

### Question 3

**What can this extract tell us about the political and social values of the author?**

#### *The challenge*

Read the text sensitively and perceptively, and write a relevant, well-organised, thematic response.

#### *High-level indicators:*

- sees that the 'values' communicated by the author contain significant and revealing internal tensions.
- sees that Eugène and Cabet are not synonymous; that the latter creates the former in order to communicate attractively a carefully worked-out alternative to the reality of contemporary France.
- writes a thematic analysis which shows some nuance and prioritisation.
- chooses evidence carefully, represents it accurately, and connects it to other evidence purposefully.
- takes a critically engaged approach to the categories of the 'political' and 'social'.

#### *Lower-level indicators:*

- descriptive rather than analytical.
- fails to connect the gender and technological elements to 'political and social values'.
- gets into a muddle over 'author', or indeed over the idea that Icaria is a fictional utopia.
- is excessively negative or unambitious about what the extract *can* tell us.
- tries to bring in outside knowledge, unnecessary supposition, or tends to make moral judgments.

#### *Marks scheme*

**33-40 marks:** A well-organised, prioritised, thematised response, which engages intelligently and perceptively with the text. Should hit most of the high-level indicators, with very little from the lower indicators.

**23-32 marks:** A good answer, but perhaps less analytical, thematic or direct. But it should certainly contain some high-level indicators, and few from the lower level.

**13-22 marks:** Answers the question, but will tend much more toward the low-level indicators than the higher level.

**0-12 marks:** Doesn't answer the question; is very short; shows few Oxford undergraduate skills.