GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE – NINETEENTH CENTURY FICTION

Paper 1 Section A – 15%   1 hour   What the exam consists of: Extract from C19th Fiction text (read twice)

Q.1 (1 mark) Select and retrieve. Find an appropriate textual reference.   Q. 2 (2 marks) Making inferences. Reading between the lines. Finding evidence to support an inference.

Q3. Analysis of **both** language and structure (6 marks – 12-15 minutes). Q.4 Evaluation – critical judgement - **how successful** the writer is at achieving a particular effect, using apt and discriminating references (15 marks – 30 minutes)   (see also the Tip Sheet for exam strategies)

LANGUAGE FEATURES

Word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs

Word choices: comment on vocabulary you find powerful/unusual / interesting. Zoom in.

Imagery / symbolism / allusions

Ambiguity - a word, phrase, or statement which contains more than one meaning

Figurative language

Simile: a direct comparison using *like* or *as*

Metaphor: a figure of speech containing an implied comparison. "All the world's a stage"

Pathetic Fallacy: gives human emotions to inanimate objects of nature e.g. referring to weather features reflecting a mood

Personification: gives human attributes to abstract ideas, animate objects of nature, or inanimate non-natural objects.

Hyperbole: compares or describes things in an exaggerated way

Oxymoron: two opposite ideas are joined to create an effect "living death"

Alliteration: repetition of a consonant sound at the start of a word within the same sentence or phrase

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

Sentence types (**simple, compound, complex**) and lengths (short, long). Sentence structures chosen for effect. **Periodic sentences** —multi-clausal sentence with a climatic end

Use of punctuation for effect e.g. question marks, ellipses / suspension marks, exclamations, dashes.

Shifts in attitudes / viewpoints / topics.

Shifts at the beginning / middle / end of the text

Contrasts / **juxtaposition** (when two or more ideas, places, characters are placed side by side for the purpose of developing comparisons and contrasts.)

'Zooming in' – moving from the general to the particular

'Zooming out' – moving from one example to the bigger picture

Repetition of words, phrases, ideas

Anaphora - the deliberate repetition of the first part of the sentence. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, …"

Polysyndeton - several coordinating conjunctions are used in succession *and, or*, *but*, and *nor* (mostly *and* and *or*) "We have ships and men and money and stores,"

Parallelism - the use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same; or similar in their construction, sound, meaning, or meter. "Alice ran into the room, into the garden, and into our hearts."

Chronological / non-chronological order   linear / non-linear. Is there a clear order to the events? Do things happen in time sequence? Are there flashbacks?

(Form) **Dialogue** – what is the effect on pace? Characterisation?

Question 4 – Evaluation - INSECT   (not a tick list!)

Ideas – thoughts, opinions, underlying meanings or ideas in a text – love, loneliness, violence

Narrator— narrator. Who is telling the story? What is the narrative perspective – first or third person?

Setting – where and when things happen. 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?

Events— key things that happen in the text

Characters– What characters do we meet? How are the characters introduced? What do we learn about the characters that might be important?

Tone – What is the mood and atmosphere in the extract? What tone is the narrative voice? (angry, poignant, nostalgic, bitter, humorous, frightening). Is there an attempt to build tension?

Reader response. What is the effect on the reader?

Examples of Evaluative Vocabulary

Flex those PECS! **P**owerfully, **E**ffectively, **C**learly, **S**uccessfully,

Graphically, limited, main, most, significantly, questionably, consistently, immediately, particularly, convinces, emphasises, notably, importantly etc.

Popular themes in C19th Fiction: sin and guilt, punishment and forgiveness, identity, individuality, social reform, idealised women, gender inequality, the rich and poor, pastoral life, realism ...