

## Paper 2 General Notes

Choosing a question

- Know exactly what each term in the question means and address every single word in the question, don't ignore any part
- The question must apply to both texts such that you can write equally, content wise, for both
- The best question to do is the one which allows you to score for Criterion C, effects of stylistic features (You're able to identify the most number of stylistic features relevant to the question for both texts)

Planning

- 20-25 Minutes writing out a clear plan
- Equal number of points for both texts (4 each)
- Highlight the key terms to be defined in the question

Structure of Essay

## 1. Introduction (1 Paragraph)

- The two novels that I will be examining in this essay are The Great Gatsby (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald and The Outsider (1942) by Albert Camus.
- Define key terms in the question in a concise manner
- Thesis statement for each text (what you intend to discuss i.e. which techniques portray which thematic ideas) to provide a clear framework for the essay: e.g. "This essay will examine the idea of (a), (b), (c)"

## 2. Body (8 Paragraphs, 4 per text)

- **PEEEL** structure to be followed closely
  - **POINT**: Topic sentence that reflects a thesis relevant to the question
  - **EVIDENCE**: Textual details and quotations grammatically integrated into the sentence
  - **ELABORATION**: Avoid narrating the text and instead focus on the *effectiveness* of literary techniques used (Introduce writer's name when explaining the use of techniques)
  - **EVALUATION**: Compare your point with the text you previously discussed
  - **LINK**: Link the point back to the question

## 3. Conclusion (1 Paragraph)

- "In conclusion, this essay has examined (a), (b), (c) *\*paraphrased\** by...(answer the question)"
- Evaluate the works of the two writers with regard to the question
- Do not summarise or introduce new points
- Explain which text appeals to you more with regard to the question e.g. "The Great Gatsby was thus a more intriguing text than The Outsider because... *\*make a judgement about the novel with regard to the question\**"

## General Pointers

- Tie in the context (Historical, Social, Cultural)-40% with the content (text)-60% in terms of reception and production. Basically, don't just throw in all the context in the introduction for no reason, but blend it into the points you make in your body and show how it is relevant in relation to the context which the novel is set in. Each theme in the novel exists due to the context it has been set in!
- Make sure your essay flows, especially whilst transitioning between the two texts
- Don't make sweeping statements. Instead, develop the point and make it more balanced e.g. 'Fitzgerald shows there is no social mobility at all in America' VS 'Fitzgerald shows America in the 1920s to be moving away from the egalitarian ideals of its founders. It finally proves impossible for Gatsby to enter the world of the 'aristocratic' elite of this world'
- Avoid unverifiable speculation such as details about the author's life
- Avoid vague statements and generalisations e.g. "*everyone was rich and wanted to party after the war*"
- Use examples that range from the start to the end of the text when talking about one point, instead of focusing on evidence from just one chapter in the beginning (this is to show the development of the point you're making throughout the text)
- Avoid throwing in big literary devices without explaining the effect they have or their significance with regards to your thesis
- Theme, in particular, needs to move from a mere stating of a topic to a clear understanding of how that topic is treated by the writer and to what end. e.g The American Dream (topic/idea) VS The corruption of The American Dream and moral decadence in 1920s America (Theme)
- Avoid informal language e.g. Moving on/Having said that etc
- Write the correct question number, write legibly and don't write in the margins!
- Do not abbreviate texts e.g. TGG, TO
- Don't use microanalysis for Paper 2 e.g. Plosive Alliteration X
- Themes are not 'brought out', they are 'portrayed'
- Lang lit is a criterion based paper so as long as you meet the criteria, you score (Being familiar with the rubrics is crucial!)
- Never have a paragraph solely for context! Context and content should blend seamlessly together in your analysis
- All analysis should be in present tense
- Make references to the epigraph in Gatsby and the Afterword in Outsider to score
- The philosophies present in The Outsider are NOT Meursault's philosophies. He doesn't consciously live his life according to a philosophy, he has just been characterised by Camus in a way to showcase CAMUS' Absurdist philosophy