

Alan Paton
The Discardment
More challenging questions!

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1. "The Discardment"
 - Explain carefully why the poet chose this particular title when he could so easily have concentrated on the woman's joy when choosing a title. (4)
 - We have already examined the connotations of the title. Now explain the implication of the title. (2)

2. "We gave her a discardment
A trifle, a thing no longer to be worn,
Its purpose served, its life done."
 - The poet uses repetition in these three lines. What is his intention? (3)
 - The woman's reaction to the gift is IRONIC. Explain how this is so. (3)

3. "She danced and mimed, sang snatches of a song."
 - Identify the figure of speech used here. Explain your choice. (2)
 - Explain why the poet has opted to use this figure of speech. (2)

4. "To see this wonder."
 - Explain why this quotation is an example of IRONY. (2)

5. "And so for nothing
Is purchased loyalty and trust"
 - What is ANTITHESIS? (1)
 - Explain the effective use of antithesis in the quotation. (3)
 - Explain why the word "purchased" is such an important point of diction. (4)

6. "So for nothing
The destruction of a world."
 - The poet referred to "a world" and not "the world". Why did he choose this particular article? (3)
 - Explain how such a trivial item of clothing was able to lead to the "destruction of a world". (3)

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