

HOW TO ESSAY

@p0stc4rds_

Random Tips For Essay

- **State your main point before starting your essay** (e.g : One of the ways that Miller used to show the tension was --)
- **Do not quote large chunks of text**, only quote what you need
- **Make sure you are always answering the question** (try to keep your explanations straight to the point and always link them back to the question)
- **Try to quote if you can**, but describe events in detail if you cannot remember (this point does not apply to Passage-Based Questions)
- **Do not centre answers around literary devices**, use your literary devices to explain things
- If a question asks for us to **refer to other parts of the play**, **do not quote the given passage**
- If stating an **event**, make sure you say **if it changes anything** + hint at **what is going to happen next (foreshadowing)**
- **Figurative language (personification, alliteration) should never be your main point! these are evidence!**

Types of Questions + What you have to do

Striking/Dramatic (e.g : What is striking about the language/characterisation/setting of --?_

- Why is (something) **attention-grabbing?**
- Is it something **out of place?** Is it **appropriate for the time/place** of the scene?

- What **effect does it have on the reader? Is it surprising? Engaging?**

Significance (e.g: What is the significance/Why is -- significant?)

- Can be about **characterisation/plot/mood+atmosphere/themes+messages conveyed**
- In terms of the **plot**, **why does this matter?**
- In terms of the **characters**, why does this matter? **Does it change anything** for any of them?

Irony (e.g: What is the irony in the scene where--/Why is -- ironic?)

- Is it **verbal irony/situational irony/dramatic irony?**
- **Verbal irony:** what they say is different from what they mean
- **Situational irony:** the outcome is very different from what is expected
- **Dramatic irony:** the audience knows more than the characters
- How to answer: Why is it ironic + What type of irony + Why does it matter
- To start: understand what is happening + link what is happening to the story at large
- **tldr;** identify the irony + give examples + explain + why does it matter to the characters/plot/audience/atmosphere

Tension (e.g: How does -- show the tension between --/?What makes their relationship so tense?)

- **tension:** element of intense feeling (Anxiety, fear, excitement) or mental or emotional strain.
- Identify the conflict in the scene: **who is it between? why** do they hate each other?
- Where do you see the tension in the story/given passage? (Label these, you need to use them)
- Why is your given quotes full of tension? **What makes you think that?**
- **tldr;** identify how the points of tension are presented + analyse and explain given example + effect on characters/plot/atmosphere/audience

What you're aiming for in your answer (O-Level Rubrics, 20-25 Band)

1. **Pays close attention to the terms of the question** (Answers the question directly)
2. **Takes advantage of the opportunities offered by the question** (Sticks to the criteria of the question to show a complete + in-depth study of the play)
3. **Demonstrates a sound understanding of the text** (Know what you're talking about, no misinterpretations, straight up facts)
4. **Better answers reveal some insights into the text's main concerns and the effects achieved by the author** (Touches on the themes/main messages of the story and what the author wants to convey -> like making you sympathetic, happy)
5. **Demonstrates a consistent viewpoint and is substantiated through judicious selection of textual evidence** (No switching of stances, your stances make sense and are well-justified)
6. **Clear, organized and coherent** (Write your essays properly, make sure they make sense)
7. tldr; a close engagement with the text + an ability to create a coherent argument

How to Do This for Unseen

- **Comprehension:** write down quickly what you think the excerpt is about/genre/mood themes -> make sure u get the right meaning
- **Interpretation:** highlight special words and try to analyse why the author would use this word instead of another
- **Analysis:** pick out your devices/figurative language and know what the purpose of the technique is and how it affects the reader + track any changes in language/tone/mood
- **Insight and response:** try to comment and give a philosophical interpretation of what the text may be saying about human nature and the world

good luck :D