

Paper 1, Section A: **First Responses to Unseen Prose**

Meaning

- **what is the extract about?**
- what happens in the extract?
- **Theme(s)** of the extract - what is it really about?
- where does the extract “get to” from start to end?

Tone

- What is the mood and atmosphere of the extract? (angry, sad, nostalgic, bitter, humorous, frightening etc)

Imagery and Language

- **Alliteration** - the repeating of initial sounds.
- **Metaphor** - comparing two things by saying one is the other.
- **Simile** - comparing two things saying one is like or as the other.
- **Personification** - giving something non-human human qualities.
- **Onomatopoeia** - words that sound like the thing they describe.
- **Repetition** - does the writer repeat words or phrases?
- **What kinds of words are used?**
- **Connotation** - associations that words have
- **Ambiguity** - is the word or phrase deliberately unclear? Could it mean opposite things or many different things?
- **Word order** - are the words in an unusual order – why?
- **Adjectives** - what are the key describing words?
- **Slang or unusual words and misspellings** - Does the writer use slang or informal language?
- **Characters** - how do they speak? Do they all sound the same?

Character

- **who** is the telling the story?
- What is the **narrative voice**? Is it first or third person?
- What characters do we meet?
- How are the characters introduced?
- What do we learn about the characters that might be important?

Setting

- What **location** is described? How do you know?
- What is the **weather** like?
- What **time** of day is it?
- What **period** is it set in? How do you know?

Structure

- **Sentences** - what shapes, styles and patterns can you see?
- Opening – how does the extract begin?
- Ending – how does the extract finish? Is there a clear resolution?
- **Flashbacks** – are any included? What do they reveal?
- **Repetition** – are any ideas or patterns repeated? Why?
- **Connections** – how do the paragraphs link together?
- **Narrative perspective** – does this stay the same throughout?
- **Linear/non linear** – is there a clear order to the events?

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- What is the extract about?

- What happens in the extract?

Tone

- What is the **mood** of the extract? (angry, sad, frightening)

Imagery and Language

- Alliteration _____

- Metaphor _____

- Simile _____

- Adjectives _____

Structure

- **Opening** – how does the extract begin?

- **Ending** – how does the extract finish?

- **Repetition** – are any ideas or patterns repeated? Why?

Character

- **Who** is the telling the story?

- What is the **narrative voice**? Is it first or third person?

- What **characters** do we meet?

- What do we learn about the characters that might be important?

Setting

- What **location** is described?

- What is the **weather** like?

- What **time** of day is it?

- Is it set in the **past, present or future**? How do you know?

Meaning

**Paper 1, Section A:
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Tone

Character

Imagery and Language

Setting

Structure