« Lou et No s’entendent si bien parce que leurs vies sont similaires. » Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous d’accord avec ce jugement ?

**[40 marks]**

**Possible content**

The quotation is designed to prompt a ‘yes’ and ‘no’ response.

* The no response will probably be the more detailed:

Lou lives in a comfortable home with her parents;

No is on the street and has nobody close to her.

Lou is well-fed and cared for even though her domestic life is far from ideal;

No never knows where her next meal will be coming from.

Lou benefits from an education; she has a purpose in life afforded by her studies;

No is receiving no education and has few prospects.

Lou is loved by her parents; No is estranged from her family.

Lou finds comfort in reading and studying; No is an alcoholic.

* Similarities include:

• Both are in a sense marginalised – No literally so as a homeless person forced to beg and live on the street; Lou because of her hyper-intelligence is something of a misfit; she has been to a special school for gifted pupils.

• Both live in a sort of silence or isolation – No because of her status as a beggar and Lou because of her mother’s mental illness as a result of losing a child.

Thus an empathy and understanding develops between the two girls, forming a strong bond.