

FINISH MY ANSWER..... Paper 1 Question 4

Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 16 to 30. A student, having read this section of the text, said: 'The villagers are clearly entertained by the event. The writer really brings the scene to life for the reader.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- consider your own impressions the villagers
- evaluate how the writer brings the scene to life
- support your opinions with quotations from the text

[20 marks]

The huge man patted her fondly upon the head, stroked her shining black hair, kissed her again, and then raised himself to his full height. 'I will lift anything that it takes three men to lift,' he cried, and the villagers joined in with those words that they had heard so many times before, a chorus well-rehearsed. Velisarios may have been strong, but he never varied his patter.

'Lift the trough.'

Velisarios inspected the trough; it was carved out of one solid mass of rock and was at least two and a half metres long. 'It's too long,' he said, 'I won't be able to get a grip on it.'

Some in the crowd made sceptical noises and the strongman advanced upon them glowering, shaking his fists and posturing, mocking himself by this caricature of a giant's rage. People laughed, knowing that Velisarios was a gentle man who had never even become involved in a fight. With one sudden movement he thrust his arms beneath the belly of a mule, spread his legs, and lifted it up to his chest. The startled animal, its eyes popping with consternation¹, submitted to this unwonted treatment, but upon being set lightly down threw back its head, brayed with indignation, and cantered away down the street with its owner in close pursuit.

¹ Consternation - feeling anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected

I agree with the statement that the villagers are clearly entertained by the event because the writer makes it sound as though they have seen the strongman perform many times before and they are enjoying the anticipation of what is to come. The villagers are described as 'a chorus well-rehearsed' which suggests that the crowd have a specific part to play and react to the strongman's antics after specific cues. It as though they are all playing a part together to create a spectacle.....

