

Source A

This extract is from the opening of the novel 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman. This novel was written in 2001 and is written in the voice of Sephy who is a Cross (a member of the dark-skinned ruling class). The other character is Callum who is a Nought (a colourless member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses). These two characters have been best friends since early childhood.

Noughts and Crosses

I wriggled my toes, enjoying the feel of the warm sand trickling like fine baby powder between them. Digging my feet even deeper into the dry, yellow-white sand, I tilted back my head. It was such a beautiful August afternoon. Nothing bad could ever happen on a day like today.

- 5 And what made it even better was the fact that I could share it - something rare and special in itself, as I knew only too well. I turned to the boy next to me, my face about to split wide open from the smile on it.

'Can I kiss you?'

My smile faded. I stared at my best friend. 'Pardon?'

- 10 'Can I kiss you?'

'What on earth for?'

'Just to see what it's like,' Callum replied.

Yeuk! I mean, yeuk!! I wrinkled up my nose – I couldn't help it. Kissing! Why on earth would Callum want to do anything so . . . so feeble?

- 15 'Do you really want to?' I asked.

Callum shrugged. 'Yeah, I do.'

'Oh, all right then.' I wrinkled up my nose again at the prospect. 'But make it fast!'

- 20 Callum turned to kneel beside me. I turned my head up towards his, watching with growing curiosity to see what he'd do next. I tilted my head to the left. So did he. I tilted my head to the right. Callum did the same. He was moving his head like he was my reflection or something. I put my hands on Callum's face to keep it still and dead centre.

'D'you want me to tilt my head to the left or the right?'

I asked, impatiently.

'Er . . . which way do girls usually tilt their heads when they're being kissed?' asked Callum.

- 25 'Does it matter? Besides, how should I know?' I frowned. 'Have I ever kissed a boy before?'

'Tilt your head to the left then.'

'My left or your left?'

'Er . . . your left.'

I did as asked. 'Hurry up, before I get a crick in my neck.'

30 Callum licked his lips before his face moved slowly closer towards mine.

'Oh no you don't,' I drew back. 'Wipe your lips first.'

'Why?'

'You just licked them.'

'Oh! OK!' Callum wiped his mouth with the back of his hand.

35 I moved forward to resume my original position. Keeping my lips tight together, I wondered what I should do with them. Purse them so that they stuck out slightly? Or should I smile to make them seem wider and more appealing? I'd only ever practised kissing with my pillow.

This was a lot different - and seemed just as silly!

'Hurry up!' I urged.

1. Read again the first part of the Source from lines 1 to 7.
List four things from this part of the text about what the narrator does.

(4 marks)

2. Look in detail at this extract from **lines 1 to 14** of the Source:

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How does the writer use language here to describe how the main character, the narrator, feels?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

(8 marks)