**The War of the Worlds by H G Wells**

Choose **ONE** question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

**EITHER**

Explore how Wells conveys man’s arrogance in this extract and elsewhere in the novel.

(40 marks)

No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man’s and yet as mortal as his own; that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water. With infinite complacency men went to and fro over this globe about their little affairs, serene in their assurance of their empire over matter. It is possible that the infusoria under the microscope do the same. No one gave a thought to the older worlds of space as sources of human danger, or thought of them only to dismiss the idea of life upon them as impossible or improbable. It is curious to recall some of the mental habits of those departed days. At most terrestrial men fancied there might be other men upon Mars, perhaps inferior to themselves and ready to welcome a missionary enterprise. Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us. And early in the twentieth century came the great disillusionment.

**OR**

‘Wells was considered a horrifically realistic author in his day.’ How far do you agree with this view?

Explore at least two moments from the novel to support your view.
The War of the Worlds by H G Wells

Choose ONE question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

EITHER

Explore the way Wells presents the breakdown of social order in this extract and elsewhere in the novel.

(40 marks)

‘Get him out of the road; said he; and, clutching the man’s collar with his free hand, my brother lugged him sideways. But he still clutched after his money, and regarded my brother fiercely, hammering at his arm with a handful of gold. ‘Go on! Go on!’ shouted angry voices behind.

‘Way! Way!’

There was a smash as the pole of a carriage crashed into the cart that the man on horseback stopped. My brother looked up, and the man with the gold twisted his head round and bit the wrist that held his collar. There was a concussion, and the black horse came staggering sideways, and the cart horse pushed beside it. A hoof missed my brother’s foot by a hair’s breadth. He released his grip on the fallen man and jumped back. He saw anger change to terror on the face of the poor wretch on the ground, and in a moment, he was hidden and my brother was borne backward and carried past the entrance of the lane, and had to fight hard in the torrent to recover it.

He saw Miss Elphinstone covering her eyes, and a little child, with all a child’s want of sympathetic imagination, staring with dilated eyes at a dusty something that lay black and still, ground and crushed under the rolling wheels. ‘Let us go back!’ he shouted, and began turning the pony round. ‘We cannot cross this—hell,’ he said and they went back a hundred yards the way they had come, until the fighting crowd was hidden. As they passed the bend in the lane my brother saw the face of the dying man in the ditch under the privet, deadly white and drawn, and shining with perspiration. The two women sat silent, crouching in their seat and shivering.

OR

‘Generally speaking, this novel doesn’t make us all that proud to be humans.’ How far do you agree with this view?

Explore at least two moments from the novel to support your ideas.

(40 marks)