This passage is about Justo Ansotegui. He is a young man of eighteen who has inherited his family farm near the town of Guernica in Spain.

1 Justo Ansotegui’s reputation rose from Guernica uphill to the village of Lumo where Maria Onati heard that he was a defender of causes and a wit, although some suggested he was too eager to create his own mythology. Most often she’d heard that he was the one to watch during the strength events on feast days. One friend claimed that he had carried an ox into town across his shoulder and celebrated the feat by throwing the beast across the river.

‘Yes’, said Justo when asked about the story. ‘But it was only a small ox and downhill most of the way into town. And the wind was with me when I threw it.’ Maria came to dance at one of the festivals with her sisters. She also decided to watch the men’s competitions, which she usually avoided.

10 Justo, the largest man standing beside a log at the start of the wood-chopping event, joked with the crowd as he removed his boots and grey socks. Going barefoot seemed foolhardy to Maria for one who would be flailing an axe so near his feet.

‘After all these years of competitions I still have nine toes,’ he said, proudly wiggling the four remaining toes on one of his bare feet. ‘But this is my only pair of boots and I can’t afford to damage them.’

He bent at the waist and tore into the pine log between his feet. The log split beneath him well before any others in the competition. Justo was seated, nine toes intact, and replacing his boots before the runner-up broke through his log.

In the wine-drinking event, Justo was less impressive but in the ‘farmer’s walk’ contest he was unmatched. This event tested strength and endurance as the competitors carried 110lb weights in each hand along a measured course until they dropped. For most competitors the collapse followed a familiar pattern. On the second lap, the knees began to bend dramatically. On the third, the shoulders pulled the spine into a dangerous curve and finally gravity yanked the weights and the man to the turf.

25 Maria stood near the starting point when Justo was called. He grasped the weights, his face straining as if he’d never get them off the ground. It was false drama for the benefit of the audience because he easily hoisted them and marched without a struggle, his back rigid. Past the marks where others had fallen in exhaustion, Justo nodded to the little ones who would praise him to future generations.

‘Doesn’t it hurt?’ a young boy asked.

‘Of course, how do you think my arms got so long?’ Justo answered and at that moment he straightened his arms against his sides, a move that caused the sleeves of his shirt to ride up, making his arms appear to grow in length. The boy gasped.

35 It so happened that Maria discovered the need to visit friends near the finishing line. And who could have imagined that just as Justo walked past a friend would say something so amusing that Maria unleashed her most feminine laugh which caused Justo to turn in her direction? And because it was so amusing, it was natural that she would be smiling her broadest smile when he looked her way.

40 Justo glanced at her and walked on.

This must be the most arrogant man in Guernica, she thought. Behind the scenes, Maria quickly arranged to present the prize, a lamb, to the winner. ‘Congratulations,’ she said to Justo. She handed him the lamb and moved in for the ceremonial kiss on his cheek.

‘Thank you,’ Justo said and announced to the crowd, ‘I am going to fill the valley with my flock from winning these events.’ Justo waved and accepted congratulations as he walked through the crowd and Maria skirted the gathering so that he would have to pass her again.

‘Would you like to dance?’ she asked.
Justo stopped. He looked at himself in his dirty overalls. He looked back at her.
'Did somebody tell you to do this? Justo asked.
'No, I just thought you might like to dance, if you're not too worn out from all the chopping and lifting.' But they didn't dance. They sat and talked. Her sisters watched them, and on the walk home, they unanimously voted against her seeing this boy.
She agreed he was not the most handsome man. He was frighteningly powerful and, despite his boasting in front of the crowd, he had been without confidence when they were alone.
'He's homely,' a sister said.
'He has character,' Maria argued.
'He's ugly,' a less generous sister offered.
'He has his own farm,' Maria's mother commented from behind the group of girls and Maria looked thoughtful.
Maria was almost twenty, the eldest of a family of six girls. Her father had injured both legs in a fall at the farm, leaving him fixed to his wooden chair. Maria returned home in silence as her sisters debated Justo's many inadequacies.
Others interested in Maria presented flowers or sweets when they arrived at her home.
Justo arrived empty-handed but wearing his work clothes. He gave her mother a vigorous handshake, patted the father on his shoulder and asked a question that instantly won over Mrs Onati and the sisters.
'What can I do to help?'
'To help?' the mother asked.
'Help. Heavy lifting, woodcutting, repairs ... whatever is hardest for you ladies.'
Maria's mother sat down and wrote out a list. Justo nodded.
'Come on, Maria, put your work clothes on and we'll be done before dinner,'
After an afternoon of work, they sat together for a relaxed meal with everyone feeling as if Justo was already part of the family. The sisters, who would not now have to repair the roof, agreed that Justo was more appealing that they first thought. Not handsome, to be sure, but a good catch. And looks? Well, they're not everything.
A month later at the next fair, Maria stood in the front row as Justo went through his preparation for the 'farmer's walk'. He set off along the path and then he took a sharp left turn and walked directly towards Maria. He held both weights in his massive left hand and with his right hand retrieved a gold ring from his trouser pocket.
'Will you marry me?' he asked the stunned Maria.
'Yes, of course.' They kissed. He readjusted the weights and went back to the competition.
As Justo walked, a man overseeing the event walked beside him.
'Justo, you went off the path, you're disqualified,' the judge said.
Justo continued past the mark of the winner, just to show he could have done it anyway, and rejoined his future bride, apologising for not adding another lamb to their flock.
Read lines 1-7

A1. List five things you learn about Justo in these lines. (5)

Read lines 8-34

A2. How does the writer show you Justo’s physical strength and power in these lines? (5)

You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

Read lines 35-64

A3. How does the writer show the reader that Maria is interested in Justo in these lines?

You should write about:
- what Maria does to attract his attention
- the writer’s use of language to show her interest in Justo
- the effects on the reader (10)

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

Read lines 65-87

A4. What impressions do you get of Justo in these lines? (10)

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

Now consider the passage as a whole

A5. Evaluate the way Maria is presented in this passage. (10)

You should write about:
- your own thoughts and feelings about how Maria is presented in the passage as a whole
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings

You must refer to the text to support your answer.
Mark Scheme

Section A (40 marks)

Read lines 1-7

A1

List five things you learn about Justo in these lines? (5)

(AO1 1a and b)

This question tests the ability to identify explicit and implicit information and ideas.

Award one mark for each point and/or inference identified by the candidate, to a maximum of five:

- his reputation had spread from Guernica to Lumo (he is well-known)
- he was a defender of causes (he sticks up for others, or his principles)
- he was a wit (he is funny/amusing)
- some suggest he is too eager to create his own mythology (he is self-important)
- he is the one to watch in strength events (he is very strong/powerful)
- he does not deny the ox story but he plays it down (he is modest/perhaps falsely so)

No mark should be awarded for unabridged quotation of whole sentences.
Read lines 8-34

A2

How does the writer show you Justo’s physical strength and power in these lines? (5)

(AO2 1a and 1c)

This question tests the ability to explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effect, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.

Give 0 marks for responses where there is nothing worthy of credit.

Give 1 mark to those who identify and begin to comment on Justo’s physical strength and power.

Give 2 marks to those who identify and give straightforward comments on Justo’s physical strength and power. These responses may simply identify language for effect and some relevant subject terminology.

Give 3 marks to those who explain Justo’s physical strength and power and how language and structure are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. These answers should begin to show some understanding of language and structural features and begin to use relevant subject terminology accurately to support their comments.

Give 4 marks to those who make accurate comments about Justo’s physical strength and power and begin to analyse how language and structure are used to achieve effects. Relevant subject terminology is used accurately to support comments effectively.

Give 5 marks to those who make accurate and perceptive comments about Justo’s physical strength and power and analyse how language and structure are used to achieve effects. Subtleties of the writer’s technique are explored in relation to how the reader is influenced. Well-considered, accurate use of relevant subject terminology supports comments effectively.

Details candidates may explore or comment on could be:

- he is the ‘largest man’ in the wood-chopping contest
- the contest involves ‘flailing’ an axe
- he ‘tore’ into the log (suggests power)
- he finishes ‘well before’ the others
- in the farmer’s walk he is ‘unmatched’
- the event tests ‘strength and endurance’
- the writer specifies the weight (110 lb)
- the writer contrasts ‘most competitors’ with Justo (structure)
- the writer describes in detail what happens to most contestants in the farmer’s walk
- Justo pretends to strain but it is ‘false drama’
- he lifts the weights ‘easily’
- he marches ‘without a struggle’ and his back is ‘rigid’
- he passes the mark where others had fallen in ‘exhaustion’
- he can even nod to the children, acknowledging his admirers

This is not a checklist and the question must be marked in levels of response. Look for and reward valid alternatives.
How does the writer show the reader that Maria is interested in Justo in these lines?

You should write about:

- what Maria does to attract his attention
- the writer’s use of language to show her interest in Justo
- the effects on the reader

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

(AO2 1a, b, c and d)

This question tests the ability to explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effect, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.

Give 0 marks for responses where there is nothing worthy of credit.

Give 1-2 marks to those who identify and begin to comment on some examples of Maria’s interest in Justo in this part of the text.

Give 3-4 marks to those who identify and give straightforward comments on some examples of Maria’s interest in Justo. These answers may simply identify some relevant subject terminology.

Give 5-6 marks to those who explain how a number of different examples show Maria’s interest in Justo and begin to show some understanding of how language and the organisation of events are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. These responses will begin to use relevant subject terminology accurately to support their comments.

Give 7-8 marks to those who make accurate comments about how a range of different examples show Maria’s interest in Justo and begin to analyse how language and the organisation of events are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Relevant subject terminology is used accurately to support comments effectively.

Give 9-10 marks to those who make accurate and perceptive comments about how a wide range of different examples show Maria’s interest in Justo and provide detailed analysis of how language and the organisation of events are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Subtleties of the writer’s technique are explored in relation to how the reader is influenced. Well-considered, accurate use of relevant subject terminology supports comments effectively.
Details candidates may explore or comment on could be:

- she ‘engineers’ several situations/meetings (accidentally on purpose)
- she ‘discovers’ a need to visit friends near the finishing line
- she uses her ‘feminine tricks’ to attract his attention
- she ‘unleashes’ her most feminine laughter just as he walks past
- she smiles her broadest smile just as he looks her way
- the writer uses an ironic, knowing tone in these lines (it so happened/who could have imagined)
- she is annoyed when he ignores her
- she does not give up/ she is persistent
- she works behind the scenes to present the prize to him
- she ‘moves in’ for a ceremonial kiss
- she deliberately skirts the crowd so that he will have to pass her again
- she asks him to dance (she takes the initiative)
- the dialogue is flirtatious/slightly provocative
- they sit and talk
- she agrees he is not handsome
- she thinks he is ‘frighteningly powerful’ (impressive)
- she thinks he is ‘without confidence’ when they are alone (endearingly shy)
- she defends him against the criticisms of her sisters
- when her mother mentions he has his own farm, she becomes ‘thoughtful’
- the writer explains her family situation
- the writer uses her actions/thoughts and dialogue to show her interest
- character in action and also authorial comment (show and tell)

This is not a checklist and the question must be marked in levels of response. Look for and reward valid alternatives.
Read lines 65-87

A4

What impressions do you get of Justo in these lines? (10)

*You must refer to the text to support your answer.*

(AO2 1a, b, and d)

*This question tests the ability to explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effect, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.*

Give 0 marks for responses where there is nothing worthy of credit.

Give 1-2 marks to those who identify and begin to comment on some aspects of Justo’s character.

Give 3-4 marks to those who identify and give straightforward comments on Justo’s character. These answers may simply identify some relevant subject terminology.

Give 5-6 marks to those who explain Justo’s character and begin to show some understanding of how language and structure are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. These responses will begin to use relevant subject terminology accurately to support their comments.

Give 7-8 marks to those who make accurate comments about Justo’s character and begin to analyse how language and structure are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Relevant subject terminology is used accurately to support comments effectively.

Give 9-10 marks to those who make accurate and perceptive comments about Justo’s character and provide detailed analysis of how language and structure are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Subtleties of the writer’s technique are explored in relation to how the reader is influenced. Well-considered, accurate use of relevant subject terminology supports comments effectively.
Details candidates may explore or comment on could be:

- unlike other suitors who bring ‘flowers or sweets’, he arrives at Maria’s home ‘empty-handed’ and wearing his work clothes (he seems unromantic and perhaps unsure/awkward)
- he greets the parents (politely/formally and informally/perhaps rather comically?)
- he asks what he can do to help (he is kind, considerate, thoughtful)
- he offers to do work they find hard (uses his strength to offer something better than sweets and flowers)
- he is very formal and polite (he calls them ‘ladies’)
- he tells Maria to help (he doesn’t ask her!)
- they eat a relaxed meal after work and Justo is now part of the family (he seems to fit in now)
- the sisters have changed their mind about him
- the action then switches to a month later and another fair
- he leaves the contest and walks over to Maria
- he holds both weights in one hand and takes a gold ring from his pocket (he must have planned it)
- he asks the ‘stunned’ Maria to marry him (he is rather blunt)
- she accepts his proposal and they kiss but he goes back to the contest
- he is disqualified but he shows he could win anyway (still a bit of a show-off)
- he apologises to Maria for not winning another lamb and now refers to ‘their flock’

This is not a checklist and the question must be marked in levels of response. Look for and reward valid alternatives.
Now consider the passage as a whole

A5

Evaluate the way Maria is presented in this passage. (10)

You should write about:

- your own thoughts and feelings about how Maria is presented in the passage as a whole
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings

(AO4)

This question tests the ability to evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual reference.

Give 0 marks for responses where there is nothing worthy of credit.

Give 1-2 marks to those who express a simple personal opinion with linked, basic textual reference.

Give 3-4 marks to those who give a personal opinion supported by straightforward textual references. These responses will show limited interaction with the text as a whole and/or how the writer has created thoughts and feelings.

Give 5-6 marks to those who give an evaluation of the text and its effects, supported by appropriate textual references. These responses will show some critical awareness of the text as a whole and how the writer has created thoughts and feelings.

Give 7-8 marks to those who give a critical evaluation of the text and its effects, supported by well-selected textual references. These responses will show critical awareness and clear engagement with the text. They will also explore how the writer has created thoughts and feelings.

Give 9-10 marks to those who give a persuasive evaluation of the text and its effects, supported by convincing, well selected examples and purposeful textual references. These responses will show engagement and involvement, where candidates take an overview to make accurate and perceptive comments on the text as a whole. They will also explore how the writer has created thoughts and feelings with insight.
Areas for possible evaluation:

- she has heard of Justo and goes to the fair to dance but also to watch the men’s competitions, which she usually avoided
- she thinks he is foolhardy to compete barefoot in the wood-chopping
- she is flirtatious and persistent in pursuing her interest in Justo
- she is indignant when he ignores her but she does not give up/she has spirit
- she shows her ‘feminine wiles’ when trying to attract his attention
- she asks him to dance (unconventional)
- she sees another side to the boastful extrovert/she is perceptive or a good judge of character
- she is the eldest of six girls and her father is ‘fixed’ to his chair
- she is thoughtful when her mother mentions Justo’s farm
- she obviously has her admirers
- she admits that Justo is not handsome
- she looks beyond physical appearance (plenty to like about Justo)
- she may feel pressured into accepting his offer of marriage
- it is possible to sympathise with her situation
- but more likely she is happy and willing to marry him

How does the writer create these thoughts and feelings?

- a lot is shown through her actions
- the writer also tells the reader what she is thinking and feeling
- there is also interaction with other characters (Justo, her sisters and mother)
- the writer also uses dialogue to reveal her personality and attitudes
- the writer establishes her family situation to indicate her difficult position as a single woman
- the choice of language is revealing

This is not a checklist and the question must be marked in levels of response. Look for and reward valid alternatives.