

EAE 0422 A	Sujet Jury	Sujet Candidat		Code Sujet	CLG 16
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Your main commentary should be focused on *the expression of quantity*. Other topics may also be addressed.

In the autumn of 1922 Albert Woods had been engaged in original research for just over a year.

5 While he was at school Albert had announced his ambition to get a scholarship to Oxford. It was the smallest and poorest secondary school in the city and he was the only boy in his year to have such an idea. 'Too big for his boots' was the comment in the staff-room. Albert took the college entrance scholarship examinations at both Oxford and Cambridge and failed to get any kind of offer from either. Perhaps it gave some satisfaction to his masters to see him temporarily too small for his boots.

10 But Albert Woods was not lacking in intelligence. From the start I want to record that quite apart from anything else he was a man of high intelligence. It could have been demonstrated by any means you like – a series of examination questions set by teachers, a battery of tests by psychologists or a short conversation with someone of equally high intelligence.

15 Albert Woods failed to get a scholarship to Oxford because he had been inadequately taught at school. As soon as he saw the question papers he was sharp enough to recognize it, and furthermore to see that he would do no good by staying at school another year and taking the examination again. So he left school in a fit of desolation and bad temper at the age of eighteen and went to the local university instead.

20 Three years later, in the summer of 1921, he took a first class honours degree in chemistry. He deserved it. All the same it was something of a feat because the night before the theoretical examination began he went out with his friends and rashly got drunk. They had decided it was fatal to their chances to swot the night before an examination. That it was also fatal to get drunk did not dawn on them till it was much too late. They assembled in their favourite public house and, toasting their hopes of success, they drank pint after pint of beer. Albert was thoroughly uplifted by the evening. Clairvoyantly he realized that he was a certain first. He was beginning to get drunk, of course. And oh yes – I almost forgot

35 this – clairvoyantly he realized that he was remarkable also as a great roysterer.

In fact he did not do as well as all that in his theoretical papers. It was in the practical examinations about three weeks later that he scored heavily. He happened to be an unusually good experimenter. When the result of his examination came out the university offered him a scholarship to remain and do research.

40 At about half past six one November evening Albert came home from working in the university chemistry laboratory. He swung off the tramcar as it passed the end of the street where he lived, and walked springily along in the gas-light. The houses cluttered the street on both sides in bow-fronted rows of red brick. Each had a little front garden that contained a privet hedge or a laburnum tree and two or three decrepit hardy plants. Few of them were illuminated because the occupants spent most of their time in the kitchens which were at the back. The night air smelt of fog and the wilting leaves of chysanthemums together with an occasional gust from a nearby fish-and-chip shop.

45 When he came to his home Albert exclaimed with pleasure. Every window was brightly lit, the sitting-room, the hall, the front bedroom and his own little bedroom above the hall. His Uncle Fred must have just finished wiring the house for electricity. Before he had turned his key in the front door his mother opened it. In the passage he saw her shining face, beyond it his father's and his Uncle Fred's, and above them a dangling electric bulb incandescent.

50 All the houses in the street had originally been lit by gas. The Woods's was only the third to have electric light put in. 'What do you think of it, our Albert?' his mother cried. Her finger was on the switch of the hall light.