SUBJECT:

In The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language, Huddleston and Pullum remark: "Do so is an idiom: its meaning and syntactic properties cannot be derived by combining those of do and so. Do it and do that/this, however, are not idioms: their meaning and properties can be predicted from those of do and the NP as used in other combinations."


Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.
**Excerpt 1**
Peg tried to keep her hair tightly braided, but the moment it was done Anna would shake it free.  

**Excerpt 2**
What is curious about Carnot's work was that it was done using the obsolescent theory that heat was a weightless fluid, driving a steam-engine like water driving a water-wheel.  

**Excerpt 3**
At fifty-three he had to come and ask them to put him into some secretary's office, to find him some usher's job teaching little boys Latin, at the beck and call of some mandarin in an office, something that brought in five hundred a year; for if he married Daisy, even with his pension, they could never do on less. Whitbread could do it presumably; or Dalloway. He didn't mind what he asked Dalloway. He was a thorough good sort; a bit limited; a bit thick in the head; yes; but a thorough good sort.  

**Excerpt 4**
"What's the matter?" I said, "Who are all those people?" "I'm afraid you will have to face it now," he said, in irritation. "Mrs. Danvers has collected the whole damned staff in the house and on the estate to welcome us. It's all right, you won't have to say anything, I'll do it all."

**Excerpt 5**
The beneficiaries may be willing to sell the shares to the surviving directors — but they may choose not to do so.  

**Excerpt 6**
If I wish to maximise my impact on improving human life, I can do so best by putting my effort into activities I know are unlikely to take place otherwise and into small-scale ventures where I can actually see results for my efforts.  

**Excerpt 7**
'I was just passing by,' Henry lied. 'Come in.' He stood and dithered awkwardly while I got my drinks out of a cupboard. He said, 'You seem interested in General Gordon.' 'They want me to do a Life.' 'Are you going to do it?' 'I suppose so. I don't feel much like work these days.' 'It's the same with me,' Henry said.  

**Excerpt 8**
"I'm afraid I should not be much use if we have a dance," I said, "I'm no earthly use at organising anything." "There would be no need for you to do anything," he said, "you would just be yourself and look decorative." "That's very polite of you, Frank," I said, "but I'm afraid I should not be able to do that very well either." "I think you would do it excellently," he said. Dear Frank Crawley, how tactful he was and considerate. I almost believed him.  

**Excerpt 9**
I came behind him and put my hand on his forehead. It was an odd thing to be doing just before leaving him for ever. He used to do that to me when we were first married and I had terrible nervous headaches because nothing was going right.  

**Excerpt 10**
"Well—if you've got any sound reason for marrying her again, do it now in God's name!"  

**Excerpt 11**
He paused. The coroner looked at him expectantly. "Well?" he said, "is that all you want to say?" "No, sir," said Tabb emphatically, "it's not. What I want to know is this: Who drove the holes in her planking? Rocks didn't do it. The nearest rock was five feet away. Besides, they weren't the sort of marks made by a rock. They were holes. Done with a spike."  
Excerpt 12
"What the hell's that supposed to mean?" Allyn abruptly shook her mop of tight ringlets, jumped to her feet, and slapped her enormous thighs. "Oh, shit, forget it, Cowboy, it was a joke. You were terrific! Tell me how you found out that Doc Brownstein sent a desperation beeper signal to his office just before he died. "I went through his medical group's records covering the night of his death. Wasn't it you who told me cases are won in the field?" "So I did. Let's go grab a drink while these jurors decide to give you policy limits plus a million in punitive damages." "I'll be with you in a minute."


Excerpt 13
I wondered how tired Maxim was. He was pale, and there were shadows under his eyes, but he did not say anything. Colonel Julyan kept yawning at the back. He opened his mouth very wide and yawned aloud, sighing heavily afterwards. He would do this every few minutes, I felt a senseless stupid irritation come over me, and I did not know how to prevent myself from turning round and screaming to him to stop.


Excerpt 14
"I perceive it won't do to give way to impulse," Phillotson resumed, feeling more and more every minute the necessity of acting up to his position. "I flew in the face of the Church's teaching; but I did it without malice prepense. Women are so strange in their influence that they tempt you to misplaced kindness".


Excerpt 15
Then the alabaster vase was brought for me, already filled with water, and as I put the sweet lilac in the vase and arranged the sprigs, one by one, the mauve scent filling the room, mingling with the smell of the new-mown lawn outside coming in from the open window, I thought: "Rebecca did this. She took the lilac, as I am doing, and put the sprigs one by one in the white vase. I'm not the first to do it. This is Rebecca's vase, this is Rebecca's lilac." She must have wandered out into the garden as I did [...].


Excerpt 16
The decision-making age must truly be shifted from 16 to 18; the way to do that is to increase the number of A-levels to six for university entrance, and require passes in all of them.


Excerpt 17
KENNEDY: You know what you need to do, you need to learn — did your mother teach you manners by the way? You need to learn to have an honest debate about these issues. HANNITY: You don't like the fact that I expose that you were flying in a private jet and you're lecturing us about the use of oil. KENNEDY: No, I don't care who flies in a private jet. I care about what happens in... HANNITY: You do so. You're going to lecture us not to... KENNEDY: ...our energy problem

Fox Radio, 2003, COCA Corpus

Excerpt 18
Anyway, I threw Taubel and Kanzad — along with the entire police force and most of the embassy staff — into a dungeon, declared martial law, and put the Atan garrison in charge. "You did what?" "I'll write you a report about it one of these days. You know me well enough to know that I had justification." "You exceeded your authority, Itagne." "You didn't impose any limitations on me, old boy. That gave me carte blanche. All you said was to have a look around and to do what needed to be done, so I did." "How did you persuade the Atans to go along with you without written authorization?" Itagne shrugged. "The commander of the Atan garrison there is a fairly young woman — quite attractive, actually, in a muscular sort of way. I seduced her. She was an enthusiastic seducee. Believe me, Oscagne, she'll do absolutely anything for me."


Excerpt 19
"That's very sweet of you, Frank," I said, "and what you say helps enormously. I dare say I've been very stupid. I'm not good at meeting people, I've never had to do it, and all the time I keep remembering how—how it must have been at Manderley before, when there was someone there who was born and bred to it, did it all naturally and without effort."