

ACT I

1. Explain the significance of the stage directions at the beginning of Act 1. (3)
- 2.1 What does the fact that Plaatjes is wearing a suit tell us about him? (2)
- 2.2 Why do you think the suit was 'weathered'? (3)
- 3.1 The stage directions mention that Plaatjes is of 'indeterminate age'. Explain this phrase. (2)
- 3.2 What does 'indeterminate age' tell us about Plaatjes as a person? (2)
4. What do the ankle chains suggest about Plaatjes? (1)
5. In Plaatjes' opening monologue there are many negative adjectives e.g. 'Stench', 'Death', 'Decay'; 'rats', 'Lice'. What do these adjectives indicate about the living conditions on the island? (2)
6. Where does Plaatjes get the wood from to build his boat? (2)
7. Explain where Plaatjes has found the names for the planks that he unpacks from the bags. (2)
8. Why is Plaatjes building a boat? (1)
9. The second part of the first speech contains an extended metaphor. Explain the metaphor. (3)
10. What is your initial impression of Stella? (3)
11. Explain Plaatjes' violent and rude reaction towards Stella. (3)
- 12.1 How does Stella try to gain Plaatjes' trust? (4)
- 12.2 Why does Stella tell Plaatjes about herself? (2)
- 12.3 What dramatic purpose does this serve? (2)
13. What similarities are found between Stella and Plaatjes in Act 1? (2)
14. Why does the island seem unreal to Stella? (4)
15. Why would the church seem 'a little out of place' to her? (4)
16. How does Stella keep busy on the island? (2)
17. Why do you think Stella 'looks anxiously towards the lighthouse'? (2)
18. 'He's like that, always watching ... worrying about me. Says he loves me that way'. What is strange about this statement? (4)
19. What is your initial impression of Barney? Explain your answer. (4)
20. In your opinion, what does 'Plaatjes sees what Plaatjes sees' imply? (2)
21. Describe in your own words Barney's impression of Stella and Lamprecht. (3)

- 22.1 What is implied by Plaatjes' words? 'Plaatjes sees it coming' ... 'Bad tides' (2)
- 22.2 What does Barney think Plaatjes means? (1)
- 22.3 What do these statements imply about Plaatjes as a person? (3)
23. What does the fact that Barney grabs Plaatjes, who is wearing a restraining jacket, imply about Barney? (3)
24. Why do you think Barney aspires to be like Tromp van Diggelen? (2)
25. Explain why Barney is frightened when Lamprecht speaks to him? (2)
26. Why does Barney lie about seeing Stella? (3)
27. How did Plaatjes end up on the island? (3)

ACT II

1. What do Stella's 'short' responses suggest about the relationship with her husband? (2)
2. What do we find out about Adriaan in the first part of this act? (1)
- 3.1 Describe the issues that this could cause within Adriaan. (3)
- 3.2 What does Adriaan's issues suggest about his feelings towards Plaatjes? (4)
- 4.1 Why does Adriaan not accept the superintendent's invitation? (2)
- 4.2 In your opinion, why are people on the island 'a little desperate' for company? (3)
- 5.1 'Stella: "I'm always careful, Adriaan." What does Stella imply by this? (2)
- 5.2 Why does Adriaan question this statement? (2)
6. What does the fact that Lamprecht says:
"What's your breasts got to do with it all?" indicate about Adriaan? (3)
7. Stella calls Adriaan desperate. Do you agree with this assessment of Adriaan? (3)
8. Refer to the conversation on P 21 – 22 between Adriaan and Stella.
Taking the whole play into account, what "fatal" mistakes does Stella make during this conversation? Explain your response. (4)
9. Why do you think Adriaan decided to invite Barney to their home? (3)