**Critical Essay Questions**

1. Choose a novel in which the writer’s method of narration (such as first person narrative, diary form, journal…) plays a significant part.   
  
Explain briefly the method of narration and discuss its importance to your appreciation of the text.

2. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a disturbing or violent incident.

Explain briefly what happens during this incident and discuss to what extent the disturbing or violent nature of this incident is important to your understanding of the text as a whole.

3. Choose a novel or short in which a specific location or setting is crucial to the plot.

Discuss how the writer makes you aware of the setting’s importance and how this feature is used to enhance your appreciation of the text as a whole.

**Men Should Weep Textual Analysis**

**Extract (End of Act Two, Sc1)**

**John** I ken, Maggie. I ken. He’ll be cryin for his mammy the way I’m cryin for Jenny. *(Pause)* Ma first bonnie wee girl. Aye laughin. Ridin high on ma shoulders … Tell me a story, Daddy … Tie ma *soo*-lace, Daddy … *(Despairing)* An I couldna mak enough tae gie her a decent hame. So! She’s left us! She’s as guid as deid tae us.

**Maggie** Naw! Ye’ve no tae say that! She’ll come back.

**John** *(shaking his head)* Naw. Naw. She’s deid tae me. *(He sinks down into a chair and is silent)* If I could hae jist – jist done better by ye a. If I could hae… *(Head in hands, eyes on floor)* If! If! Every time I’ve had tae say “no” tae you an the weans it’s doubled me up like a kick in the stomach. *(Lifting his head and crying out)* Christ Almighty! A we’ve din wrong is tae be born intae poverty! Whit dae they think this kind o life dis tae a man? Whiles it turns ye intae a wild animal. While’s ye’re a human question mark, aye askin why? Why? *Why?* There’s nae answer. Ye end up a bent back and a heid hanging in shame for whit ye canna help.

*The Lights fade*

CURTAIN

1. **Read John’s opening lines from “I ken, Maggie” to “*(Despairing)”.*** How does Lamont Stewart’s use of language convey John’s dismay at Jenny’s departure? **(4)**
2. **Read from John’s line “An I couldna mak enough” to “*(He sinks down into a chair and is silent)”.*** Identify how contrast is explored between the characters of John and Maggie in these lines? (2)
3. **Read from John’s line “If! If!” to CURTAIN.** By referring to the dialogue and / or stage directions in this section analyse John’s reaction to his situation. **(4)**
4. By referring to this section and elsewhere in the play, discuss how the relationship between John and Jenny is developed. **(10)**