to Amir? (pp. 203–206)
16. How does Amir react to Pappalardo's news? Pick ALL the correct statements.
 - a) he is angry and confused
 - b) he realizes that Baba was a hypocrite
 - c) he feels guilty
 - d) he decides to go back home to America

Active Learning Tasks**Research**

1. Find out as much as you can about the following:
 - the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan
 - the Taliban
2. Create a timeline of key events in Afghanistan from 1973 to 2001.

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of Sanaubar's return on pp. 194–196, from 'In earth'. Reimagine this scene into an account that Sanaubar might give to Hassan. Your recreation should include:
 - Sanaubar's feelings on returning home. How does he react to Hassan's behaviour towards Hassan, Sohrab, Farzana and his reflections on the past
 - Sanaubar's relationship with Hassan in the way she conveys this experienceYour recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Develop a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the novel. Consider this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original commentary you should:
 - think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your effect
 - foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own
 - structure your writing clearly to express your ideasThe commentary should be about 400 words. [30 marks]

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Chapters 19–21

Summary

These chapters are set in Afghanistan, where Amir returns to after promising Rasoul Khani to bring Sohrab back to Peshawar. Amir hires a driver called Farid, who is a disillusioned war veteran in Afghanistan. Farid is cynical about Amir's motives for returning, and after he returns home Amir discovers that he and his family have become poor. Farid takes Amir to a place that has been greatly changed and destroyed by the war. He is particularly saddened to see his former home. Amir and Farid visit the orphanage where Sohrab was supposed to be, but Farid tells him that he had left with Sohrab who pays the orphanage director to allow him to take Sohrab home. Farid tells Amir that the Taliban will be at the public executions at Ghazi Stadium, and he agrees to hide them at a house occupied by the Taliban.

Amir experiences a **sense of alienation** as he feels like a stranger in his native country. His conversation in Chapter 19 highlights the **theme of social inequality**, as Farid's lower-class, privileged background and how this has shielded him from the suffering experienced during the war. This is a theme that has been explored in the early parts of the novel through the contrast between Amir and Hassan's lifestyles and opportunities. The **theme of social inequality** is upon as Amir is so moved by the poverty of Wahid's family that he leaves some money for them. This generous gesture is meant to redeem his earlier actions where he had planned to help Ali's hunt in order to incriminate Hassan.

The **ravages of war** are also illustrated in these chapters through the description of war-torn Kabul, and Amir's shock at seeing it so altered. The descriptions of the orphanage and the orphanage director portray how in war it is the innocent that also suffer and how good men such as Zaman often have to make difficult moral compromises. The **savagery of the Taliban** is best exemplified in the public executions, as their brutality brings fear for the spectators and ensures their compliance with the strict regime imposed on them.

Analysis Key Passage

Amir and Farid's conversation

Hosseini uses Amir's **homodiegetic narration** to portray his interaction with Farid during the conversation between the two Afghan men in the passage. Amir's thoughts present him as someone who is shocked by how much it has changed since he left. Amir's car sickness is a **motif** used by Baba as evidence of his lack of toughness and his 'unmanly' character. Here, it is used to convey Amir's embarrassment over his sickness and his desire to befriend Farid ('You're right, I feel better'), contrasts with the **reporting clause** 'I lied', suggesting that he values his efforts to help. However, the **adjective** 'surly' conveys Farid's hostility and resentment for having abandoned Afghanistan and moved to America. His disdain for Amir is shown through Farid's use of the **noun phrase** 'fancy medicine' when referring to Amir's sickness. The **verb** 'snickered' shows his contempt for Amir's sickness.

Farid's resentment towards Amir's privileged lifestyle seems to stem from the hardships he experienced during the war. Hosseini uses the **noun phrase** 'war-torn, lined face' to portray the way the war has affected him and caused him to lose family members, has permanently marked him. The poverty and suffering presented through the **imagery** of the **semantic field of destruction and disorder**, with **adjectives** like 'surly' and 'discarded' in his **dialogue** with Farid, Amir uses the **simile** 'I feel like a tourist' to convey his **concrete noun** 'tourist' implies his detachment from his country of birth as both Amir and Farid have spent years over the years. However, Farid's retort 'You have *always* been a tourist' here, which is emphasised, conveys Farid's belief that during his childhood Baba's wealth and power shielded him from experiencing the suffering that the ordinary people of Afghanistan had endured.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Consolidation Questions**Fill in the gap****Chapter 19**

1. Amir was driven from Peshawar to Kabul by a driver called _____
2. Farid had fought in Afghanistan in the war against _____ (p. 209)
3. Farid had lost two of his daughters in _____ (p. 213)
4. Amir tells Farid that he feels like a _____ in his own country
5. Farid assumes that Amir has come back to Afghanistan to _____
6. At his home, Farid introduces Amir to his older brother, _____
7. Amir tells Farid that he has come back to Afghanistan to _____
8. Amir hides _____ under the mattress in Wahid's house. P.222

Chapter 20

1. Farid drives Amir into Kabul, which he finds has changed greatly as a result of how many _____ he sees in the streets (pp. 225–226). The streets are _____ because _____ (p. 226)
2. After seeing the Taliban patrolling the streets of Kabul, Farid urges Amir to run away from them. (p. 228)
3. Amir talks to an old beggar and finds out that he used to work at _____ and that he knows Amir's _____ (p. 230)
4. Amir and Farid go to the orphanage where Sohrab is supposed to be living. The orphanage director, Zaman, who tells them that _____ (p. 232)
5. Amir tells him that he is Sohrab's _____ and that he wants to go home to _____ (pp. 232–233)
6. Zaman tells him that Sohrab has been kidnapped by a Taliban official who once _____ months ago. (p. 234)
7. When he hears Amir's story, _____ attacks Zaman, appalled that _____ has happened. (p. 236)
8. Zaman justifies his actions by explaining that _____ (pp. 236–237)

Chapter 21

1. Amir goes to see his old _____, which was now derelict. (pp. 241–242)
2. Afterwards, he goes up the hill and finds _____ where he and Farid used to play during his childhood. It is wilted and leafless. (p. 243)
3. Farid and Amir become friends as they eat together and exchange jokes. Farid is surprised and disappointed when Farid asks him if he has really come to Afghanistan. (p. 245)
4. The following day, Farid and Amir go to Ghazi Stadium, a place where he used to play football. They watch _____, in search of the Taliban who had taken Sohrab. (p. 247) (pp. 247–248)
5. A blindfolded man and a woman accused of _____ are _____ (pp. 248–249)
6. They find the Taliban who had taken Sohrab, a man with _____ and a woman who says that the Taliban will meet them at 3 o'clock. (pp. 249–250)

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**

Active Learning Tasks

Key quotations

Find important quotations relating to the ideas below from Chapters 19–21 and

- Amir’s sense of alienation on his return to Afghanistan
- The theme of social inequality
- The poverty and destruction caused by war
- The theme of redemption
- The brutality of the Taliban



Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

Chapter 19

1. Look at the description of the conversation between Amir and Farid on page 170. Amir says, 'I'm going to be sick'.

Reimagine this scene into an account that Farid might give to his brother when he had gone to bed. Your recreation should include:

- Farid’s opinion of Amir and his feelings about his return to Afghanistan
- Farid’s relationship with Wahid in the way he conveys his recent experience

Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene for this new account and the effects of re-imagining Hosseini’s original description. Your commentary should:

- think about how you have used particular vocabulary to create your account
- foreground the links between the extract from the novel and your own account
- ensure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]



COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Chapter 22

Summary

This chapter deals with Amir's rescue of Sohrab from the Taliban. After the public meeting at the house where it was agreed that he would meet the Taliban, who had taken Sohrab, Amir is brought to the house where he meets Assef, who had taken Sohrab. Amir is brought to them, and Sohrab performs a dance for Assef's entertainment. Assef agrees to let Amir take Sohrab on the condition that Amir fight him. Amir is savagely beaten, Sohrab defends Amir with his slingshot, and they escape.



Analysis of a Key Passage

Amir's rescue of Sohrab from the Taliban

The melodramatic coincidence of Assef being the one to have taken Sohrab is used to explore **themes of courage, redemption and prejudice**. We see how Assef's racism as a Taliban and use his power to facilitate the ethnic cleansing of the Hazaras. Assef and the Taliban are trying to restore Afghanistan to a state of greatness by fighting the Soviets and the West. However, the hypocrisy of the Taliban, who see themselves as devout Muslims, is exposed, as well as the sexual exploitation of children such as Sohrab. Amir's courage and cowardice are explored here. Up to this point, Amir has always considered himself as cowardly and ashamed of his lack of masculine strength. His cowardice has tragic consequences from Assef's attack on the day of the kite running competition. However, by being forced to bring back Sohrab, he tries to redeem himself for that moment of weakness. He is 'healed' while being violently beaten. We also see the theme of loyalty as Sohrab defends Amir with his slingshot, something that his father, Hassan, had promised that Assef would do. Hassan's promise that Assef would be 'one-eyed' is fulfilled when Sohrab blinds Assef in a moment of revenge in the novel.

Re-Creative Writing



Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of the events prior to Amir and Sohrab's escape, from 'Let's go!' (pp. 262–267).

Recast the base text into an account that Assef might give to other Taliban.

In your transformation you should consider:

- Assef's perspective of the meeting
- his views on Amir and attitudes towards Sohrab

You should write about 300 words. [25 marks]

2. Write a commentary explaining the decisions you have made in transforming this new account and the effects of re-creating Hosseini's original description. In your commentary you should:

- consider how you have used language to shape your intended meaning
- demonstrate clear connections between the base text and your transformation
- ensure your writing clearly to express your ideas.

You should write about 400 words. [30 marks]






INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Active Learning Tasks

Create a comic strip of the key events in Chapter 22, using quotations from the text or captions.

 INSPECTION COPY		
 INSPECTION COPY		
 INSPECTION COPY		

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Summary

These chapters are set in Pakistan and America. After the fight with Assef, Amir is badly injured and spends time in hospital in Pakistan. He decides to take Sohrab to America and seeks counsel from the US embassy in Pakistan about how to do this. However, Raymond Andrews, one of the officials at the embassy, tells Amir that it is very difficult to adopt children from Afghanistan, especially as he doesn't have Sohrab's parents' birth certificates and can't prove that he is Sohrab's uncle. He eventually gives up trying to adopt Sohrab, but gives him the contact number of an immigration lawyer, Omar Faisal. Faisal echoes Andrews that Amir puts Sohrab in an orphanage in Pakistan and then adopts him. Amir is shocked as he had promised Sohrab never to put him in an orphanage again, and indeed Sohrab is traumatised by this information and tries to commit suicide. Amir eventually finds out that Sohrab is in America on a humanitarian visa and he takes the boy back to his home. Despite Amir's attempts to make the boy's room comfortable and to welcome him into their lives, Sohrab remains traumatised by the events he endured at the hands of the Taliban. The novel ends with Amir flying a kite for Sohrab and the boy smiles.

The fact that Sohrab is a Hazara is significant as it showcases the **theme of ethnic rivalry** which is seen as a stumbling block for General Taheri, who finds it difficult to accept him. However, Khanum Taheri's welcoming attitude to him as well as Farid's hospitality at home are used to suggest that perhaps with time Afghans might become united despite their ethnic rivalries. The **relationship between fathers and sons**, a motif in the novel, is also explored in these chapters. Looking at the photograph of Hassan which Sohrab keeps under his pillow, Amir realises that Hassan might have been Baba's favourite son, but, unlike Amir in his childhood, he feels that Hassan has forgiven Baba for everything. Amir himself takes on the role of a father towards Sohrab, and his unwavering loyalty and sensitivity towards the traumatised boy are a sign of Amir's growth and sensitivity, a trait which Baba had eventually learned.

Redemption is probably the novel's key theme, and the ending of the novel explores Amir's journey towards redemption. In the novel, physical scars are symbolic of the pain and guilt that Amir and Soraya must be redeemed from their sins. We see this earlier in the novel, when Soraya's beauty led her to betray her husband and son, returns to Hassan with horrific scars, and Amir's moral and humble character. Amir sees the scar he has on his lip after the fight with Assef as a permanent reminder of the way he has tried to make up for his friend by saving his son. Amir also gets involved in charitable projects in Afghanistan, such as building a hospital, a parallel to Baba's good deeds such as the building of an orphanage, which is considered to be the man's way for assuaging his guilt. However, the limits of redemption are highlighted here as Sohrab asserts that he wants his old life back, with his parents, but Amir can't give him. Sohrab's silence in America reflects the impossibility of repairing what has been done to him, and the final descriptions of Amir flying the kite for the boy, and Sohrab smiling for him, although bringing a smile to Sohrab, suggest that recovery will be a slow process.

Analysis of a Key Passage

Sohrab's arrival in America

Despite being welcomed in Amir's home in America, Sohrab is portrayed as a traumatised child. His experiences in Afghanistan are described through his physical appearance through the 'pink lines' on his face, which are described as a neglected, disillusioned child. Another **noun phrase** 'pink lines' describes a scar which is seen as both physical and metaphorical. It is used to show how Sohrab does not respond to Amir and Soraya's attempts to engage with him and form any emotional connections.

Amir is portrayed as plagued by guilt for failing to protect Sohrab. The **concrete imagery** 'Awake' present him as struggling to feel at peace knowing that Sohrab is in America. The **imagery of hell** when referring to Amir's 'demons', a symbol of his feelings of shame and guilt.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Soraya, too, is portrayed as suffering as her dreams of finally becoming a mother. Her desire to make a home for Sohrab is portrayed through the **listing** of the **concrete** objects she had placed in Sohrab's room to make it seem homely to him: 'books, a loom, a rug, a clock'. However, her conflicting emotions towards this child who is wanted, but cannot be kept, are shown through Hosseini's use of the contrasting **verbs** 'smiling' and 'tearing' to describe her.

Active Learning Tasks

True or False?

Look at the statements below and decide if they are true or false based on events from Chapters 23–25. If they are true or false, write the correct answer underneath:

Chapter 23

1. In hospital after the fight with Assef, Amir is told that he will be left with Sohrab. (p. 272)
2. Farid allows Sohrab to stay at his home for a while and gives him some of his money. (p. 274)
3. In hospital, Amir finds out that Rahim Khan has died. (p. 274)
4. Amir finds out from a letter left to him by Rahim Khan that his father's friend had done to wrong Hassan in his childhood. (p. 276)
5. Sohrab tells Amir that his father described him as the best friend he ever had. (p. 283)
6. Sohrab is sent to live with John and Betty Caldwell in Peshawar. (p. 283)

Chapter 24

1. Farid brings Amir and Sohrab to Islamabad and then returns home. While in the room, Sohrab disappears. Amir searches for him in the city and finally finds him. (pp. 285–290)
2. Sohrab tells Amir that he is beginning to forgive his parents' faces and Amir tells Sohrab and Hassan together. Sohrab tells Amir that he feels dirtied by the experience at the hands of the Taliban. (pp. 291–293)
3. Amir asks Sohrab if he wants to come to America and live with him and Soraya. (p. 293)
4. Amir tells Sohrab that Hassan was his half-brother and illegitimate child. (p. 296)
5. He tells Sohrab that Baba was ashamed of Hassan. (p. 296)
6. Amir promises Sohrab that he will never have to go to Afghanistan again. (p. 296)
7. On the phone from Pakistan, Amir tells Soraya the history of his relationship with Sohrab and that they must adopt Sohrab. She agrees, but says that she must ask her father. (pp. 298–299)
8. At the American embassy, Amir is told by an official named Raymond Andrews that it is difficult to adopt Sohrab and that he should think about giving it up. (pp. 306–311)
9. Raymond Andrews puts Amir in touch with an immigration lawyer called General Taheri. Amir that his best course of action if he wants to adopt Sohrab is to go back to Pakistan and get his birth certificate. (pp. 306–311)
10. Sohrab accepts that he would have to go to an orphanage until Amir can get him to America. (pp. 314)
11. Soraya finds out that there is another way that they can adopt Sohrab, by getting a humanitarian visa. (pp. 314)

Chapter 25

1. Recovering in hospital after his attempted suicide, Sohrab becomes happy when he has a visa to take him to America. (pp. 324–326)
2. Amir takes Sohrab to America, where Soraya had carefully prepared the documents and communicates with them. (pp. 327–329)
3. Soraya and Amir introduce Sohrab to Soraya's parents. General Taheri is pleased and knits him a jumper, but Soraya's mother upsets Amir by calling Sohrab a thief. (pp. 330–332)
4. After America bombs Afghanistan, General Taheri goes back to live there. (pp. 333–334)
5. At New Year's celebrations at a park, Amir finally gets Sohrab to talk to the people like Hassan used to. (pp. 333–340)

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Discussion Questions

1. How has Amir changed since the earlier parts of the novel? Refer to specific chapters to support your answers.
2. To what extent do you think Hosseini expresses Afghanistan's future optimism?
3. To what extent do you think redemption is achieved by the end of the novel?

Re-Creative Writing

Re-Creative Writing Task

1. Look at the description of the events after Sohrab's arrival in America, from 'No one said anything...' (pp. 327–331). Reimagine this scene into an account that Soraya might give to her mother in a private conversation during this period.

Your recreation should include:

- Soraya's perspective on Amir's trip to Afghanistan, the adoption of Sohrab and her feelings towards him
- Soraya's relationship with her mother in the way she conveys her recreation

Your recreation should be around 300 words long. [25 marks]

2. Devise a commentary justifying the choices you have made when reimagining the scene in the novel for this new account and the effects of reshaping Hosseini's original account. Your commentary should:

- think about how you have used particular language to create your account
- foreground the links between the text from the novel and your own account
- structure your writing clearly to express your ideas

The commentary should be about 400 words long. [30 marks]

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Further Reading

Other books by Khaled Hosseini

- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- *And the Mountains Echoed*

Critical reading on *The Kite Runner*

- *The Kite Runner* (Bloom's Guides), 2007, by Khaled Hosseini and Harold Bloom
- Cambridge Wizard Student Card *The Kite Runner* (Cambridge Wizard English) by Sue Sherman
- *The Kite Runner* (Notes for AS & A2) 20 Jul 2012, by Calum Kerr
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, The (Sparknotes) Paperback – 7 Mar 2007
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (Book Analysis): Detailed Summary, Analysis Guide Paperback – 7 Dec 2015
- *The Kite Runner*: Shmoop Bestsellers Guide Paperback – 11 May 2010, by Shmoop
- GradeSaver (TM) ClassicNotes *The Kite Runner*: Study Guide Paperback – 18 Oct 2011

INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Glossary

Linguistic terminology

Nouns	
proper nouns	names of places or people (– London, Manchester, Susan)
concrete nouns	objects (– car, table, book, cat)
abstract nouns	feelings and ideas (– life, love, confidence, advice)
collective nouns	groups of people or animals (– flock, community, pair, herd)
Verbs	
modal auxiliary	can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must
infinitive	to go, to laugh, to look
stative verbs	verbs which refer to mental states or actions you can't control (to like)
dynamic verbs	verbs which refer to physical actions (to run, to eat, to drink)
present participle	was going, is laughing, will be looking
past participle	had gone, has laughed, will have looked
Adjectives	
qualitative	describe objective qualities (the red car, the square table)
evaluative	describe subjective qualities which are someone's opinion (a surprising event, the confident student)
comparative	more confident, better, uglier
superlative	most confident, the ugliest
Adverbs	
adverb of time	when something happens – soon, now, then
adverb of place	where something happens – here, there, everywhere, outside
adverb of manner	how something happens – slowly, creatively, playfully
adverb of frequency	how often something happens – sometimes, never, always
adverb of degree	intensifier – very good, really slowly, truly amazing
Pronouns (personal)	
first person	I, we (subject), me, us (object)
second person	you (subject), you (object)
third person	he, she, it, they (subject), him, her, it, them (object)
Pronouns (possessive)	
first person	mine, ours
second person	yours
third person	his, hers, its, theirs
Noun phrase	a noun which is modified by one or more modifiers (i.e. 'really big train')
Adjective phrase	an adjective which is modified by an adverb (e.g. 'very pretty')
Semantic field	words related to the same lexical field (e.g. 'the semantic field of animals')

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Literary terminology

Metaphor	a figure of speech applied to an object in a way that
Simile	a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between
Motif	an image or symbol that is repeated in the novel (e.g.
Hyperbole	exaggeration
Rhetorical question	a question which is not addressed to another person response but used to create a specific emotional
Personification	something inanimate is given human character

Narrative terminology

Homodiegetic narration	first-person narration, where the narrator is involved
Retrospective narration	when the narrator is relating events that happened
Dialogue	speech between characters
Reporting clause	the part of the narrative relating to how and by whom (e.g. 'I know', he said)
Internal monologue	the part of the narrative describing a character's inner

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Indicative Content

Chapters 1–3

Consolidation Questions

Chapter 1

1. San Francisco
2. Hassan
3. Rahim Khan

Chapter 2

4. cleft lip
5. shoot him from a sling shot
6. he lives in a house with Baba, Ali and Hassan
7. she was faithful to him and loved him despite his appearance
8. Hassan, Amir, Baba and Ali are all Pashtuns
9. Hazaras are an ethnic group who are part of the Shia sect of Islam. Pashtuns are an Sunni sect of Islam. Pashtuns have more power in Afghanistan than Hazaras.
10. they were both breastfed by Sanaubar

Chapter 3

11. he wrestled a black bear
12. he built an orphanage
13. he disapproved of drinking alcohol
14. theft
15. Amir likes to play soccer
16. colouring books

Re-Creative Writing Task

The suggested focal points for this are given under the text itself. To compare student responses

Chapters 4–7

Consolidation Questions

1. his parents died in a car accident
2. a friend
3. on the pomegranate tree
4. a father who kills a man who he discovers is his son
5. he doesn't offer to read it
6. brass knuckles
7. Hassan threatens him with a slingshot
8. to fix his hare lip
9. eat dirt
10. to win Baba's love

Active Learning Tasks

Chapter 4 – Group 1

1. Ali was adopted by Amir's grandfather after his parents were killed in a road accident. He was a playmate. Ali's leg was crippled after he got a bad fall. Hassan notices that Baba is different from other fathers. He notices that Hassan is different from other boys. They are also playmates but Amir does not consider Hassan a friend due to the different ethnic and religious backgrounds. As well as playing together, Hassan and Amir have a relationship with Hassan doing chores for Amir.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- Amir and Hassan's friendship is symbolised by the pomegranate tree under which they had carved the words 'Amir and Hassan, Sultans of Kabul', symbolising their equality in their homes, where the status difference between them is less pressing. Amir reads Hassan's story 'Sohrab', a story about a father who, unbeknownst to him, kills a man who is his real father. This is a fitting metaphor for his relationship with his father, as he believes his father does not read, Amir likes to trick and humiliate him by teaching him the wrong meanings of words in a story, while in fact creating his own version. However, Hassan is so complimentary that he begins to write his own stories.
- Amir tells him that he has written a story, but Baba doesn't ask to read it, which disappoints him.
- When Baba doesn't ask Amir if he can read the story, Rahim Khan asks to read it instead. In a letter in which he compliments Amir's writing style and encourages him to write more, he begins to write his own stories.

Chapter 5 –

- One night in 1973, the children hear gunshots outside. The next morning, they hear that Afghanistan was now a republic.
- Assef was a privileged boy who was the son of one of Baba's friends. Known for his violence, he was nicknamed 'The Ear Eater'. He is famous for his brass knuckles which he uses to enforce extreme right-wing ideologies, he hated the Hazaras (like Ali and Hassan) as he saw them as inferior.
- Assef tells Amir that he wants Afghanistan to be rid of Pashtun. He asks Amir how he would do it, implying that he is letting down the Pashtun race, and threatens to beat him if he doesn't. Assef aims his slingshot at Assef, warning him that he will blind him if he attacks Amir. Assef gets his revenge later.
- Baba arranges for him to have an operation to fix his hare lip, and Amir is jealous that Baba has sympathy for Assef.

Chapter 6 – Group 3

- It was an old winter tradition in Afghanistan. The boys would compete in cutting down kites. Both Amir and Hassan were bought kites by Baba.
- That Afghans are independent people who 'cherish their freedom and abhor rules'.
- Hassan tells Amir that he would 'sooner eat dirt than lie to him'. Amir tests his loyalty by asking him to steal a kite for him. Hassan says he would 'sooner eat dirt than lie to him' if he would really do such a thing, so he steals the kite for Amir.
- He wants to win it because he wants to gain Baba's approval and show him that he is a better kiter than Assef.

Re-Creative Writing

Possible focus areas:

- Kamal's fear of Assef
- comments about Assef's reputation as savage
- contempt shown towards Hassan's Hazara ethnic background
- amazement at Hassan's courage when defying Assef
- speculations about how Assef will get revenge
- scorn at Amir's weakness as he is defended by his servant

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

Chapter 7

Consolidation Questions

- c) Amir proves that the monster in the lake doesn't exist
- a) Nervous
- b) Blue
- c) watching Baba cheer for Assef when he won the competition
- a) 'For you, though, it's all over!'
- b) he wanted to give the kite to Baba
- c) the boy who stole the kite
- b) he hides in the shadows and doesn't intervene

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Active Learning Tasks**Close analysis of a key passage**

the use of verbs

- ‘Lurched’, ‘crouched’, ‘aspired’, ‘pretended’, ‘collapse’

the use of simple and minor sentences

- ‘In the end, I ran’; ‘He stopped. Swayed on his feet like he was going to collapse’; ‘Had

rhetorical questions

- ‘He was just a Hazara, wasn’t he?’ ‘what would I see in that look in his eyes?’

metaphors and similes

- ‘Speaking those words was like stepping on a rock’; ‘he was the price I had to pay, the

nouns and noun phrases

- ‘Blame’ ‘no man!’ ‘guileless devotion?’ ‘coward’

the use of Anisimovian narrative.

- Amir’s feelings of guilt and self-justification for his cowardice are revealed through his narrator, he doesn’t have full knowledge of Hassan’s feelings towards him and merely guess whether he knows that Amir has seen the attack and if he blames him for it.

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- Farzana could ask Hassan about his childhood memories growing up in Kabul
- Hassan would struggle to tell her, feeling ashamed
- Description of the events leading up to the attack such as the kite running competition and his wish to celebrate him by flying the kite for him.
- The encounter with Assef and his gang – references to earlier parts of the novel when he was a child
- The brutality of the attack
- His walk home with Amir afterwards, possible suspicions about how much he knows about that day

Chapters 8–9**Active Learning Tasks**

1. **Hassan’s home is destroyed after the violent attack.**

Evidence for:

- p. 79 ‘For a week, I barely saw Hassan... Now only the folded clothes greeted me’

Evidence against:

- p. 82 ‘I don’t know why we don’t play anymore’.

2. **Amir is consumed by guilt for not defending Hassan.**

Evidence for:

- p. 79 ‘A single image... Hassan’s brown corduroy pants discarded on a pile of old clothes’
- p. 83 ‘Baba, have you ever thought of getting new servants?’

Evidence against:

- p. 81 ‘I was fairly happy when Baba was at home... It was good and I even believed

3. **The kite-running victory brings Baba and Amir together.**

Evidence for:

- p. 76 ‘Lately, Baba agreed to everything I asked’.

Evidence against:

- p. 77 ‘It should have been just the two of us – that was the way I wanted it – but he managed to invite another child to play’.

Close analysis of a key passage

1. Rahim Khan’s behaviour towards Amir
‘Elbowed me playfully’
2. the significance of telling him the story about his past
‘In the end, the world always wins. That’s just the way of things’
3. his birthday gift to Amir
‘Leather-bound notebook’; ‘For your stories’.
4. Amir’s feelings towards Rahim Khan
‘I’d always thought of him... A father?’

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- Ali as still respectful and loyal to Baba
- memories of Amir's birthday – perhaps Amir's reaction to his birthday gift from Ali
- revelation that Hassan wasn't a thief
- attempt to understand why Amir blamed Hassan
- reflections on how difficult life was for them in Kabul due to the racial tensions
- some comments on his reasons for moving to Hazara and their current life there

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

Chapter 10**Active Learning Tasks**

- Following the Soviet invasion, Afghanistan had become a place of confusion and uncertainty.
 - 'For a fee or under threat, people told on each other, neighbor on neighbor, child on parent, servant on master, friend on friend'
- Baba and Amir's lives never returned to normal after Ali and Hassan left.
 - 'Our seventh servant in five years'
- The war led to corruption and humiliation.
 - 'I saw the glazed look in his eyes as they skipped from passenger to passenger'
- Baba has the courage to protect those without power and maintain his moral principles.
 - 'Tell him I'll take a thousand of his bullets before I allow this indecency to take place'
- Amir finds Baba's heroism a shameful contrast to his own cowardice.
 - 'My mind flashed to that winter day six years ago'
 - 'I'll take a thousand of his bullets before I let this indecency take place'
- In the basement, Amir encounters one of Assef's friends, Kamal. Kamal's experiences have ironic echoes.
 - 'He had withered'
 - 'His shoulders hunched and his cheeks sagged like they were too tired to cling to their bones'

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- the descriptions of their reasons for leaving Afghanistan
- descriptions of the journey in the truck
- outrage at the behaviour of the Russian soldier
- commentary on how war takes away people's decency
- disappointment at Amir's cowardice

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

Chapters 11–13**Active Learning Tasks****Baba's attitude to America**

- Baba feels uncomfortable and out of place in America (p. 117)
 - 'My father is still adjusting to life in America,' I said, by way of explanation.
- Baba doesn't understand American customs and misses the trust that existed between people in Afghanistan (p. 118)
 - 'What kind of a country is this? No one trusts anybody!'
 - 'He wants to see my blood.' Baba bellowed in Farsi.
- Baba misses Kabul and longs for his old way of life there (pp. 119–120)
 - 'He missed the people milling in and out of his house, missed walking down the busy streets, missed the people who knew him and his father'
 - 'Baba was like the widower who remarries but can't let go of his dead wife.'
- Baba remains a proud and honourable man, preferring to do a low-status job rather than work for a rich man.
 - 'My student hand, clean and soft, on his laborer's hand, grubby and calloused.'
 - 'Thank you but I don't want,' Baba said. 'I work always. In Afghanistan I work, in America I work.'

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Amir's attitude to America

1. For Amir, America represents the possibility of being freed from his past and the guilt of his actions.
 - 'For me, America was a place to bury my memories'
 - '... Would wade into this river, let my sins drown to the bottom, let the waters wash away with no ghosts, no memories, and no sins.'
2. America represented a vast array of possibilities and the promise of freedom (p. 123)
 - 'Beyond every freeway lay another freeway, beyond every city another city, hills beyond hills, and, beyond those, more cities and more people.'

The relationship between Amir and Baba

1. Amir recognises the sacrifice that Baba has made for him by bringing him to America.
 - 'I wanted to say thank you, how touched I was by his act of kindness, how much I owed him, but he was still doing.'
2. Baba is proud of Amir after he graduates from university (p. 122)
 - 'We went out and sat inside the Ford. It was a Gran Torino. Navy blue, Baba said.'
3. Amir's guilt about Hassan still casts a shadow over his relationship with Baba (p. 122)
 - 'A pair of steel hands closed around my windpipe at the sound of Hassan's name.'
4. Baba still has clear ideas about what Amir should study and what he should do with his life, but Amir is old enough now to make his own choices rather than trying to get Baba's approval (pp. 122-123)
 - 'He took a deep breath and sipped his tea. Grunted something about medical school. But would stand my ground, I decided. I didn't want to sacrifice for Baba anymore.'
5. Amir takes on the role of Baba's carer as he is diagnosed with cancer, exposing the extent of his love for Baba (p. 146)
 - 'I brought him hot tea and roasted almonds. Wrapped my arms around his back and he fell asleep easily.'
6. As Baba is close to dying, he finally accepts Amir's desire to be a writer and begins to encourage him (p. 159)
 - 'I can't believe you can write like this,' Soraya said. Baba dragged his head off the pillow. 'You don't mind.'
7. After Baba dies, Amir begins to understand that Baba was always a courageous man, despite his suffering (p. 160)
 - 'I realized how much of what I had become, what I was, had been defined by Baba and the choices he made for me.'
8. Baba's death forces Amir to take responsibility for his own life and shape his identity.
 - 'Now it was up to me. Baba couldn't show me the way anymore; I'd have to find it myself.'

Soraya (Amir's mother)

1. The relationship between Amir and Soraya develops slowly, as both are aware that their relationships between men and women in Afghan society (p. 135)
 - 'Soraya and I never went out alone together while preparations for the wedding were in progress. We were married yet, hadn't even had a Shirini khori, it was considered improper.'
2. Soraya is presented as an educated, ambitious woman who wants to do a job which is respectable (p. 135)
 - 'The first time Ziba wrote her own letter, I knew there was nothing else I'd ever want to do.'
3. Soraya's memory of teaching her servant Ziba how to read is a contrast to Amir's terrible memory of how he enjoyed humiliating her for being less educated (pp. 139-140)
 - 'So we'd sit at the kitchen table after I was done with my own schoolwork and she'd be reading to me.'
4. Soraya is supportive of Amir when Baba is diagnosed with cancer (p. 148)
 - 'She put her hand on mine. Our first touch. I took it.'
5. Soraya is similar to Amir as she too has a guilty secret about her past, yet, unlike Amir, she is more forgiving (pp. 151-152)
 - 'I envied her. Her secret was out. Spoken. Done with it.'
6. Soraya is angry at the double standard in Afghan society where women are judged more harshly than men for sexual relationships outside marriage (p. 154)
 - 'We lived together for a month. All the Afghans in Virginia were talking about it.'
7. Although Baba's friend Faheri also tries to control his daughter's choice of career, Soraya is more open to her values (pp. 167)
 - 'Teaching may not pay much, but it's what I want to do!'
8. When Soraya and Amir's attempts to have a child fail, Amir feels that it is a punishment for his actions in the past, and he feels a sense of emptiness seeping into his relationship with Soraya (p. 167)
 - 'Perhaps something, someone, somewhere, had decided to deny me fatherhood.'

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

General Taheri (Soraya's father)

1. General Taheri, Baba's old friend from Kabul, is presented as a man who, although still holds on to appearance and present himself as smart and respectable (p. 128)
 - 'The general laughed like a man used to attending formal parties... his voice deep and resonant'
2. The General is portrayed as holding traditional views regarding family life and 'honour'
 - 'Now, this is the right way, the Afghan way to do it, bachem'
3. He intimidates Amir as he safeguards Soraya's honour and makes sure that their relationship respects traditional customs (p. 141)
 - 'In keeping with tradition, Soraya was not permitted to marry until she was married to a man of her own status'
4. However, General Taheri's offers of support to Amir after Baba is diagnosed with cancer are more positive Pashtun qualities of loyalty and brotherhood (p. 147)
 - 'Anything at all? Well, like you'd ask a brother'
5. General Taheri is not happy in America (p. 162)
 - 'He emerged, dressed in his gray suit... smelling of sleep... his eyes puffy and red'
6. Unlike Baba who always worked, General Taheri refused to do any work which he could not receive social benefits (p. 162).
 - 'He kept his family on welfare... preferring to cash government issued checks than to do any unsuitable work for a man of his stature'

Khanum Taheri (Soraya's mother)

1. Khanum Taheri used to be a talented singer before she was married (p. 163)
 - 'Khala Jamila... had once been famous in Kabul for her enchanting singing voice'
2. General Taheri is presented as the one in control of their relationship (pp. 162–163)
 - 'The general's guarded and diplomatic manners – he didn't correct me when I was wrong'
3. Khanum Taheri is presented as a traditional Afghan woman whose main priority is to support her respectable man (pp. 163–164)
 - 'The greatest fear of every Afghan Mother: that honourable khastegar would asphyxiate'

Overview questions

1. Baba sees Amir more as a grown man who needs a job to take care of his own family rather than a child. Their relationship becomes closer when Baba has to rely on Amir now that he has cancer.
2. Afghan immigrants have very different values from before in particular when it comes to women's rights. This has a positive impact on Soraya because it is more of a liberal society and it allows the opportunity for her to choose her own path.
3. The women are used to accept their positions as set by Afghan culture. This is shown when Soraya's mother disapproves of a teacher who writes her father's disapproval.
4. Soraya is courageous, brave and has integrity. In contrast, Amir is ashamed of his cowardly actions and the things he has done in the past which they regret and which still affect their present lives.

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- General Taheri's happiness at seeing his old friend Baba
- commentary on how much his status has changed since coming to America
- disapproval of Amir's choice of career as a writer
- could consider Amir as potential suitor to Soraya
- possibly blaming Khanum Taheri for Soraya's wayward behaviour in the past

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



INSPECTION COPY



Chapters 14–18

Consolidation Questions

Quiz:

1. 'There is a way to be good again'
2. he dies by stepping on a landmine
3. to ask Hassan to come back with him to Kabul and help him look after Baba's old house
4. b) he has married a woman called Jamila
5. he runs away
6. her face had been slashed with a knife
7. because this is the name of a character in Hassan's favourite book
8. she looks after Sohrab
9. b) to build a house from scraps of wood and rags
10. kite runner
11. she was with Baba Talib at a market for speaking too loudly
12. old faithful friend
13. for refusing to give up Baba's house
14. to bring back Sohrab
15. that Baba was Hassan's father
16. a) he is angry and confused
b) he thinks Baba was a hypocrite
c) he feels guilty

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- the presentation of Sanaubar when she first arrived
- the changes in her since she left
- her speech to Hassan
- Hassan's initial reaction to his mother and his change in attitude towards her
- Sanaubar's relationship with Sohrab

To compare student responses, use the ACARA model scheme.

Chapters 19–21

Consolidation Questions

Chapter 19

1. Farid
2. The Shorawi (the Soviets)
3. A land-mine blast
4. Tourist
5. Sell off Baba's land
6. Wahid
7. Rescue his illegitimate half-brother's son
8. A fistful of money

Chapter 20

1. Farid drives Amir into Kabul, which he finds has changed greatly as a result of the wars. He sees in the streets (pp. 225–226). There are also very few men in the streets because they have been killed.
2. After seeing the Taliban patrolling the streets of Kabul, Farid urges Amir never to stay in Kabul.
3. Amir talks to an old beggar and finds out that he used to work at a **university** and he is now a beggar (p. 230).
4. Amir and Farid go to the city where Sohrab is supposed to be living. They speak to Zaman who tells them that he has **never seen him** (p. 232).
5. Amir tells Farid that Zaman is Sohrab's **half uncle** and that he wants to take him to **Peshawar** in **America** (pp. 232–233).
6. Zaman tells him that Sohrab has been taken by a Taliban official who once every couple of days **return for a child** (p. 235).
7. When he hears about this, **Farid** attacks Zaman, appalled that he would let this incident happen.
8. Zaman justifies his actions by explaining that **if he didn't let the Taliban take a child, the Taliban brings him some money which he uses to buy the children food** (pp. 236–237).

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Chapter 21

1. Amir goes to see his old **house** which was now derelict. (pp. 239–240)
2. Afterwards, he goes up the hill and finds the **pomegranate tree** where he and Hassan wilted and leafless. (p. 243)
3. Farid and Amir become friends as they eat together and exchange jokes. However, when Farid asks him if he has really come to Afghanistan for a **Shia** (p. 245)
4. The following day, Farid and Amir go to Ghazi Stadium, a place where he and Baba search of the Taliban who had taken Sohrab (p. 247). Ghazi Stadium was now being used for **executions** (pp. 247–248)
5. A blindfolded man and a woman accused of **infidelity** are **stoned to death**. (pp. 248–249)
6. They find the Talib who had taken Sohrab, a man with **John Lennon** glasses, and they meet them at 3 o'clock. (pp. 249–250)

Active Learning Tasks

Key quotation

Amir's sense of alienation on his return to Afghanistan

- 'I feel like a tourist in my own country' (p. 214)

The theme of social inequality

- 'Why are you coming back here anyway? Sell off your Baba's land?' (p. 215)

The poverty and destruction caused by war

- 'Rubble and beggars. Everywhere I looked, that's what I saw'. (p. 225)

The theme of redemption

- 'Earlier that morning, when I was sure no one was looking, I did something I had done a fistful of crumpled money under a mattress'. (p. 223)

The brutality of the Taliban

- 'The man in the hole was now a mangled mess of blood and shredded rags'. (p. 249)

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- Farid's contempt for Amir due to the fact that he left Afghanistan and did not experience the war
- his amazement that he wants to save a man who has killed his father
- his fear as to what might happen if the Taliban finds out about their mission
- Wahid's defence of Amir and his attempt to persuade Farid not to judge him too harshly

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

Chapter 22

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focal points:

- The Talibs could question Assef as to what had happened that had led to his eye injury
- Assef could tell them who Amir was, what he wanted and their relationship as children
- His contempt for Amir and other Pashtuns who befriend Hazaras or leave Afghanistan to fight for it
- Assef's disgust for Hazaras - his memory of Hassan and perhaps his brutality towards the abuse of Sohrab
- His dismay that Sohrab managed to fulfil Hassan's threat to make him 'One Eyed Hassan'

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Chapters 23–25


Active Learning Tasks

True or False?

Chapter 23

1. False: on his lip
2. True
3. False: no, just gone away
4. True
5. True
6. False: Amir finds out that they have a child

Chapter 24


1. False: a  osque
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False: he was ashamed of himself
6. False: that he won't go to an orphanage again
7. False: she doesn't need her father's permission
8. True
9. False: advises him that the best course of action would be to put him in an orphanage
petition
10. False: he is very upset and tries to commit suicide
11. True

Chapter 25

1. False: he says he is tired of everything and he wants his old life back; he says he wishes
2. True
3. False: the other way around
4. True
5. False: he gets Sohrab to smile at him

Re-Creative Writing Task

Possible focus:

- Soraya's  ns about Sohrab's unresponsiveness
- her pity for everything he has suffered
- her disappointment that he does not seem to enjoy being in the room she has prepared
- her memories of her anxiety while Amir was away in Afghanistan
- her sorrow at not being able to have a child of her own

To compare student responses, use the AQA mark scheme.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

