



Reading Three-Mark Question Practice

(Extended Constructive Response)

Somewhere in the Past



Read the extract carefully...

Old Man Sully stared at the photo in the frame; his mind wandering somewhere in the past. It wandered to a time when he was young; young and carefree. When his memory was sharp and his knees were strong.

“Welcome to Sullivan’s Frames.” That’s what he used to say to his customers. “My name is Sullivan. Mr Sullivan. Here for your framing needs.” He remembered delivering the words with a curt nod, a firm handshake and a confident smile.

He pulled out of his daydream and blew at the lingering dust on the photo frame; specks dancing in the early morning sunlight. Here for your framing needs, he chuckled to himself. Was that really how he spoke back then? These days he kept himself to himself but it’s what he had tried to say to Myriam the day they first met. He remembered it like it was yesterday: the tinkling of the shop doorbell, the sunlight streaming in and then those eyes. It was as if an angel had walked into the room.

“Welcome to Frullivan Sames,” he’d said that day, with a shaky outstretched hand. “My name is Mr... S... Sull-i-van. Here for your frailing weeds.”

They had laughed about it for years afterwards. 62 to be precise. A swift courtship – and an even swifter marriage – followed and Myriam settled alongside him as a partner in business, as well as life.



Picture framers together. A beautiful partnership; a match made in heaven. 62 years...

He stared at the photo in the frame; his mind wandering somewhere in the past. The bell tinkled, the door opened and Old Man Sully looked up with a smile.

What do you think happened to Myriam?

Find **two** pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

[3 marks]

To earn all **three** marks, you need to identify **two** different pieces of evidence from the text that support your idea.

This question is about **identifying** specific evidence from the thoughts and actions of the main character – as well as descriptions in the text – to **infer** what has happened to Myriam.

Look through the story again. What do you think has happened to Myriam? Which descriptions, thoughts or actions back up your theory? Why?

Here's what may have happened...

Idea 1

Myriam is still married/partners with Old Man Sully.

Idea 2

Myriam has separated/divorced from Old Man Sully.

Idea 3

Myriam has died.

Think about what happens in the story.
What specific quotes/descriptions/thoughts support each of these ideas?

The **acceptable points** to support each of these ideas are...

Idea 1
Myriam is still married/partners with Old Man Sully.

Idea 1 AP1

The author refers to Myriam and Old Man Sully being partners in marriage and life, which could suggest she's still alive.

Idea 1 AP2

The author repeats the tinkling of the shop doorbell which could be Myriam entering like when they first met.

Idea 1 AP3

Old Man Sully smiles at the end suggesting it is Myriam coming through the door.

Idea 2
Myriam has separated/divorced from Old Man Sully.

Idea 2 AP1

Old Man Sully remembers the past when he first met Myriam, which could suggest they are no longer together.

Idea 2 AP2

Old Man Sully looks up and smiles suggesting he is remembering something from the past – possibly when he was still married to Myriam.

Idea 2 AP3

Old Man Sully stares at the photo (presumably Myriam) as if remembering a time when they were still together.

Idea 3
Myriam has died.

Idea 3 AP1

Old Man Sully remembers when he first met Myriam, which could suggest he's looking back to when she was alive.

Idea 3 AP2

Old Man Sully looks up and smiles; possibly remembering when she was alive.

Idea 3 AP3

Old Man Sully stares at the photo (presumably Myriam) as if he is remembering a time when Myriam was still alive.

Idea 3 AP4

The author uses language that refers to an afterlife, such as 'angels' and 'heaven'.

Idea 3 AP4

The text says they have been together for 62 years, which would mean both characters are very old.

Some three-mark example answers are:

Idea 1

I think that Myriam is alive and still working with Old Man Sully because it says he was partners with her in business 'as well as life', plus it could be Myriam coming in to the shop at the end because the author mentions the tinkling bell again.

Idea 1

[AP1 quotation + supporting evidence + AP2 supporting evidence]

Idea 2

I think Myriam is no longer with Old Man Sully because she is not in the story and he seems to think about her when he looks at the picture. His mind wanders 'somewhere in the past', which infers things have changed and could mean they have split up.

Idea 2

[AP2 supporting evidence + AP1 quotation + supporting evidence]

Idea 3

Myriam may have died. Old Man Sully is thinking about the past and the first time he met Myriam, which he 'remembered it like it was yesterday'. This, and the fact that Old Man Sully 'looked up with a smile' when looking at the photo, could suggest he is remembering a time when Myriam was alive.

Idea 2

[AP2 supporting evidence + AP1 quotation + supporting evidence]

Did you earn all three marks?



