

Great Expectations

Exam Preparation Pack for AQA

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Teacher's Introduction

This exam preparation pack is designed to be used with the AQA 9–1 English Literature GCSE specification and focuses on the assessment objectives and style of questions on paper 1.

Great Expectations is, arguably, one of the more demanding texts on the AQA specification, not least because of its length, its complex blend of the Gothic, romantic and travel genres, the use of different layers of narrative, the dense, descriptive language and the twists and turns in the plot. Yet it is these very features which make it an exciting novel to study and one which will leave a lasting impression.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

What is included

In this exam preparation pack I have aimed to overcome the possible disadvantage of choosing a longer novel by distilling it down to key themes, events and characters, which should help those studying it for an exam to dip into key chapters and events as needed.

The pack is divided into the following sections:

- Chapter summaries including themes and context as well as notes on style and structure
- Character summaries
- Activities to help revision of themes and characters
- Practice in looking at the text in detail with 10 exam-style questions and indicative content
- Breaking down of one of these questions into an essay to look at good planning, structure and introductions/conclusions
- Sample essays and tasks to help pupils look at how they might improve
- Answers to all activities

There are activities to help pupils look again at the novel and revise techniques needed for the three chief AOs on this paper (AO1, AO2 and AO3). This pack is designed for revision. It is not comprehensive and it assumes that the novel has already been thoroughly taught and understood. My aim is to bring the novel back to mind, to encourage engagement with it and suggest ways pupils might look at the text, both by passage and as a whole, for themselves and in preparation for the examination.

How to use this pack

My primary aim is to encourage engagement with the text so that the responses in the examination room will be clearly the candidates' **own** responses to the text rather than learnt answers. This is particularly important for the top grades where a personal and critical response is required. I have made the presumption that this will be a text chosen to study with more-able pupils who will be aiming for the highest grades.

This pack can be turned into an individual revision pack for pupils to work through alone, in class and/or in small groups. Answers can be given as appropriate to support teacher input or to allow pupils to work independently. It is also possible to use just those sections of the pack which suit your needs for a particular lesson, and one section does not rely on previous work to allow this to be possible.

Answers, suggestions and indicative content are provided and will be helpful to those struggling with the text, but I would recommend pupils have the ZigZag Education *Great Expectations*: Study Guide for GCSE to aid their revision.

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* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

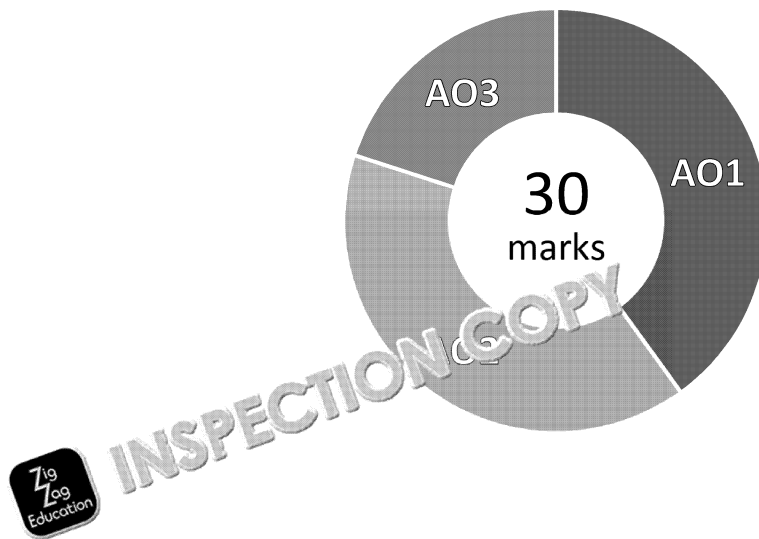
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Specification Information

AQA GCSE English Literature

Paper 1, Section B: The 19th-century Novel

- Closed-book, written exam
- Extract-based question (answer based on extract and the novel as a whole)
- One question per text
- 30 marks in total:
 - AO1: 12 marks
 - AO2: 12 marks
 - AO3: 6 marks
- Paper 1 overall (Sections A and B) is 1 hour 45 minutes long and is worth 40%



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Revision of the Text

Chapter Summary Table

Chapter	Events	Setting	Notes
1 Pip meets Mr. Magwitch while visiting his parents' graves	Pip is looking at the graves of his parents. <i>Family</i> – Pip is an orphan, being brought up by his sister. <i>Violence</i> – Magwitch's physical assault on Pip and his threats.	Graveyard on Christmas Eve	First-person Allows exploration of Gothic/horror imagining
2 Pip steals the items demanded by Magwitch from home	<i>Food</i> – eating of meals and also stealing food for Magwitch. <i>Guilt</i> – at stealing food but also lack of gratitude to his sister.	The Forge: his home where he lives with his sister and her husband	Humour concupiscence Contrasts
3 Pip returns to graveyard, meeting Magwitch and another convict	<i>Food and eating</i> – an essential for life but used to link parts of the novel <i>Fear</i> – both of Magwitch and being caught for stealing <i>Guilt</i> – Pip feels guilty because of Joe than Magwitch, which reflects his relationship to them.	Graveyard First adds to the atmosphere of fear Christmas Day – contrast with above setting	Use of dialogue understanding also to the encounter
4 Guests arrive for Christmas Day	<i>Guilt</i> – Pip is told he should be grateful but is feeling guilty and insecure. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Pumblechook and Wopsle are examples of this.	Christmas Day in the Gargery house	Direct speech characterisation Pumblechook Contrasts thoughts personality
5 Soldiers arrive. Pip, Joe and Wopsle go out to look with soldiers and Magwitch gives other convict away.	<i>Bleakness of the landscape</i> – Enhances the events and Pip's boyhood. <i>Loyalty</i> – Magwitch loyally gives the other convict away.	The bleak landscape of the marshes	Descriptive creating atmosphere Use of dialogue Preparation Magwitch
6 Return home. Pip reflects on the events and his feelings of guilt.	Pip loves Joe. <i>Guilt</i> – the handcuffs are a symbol of guilt.	Gargery house on Christmas Day	Dual narrative the adult Humour Pumblechook

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
7 Pip's work described and Biddy teaches him to read and write. Joe's story and introduction of Miss Havisham	<i>Relationships</i> – note Pip's tears in response to Joe, yet Joe rejects him. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – wanting to read and write. <i>Loneliness</i> – Pip feels isolated.	Home and local area when Pip was old enough to be apprenticed Bleakness of marshes reiterated	Joe's own view of this chapter view point response Reminded view in h
8 Pip's first visit to Satis House	<i>Food</i> – breakfast is mean, reflecting Pip's attitude to Pumblechook. <i>Fear</i> – Pip is afraid on his first visit. <i>Wealth</i> – Miss Havisham. <i>Revenge</i> – Miss Havisham.	Satis House – note irony of the name	Detailed the room evoke thi
9 Pip returns home and makes up a story for Mrs Joe but tells the truth to Joe	<i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Pip made to feel ashamed of who he is and talk of what Miss Havisham could 'do' for him, which later causes confusion. <i>Guilt</i> – considered when he told. <i>Social status</i> – Pip becomes aware of his low status.	The next day at the Gargery house	Words used Pumblechook and 'devoted'
10 Pip sets about trying to improve himself. Meets the stranger in the pub with Joe's file.	<i>Secrecy and guilt</i> – still haunt Pip. <i>Money</i> – linked to power. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Pip seeks to become less common.	Biddy's and the 'Three Jolly Bargemen' pub	Words re Magwitch words of as Pip set himself. Direct sp The file is identify M
11 Pip's second visit to Satis House	<i>Decay</i> – obvious in the house but reflects Miss Havisham's life. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Miss Havisham's hope to inherit money clearly does not bring happiness.	Satis House	Use of sym and decay locks and Direct sp character

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
12 Further visits to Satis House	<i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Pip is dissatisfied with his apprenticeship although he is treated well. <i>Love</i> – Pip's feelings for his sister encourage him to help Herbert. <i>Violence</i> – the fight.	Satis House	Time spent passing. Na Use of M questions
13 Joe visits Satis House	<i>Class</i> – Joe contrasts with Miss Havisham. <i>Money</i> – it is as if Pip is owned. <i>Pretence/appearance and reality</i> – Joe puts on a good impression but his main strength is his simple honesty.	Satis House and Pumblechook's house	Humour Use of language of place Suspense he has been Words used Pumblechook
14 Pip reflects on his change of attitude to home	<i>Dissatisfaction</i> – Pip becomes less satisfied with his life but later regrets the loss of it.	Physical setting but the perspective of an adult looking back	The adult child and feelings monolog
15 Orlick arrives at the forge and Pip visits Satis House. Mr Wopsle agrees to educate him.	<i>Learning</i> – Pip is keen to learn to improve himself. <i>Violence</i> – Orlick is a bully. <i>Dissatisfaction</i> – Pip does not like his life. <i>Money</i> – is the way to improve.	The Forge, Mr Wopsle's and Satis House	Pip's own endeavour attitude Direct speech with Joe chapter
16 Mrs Joe is injured by blows to the head and spine. Biddy comes to Gargery household.	<i>Guilt</i> – Orlick is guilty but there is no proof. <i>Violence</i> – Mrs Joe was violent to Pip and Joe but has now been the victim or serious violence.	Gargery House	Pip's personal adult. Humour
17 Pip's life at the forge and attitude to his family	<i>Dissatisfaction</i> – Pip is dissatisfied with his life. <i>Revenge</i> – Miss Havisham will use her power for revenge. <i>Simple dignity</i> – Biddy.	Gargery House	Pip's thoughts speech with Military life Havisham is described 'missile'.

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
18 Jaggers comes looking for Pip with news of an inheritance	<i>Humble dignity</i> – Joe. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – suddenly there is hope for the distant future through a benefactor.	Three Jolly Bargemen Gargery household	The reader meets Pip, that benefactor of the text. Jump to the apprenticeship
19 Pip's reflections before he leaves for his new life	<i>Childhood</i> – Pip looks back on his childhood and the simplicity of a child's mind is shown.	Gargery House and surroundings Satis House	Pip's reflections on key events in the novel. Direct, simple
20 Pip moves to London	<i>Law and Money</i> – the link between them is made clear. <i>London</i> – note how negative Dickens is about the capital at this time.	London	Negative view of London. Darkness
21 Wemmick is introduced	<i>London</i> (as Chapter 20) <i>Death</i> – used here to show the oppressive nature of the city.	London Barnard's Inn	Language of death Direct speech character
22 Herbert Pocket joins to Pip and Miss Havisham's story told	<i>Social class</i> – Herbert is a different class and this is shown here. <i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Pip has moved on. <i>Food</i> – again used to show normality and link the novel together but also reflects class.	Herbert Pocket's house	Change of setting Herbert's role Narrative limitation narrative
23 New characters introduced	<i>Education</i> – compared to Pip's experience so far.	Mr and Mrs Pocket's house	Humour
24 Pip visits the court with Jaggers	<i>Law</i> – links to convicts earlier. <i>Money/materialism</i> – note the link to the law. <i>Social class</i> – different classes are shown alongside each other.	Barnard's Inn and Jaggers' office The magistrates' court	Use of direct speech character

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
25 Pip goes to Wemmick's house	<i>Great expectations / ambition</i> – Wemmick is a gentleman and Pip aspires to be one. <i>Friendship</i> – Wemmick is loyal to Pip. <i>Materialism</i> – notice Wemmick's emphasis on 'portable property'.	Wemmick's house	Descriptive nature of private and distinction
26 Dinner with Jaggers	<i>Bullying</i> – Jaggers to Molly. <i>Money</i> – Jaggers has made money and here we see its benefits.	Jaggers' house	Symbolic handwashed Descriptive people.
27 Joe visits Pip in London to tell Pip Estella is ready to see him	<i>Snobbishness</i> – shown by Pip's attitude to Joe.	Barnard's Inn	Use of Joe phonetic feeling so
28 Pip returns home	<i>Snobbishness</i> – Pip's friends have moved up. <i>Fear</i> – more of the fear on the street meeting with Magwitch.	The coach home The Blue Boar	Meeting him the first adds drama
29 Pip visits Satis House	<i>Love</i> – Pip's love for Estella is almost in the courtly love tradition as she is unattainable.	Satis House	Pip adopts fairy tale Language for Estella of his background
30 Pip returns to London	<i>Snobbery</i> – Dickens causes us to laugh at Pip. <i>Expectations/ambition</i> <i>Love</i> – for Estella	The journey back to London and Barnard's Inn	Humour snobbery laugh at Role of H reveal his Pip.

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
31 Pip goes to see Mr Wopsle in <i>Hamlet</i>	<i>Self-deception</i> – Wopsle is not the great actor he thinks he is. <i>Ambition</i> – both Wopsle and Pip are ambitious.	The theatre	Humour and the truth about Pip's misperceptions. Parallel between Wopsle's and Pip's expectations.
32 Tour of Newgate and letter from Estella	<i>Convicts</i> – here seen in prison. <i>The law</i> – the link is made between legal help and money.	Newgate Jail	Description of the prison and their link to the law, of which Estella prepares to reveal the truth. Contrast between Estella and the prisoners.
33 Estella arrives in London	<i>Love</i> – Pip remains in love with Estella just as Mr Havisham hoped as revenge. <i>Manipulation</i> – Estella is used by Miss Havisham for her own ends.	London	Description of London and how she shows Pip that she is not what he thought. Use of dramatic irony to characterise her manipulative nature. Irony of Estella being a prisoner and discovering her own fate.
34 Pip reflects on his behaviour. Letter announcing Mrs Joe's death.	<i>Money and debt</i> – satirised. <i>Responsibility</i> – Pip's reflections. <i>Expectations/ambition</i> – Pip is aware of how he has changed.	London and The Finches of the Grove	Humour and irony of the wealthy. Pip's own reflection on his past and his current situation in a retrospective monologue.

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
35 Mrs Joe's funeral 	<i>Hypocrisy</i> – Pumblechook <i>Family life</i> – family funeral – Joe visited by Mrs Joe despite the way he treated him. <i>Moral growth</i> – Mrs Joe.	Gargery home	Sympathetic descriptions Biddy's work Pip has changed Pip's feelings reflection Satire of hypocrisy
36 Pip reaches 21 and is given £500	<i>Money</i> – Pip comes into money he believes is from Miss Havisham. His attitude changes when its source is revealed. <i>Self-deception</i> – about Miss Havisham.	London	After inter- story of shows the Chapter 6 commentary controlling told and example
37 Pip visits Wemmick's home and meets Herbert 	<i>Money</i> – money is an issue even for Herbert who is of a higher class. <i>Family life</i> – contrast between Wemmick and Pip's attitudes. <i>Love</i> – Wemmick and Miss Skiffins.	Wemmick's house, Walworth	Humour Miss Skiffins Contrast home and Family life poor treat
38 Pip meets with Estella and Miss Havisham	<i>Revenge</i> – we can see Miss Havisham's revenge having its full effect. <i>Manipulation/bullying</i> – notice the way Drummle operates	Satis house and Barnard's Inn	Language describes Estella. Drummle predator Images of Dialogue
39 The revelation that Pip's true benefactor is Magwitch 	<i>Envy</i> – Pip's ambition – now seem foolish <i>Manipulation</i> – Pip becomes aware of how he has been manipulated.	Barnard's Inn	Irony – Pip and that Peripeteia Greek dra

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
40 Pip hides Magwitch 	<i>Appearance and reality</i> – even new clothes make Magwitch less repellent to Pip. <i>Characterisation</i> – Magwitch and his family. <i>Characterisation</i> – Pip physically repulsed by Magwitch. <i>Fear</i> – of discovery.	Pip's home	Suspense discovery Narrative Magwitch concerns Chapter and facts
41 Pip confides in Herbert and makes a plan	<i>Money</i> – the money which Pip was happy to take is now tainted. <i>Moral journey</i> – Pip shows compassion despite his repulsion.	Barnard's Inn	Herbert board for the plot aid the re constrain
42 Magwitch tells his story	<i>Revenge</i> – Magwitch vowed revenge on Compeyson. <i>Innocence and guilt</i> – Magwitch's first name is Abel – the innocent brother in the Bible.	Barnard's Inn	Change of voice as Link betw Havisham device.
43 Pip sets off to visit Estella and Havisham leaving England with Magwitch 	<i>Characterisation</i> – Pip pretends he is going to see Joe, trying to keep Estella a secret.	Blue Boar	Irony of from Mag Menacing
44 Pip visits Satis House	<i>Moral growth</i> – Pip is beginning to learn. <i>Self-deception</i> – Miss Havisham is clear Pip misled himself about the money. <i>Love</i> – Pip for Estella.	Satis House and London	Use of di Pip and t Note at e suspense
45 Pip learns that Compeyson is in London and visits his chambers and observation 	<i>Moral journey</i> – Wemmick and Pip both behave with human kindness.	Walworth	Short cha the focus Magwitch Wemmick to move informati

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	Notes
46 Pip hatches a plan to save Magwitch	<i>Love</i> – between Herbert and Clara. <i>Family life</i> – relationship of Clara to her father.	Clara's house	Plot quick Magwitch Contrast the love Clara. Parallels Estella, a
47 Pip goes to the theatre and Compeyson goes too	<i>Declining expectations</i> – of both Wopsle and Pip.	The theatre	Recognit Wopsle i tension b he last s contrived Comparis chapter v
48 Dinner with Estella	<i>Appearance and reality</i> – Pip felt unworthy of Estella but now her parentage is known.	Jaggers' house	Contrast profession home as Wemmick informat reader. Irony – P Estella ar
49 Miss Havisham apologises	<i>Reconciliation</i> – between Pip and Miss Havisham. <i>Forgiveness</i> – Pip forgives Miss Havisham even though she does not deserve it. He is aware of his own need for forgiveness.	Miss Havisham's house	Burnt ha that Pip Use of di
50 Herbert looks after Pip and it becomes clear that Magwitch is Estella's father	<i>Friendship</i> – Pip has ensured help for Herbert, who now cares for him.	Barnard's Inn	Fairy-tale Estella's Danger fo suspense

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Chapter	Key themes	Setting	
51 Pip visits Jaggers to help Herbert and discuss Estella	<i>Appearance and reality</i> – both Jaggers and Wemmick adopt a cold professional persona which is different to their private selves.	Jaggers' office	Use of dialogue to characterise
52 Pip makes plans and receives	<i>Moral reform</i> – Pip helps Herbert and rejects his treatment of Joe.	London – Old Town	Plot being ends tied to future.
53 Pip is rescued from Orlick by Herbert and Startop	<i>Moral reform</i> – Orlick speaks some truth to Pip and we see a change in Pip's treatment of Trabb's boy.	Marshes near London	Dramatic excitement
54 Journey down river with Magwitch	<i>Loyalty</i> – Pip becomes loyal to Magwitch	The Thames	Drama and both details
55 A walk with Wemmick	<i>Loyalty</i> – Pip stands by Magwitch at cost to his own expectations. <i>Love</i> – Wemmick's marriage	London	Comedy of errors Use of a journey to
56 Magwitch sentenced to death	<i>Loyalty</i> – Pip stays to save Magwitch. <i>Love</i> – Pip's love for Estella and his rejection of Magwitch.	The prison	Use of harsh conditions to change
57 Pip is nursed by Joe	<i>Loyalty</i> – Joe to Pip. <i>Love</i> – Joe's love of Pip. <i>Moral reform</i> – Pip is going to beg Joe's forgiveness.	London	Use of language to show growth
58 Pip's hopes dashed	<i>Expectations</i> – all Pip's expectations are dashed. <i>Forgiveness</i> – from Joe and Biddy. <i>Hypocrisy</i> – of Pumblechook.	Gargery house	Loose ends Reconciliation of a novel.
59 Eleven years later	<i>Love</i> – Pip and Estella leave each other in each other's hands.	Gargery house and Satis House	Fairy-tale happy ending to decide

Extension Task

The summaries are brief. Add your own ideas, thoughts, reactions and notes to the notes on the

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Character Summary Table

Character	Brief description	Key quotation	Language used to present them
Pip	Pip is happy with his lot in life until meeting Estella. It is she who makes him aware of his class and comparatively low status in society. This alters his own opinion of himself, leading to discontent and unhappiness.	<i>'I set off on the four-mile walk to our forge; pondering, as I went along, on all I had seen, and deeply revolving that I was a common labouring-boy; that my hands were coarse; that my boots were thick; that I had fallen into a despicable habit of calling knaves Jacks; that I was much more in debt than I had ever admitted myself last night; and generally that I was in a low-lived bad way.'</i>	Written in the first person by the older Philip Pirrip looking back at this period in his life with the virtue of hindsight. This shows Pip's development as a character as he grows up physically and morally. The older view of his younger self adds an extra level to the narrative, but we also have access to Pip's thoughts and feelings as a young man.
Joe Gargery	Joe is good and loyal. This is a strength but also a weakness as it allows him to be hurt.	<i>'He was a mild, good-natured, sweet-tempered, easy-going, foolish, dear fellow,—a sort of Hercules in strength, and weaker in weakness.'</i>	Joe's own speech uses dialect spelt phonetically to show his simple, honest and uneducated nature. This contrasts with Pip. Dickens unfailingly describes Joe in a way to elicit the reader's sympathy.

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Character	Brief description	Key quotes	Language used to present them
Mrs Joe	Mrs Joe is violent and critical to Pip and her husband. She is shown to have a strong moral growth in the story.	<i>"She made it a powerful merit in herself, and a strong reproach against Joe, that she wore this apron so much."</i>	She is assigned words such as 'snappishly' and suspected to wash with 'nutmeg grater'. The way she speaks is seemingly always angry except when in company and at the end of her life.
Biddy	Biddy changes from a somewhat unkempt orphan into an astute and caring character as she moves into the Gargery house and eventually marries Joe.	<i>"Are you quite sure you WILL come and see him often?" asked Biddy, stopping in the garden path and looking up at the stars with a clear and honest eye.'</i>	Biddy's words are used to show how Pip has changed. She is educated to a degree. As the novel progresses her language shows her critical nature towards Pip but also her caring nature.
Magwitch	Magwitch's journey is from lowly prisoner to wealthy farmer in Australia and back to lowly prisoner again. Despite the change in his fortunes, he can never become a gentleman so makes Pip one instead.	<i>'I am not a-going fur to tell you my life, like a song or a story-book... I'll put it at once into a mouthful of English. In jail and out of jail, in jail and out of jail, in jail and out of jail... That's my life pretty much, down to such times as I got shipped off, arter Pip stood by my friend.'</i>	Dialect used, as with Joe, to show his lack of education and class. His own story and words contrast with Pip's reactions to him and increase the reader's sympathy for him as well as causing Pip to change his attitude.

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Character	Brief description	Key quotations	Language used to present them
Compeyson	Compeyson is depicted as a villain but shows a mercurial nature and is the subject of Magwitch's revenge.	<i>'He's a liar born, and he'll die a liar.'</i>	Words of menace and threat. Some argue that his presentation is melodramatic.
Miss Havisham	Miss Havisham is jilted so stops time and seeks to take revenge on men by bringing Estella up to break men's hearts, but she regrets this as Estella cannot love. She lies and remorseful.	<i>'I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers; and no brightness came out the bride, but her sunken features... the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and... the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone.'</i>	Our first meeting with Miss Havisham is full of language related to decay and stasis. Her tone is cold and manipulative. Many argue she is more a symbol than a rounded and full character. We learn much about her story from other characters.
Estella	Estella is the product of her upbringing when adopted by Miss Havisham and encouraged to be cold and show no feelings.	<i>"You must know, said Estella, once she had to me, a beautiful and brilliant woman might, "that I have no heart."</i>	Her beauty and pride are emphasised in the choice of language to describe her and her words. By the end of the novel her beauty has faded but she has her arrogant pride. Her full story is told to us by Jaggers and Pip's own ideas.

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Character	Brief description	Key quotation	Language used to present them
Herbert Pockets	Herbert Pockets is a good friend of Pip and one in whom he can confide despite their fight when they first meet.	<i>'Herbert had a frank and easy way about him.'</i>	Always presented in a favourable light, even in defeat in the fight. His role is to be a foil to Pip – a dreamer, but one Pip can help. He is also a device giving the reader information and takes on as narrator to do this.
Jaggers	Jaggers is a lawyer who acts as a means of filling in the story and allowing the theme of crime and punishment to develop with his constant house washing and his professional manner.	<i>'I embrace this opportunity of remarking that he washed his client, as if he were a statue, or a knight. He had a closet in his room, fitted up for the purpose, which smelt of the... soap like a perfumer's shop.'</i>	Jaggers' physical features are described as sharp and the language when we first meet him is formal and legal. His 'office' is dismal and he throws his client with 'extreme indifference' and never laughs. This contrasts with his conviviality when Pip goes to dinner with him.
Wemmick	Jaggers' clerk, but befriends and helps Pip and has a dual nature of the brisk professional clerk and the ingenious house designer.	<i>'By degrees, Wemmick got harder and dryer as we went along and his mouth tightened in' his office manner.'</i>	There is a clear contrast made in the choice of language when he is at home and in the office, shown by this quotation. Comedy – Wemmick is a comic character as shown by his marriage and the eccentric nature of his house.

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Character	Brief description	Key quotations	Language used to present them
Orlick	Orlick is a brooding presence in the novel, often seen as the embodiment of evil.	<i>'the fiend'</i>	Orlick is often associated with strength, darkness and evil.
Uncle Pumblechook	A comic character, as suggested by his name, but is presented as a bully and a hypocrite.	<i>'... with a mouth like a fish and hard staring eyes.'</i>	Not a complete character but his words contrast with his bullying behaviour. He is essentially a comic character who never learns.
Mr Wopsle	Also a comic character but warmer and less of a hypocrite than Pumblechook.	<i>'... had a deep voice which he was inclined to be only proud'</i>	His own words show him to be full of 'hot air' and false pretensions.
Drumfire	An idle and foolish fellow who marries Estella and uses violence against her.	<i>'the spider'</i>	Compared to a spider makes him seem creepy and even predatory.

Task: Dickens loves to play with his choice of names. In groups, spend five minutes brainstorming the characters?

Chapter summary extension task:

Add your own ideas, thoughts, reactions and notes about the characters to the table.



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Revision Activities

Test your knowledge!

Task 1: How well do you know the book? Answer these questions to find out. (AO1)

1. Why was Philip Pirrip known as Pip?
2. Who is introduced as 'a fearful man all in coarse grey'?
3. List all the things Pip steals and takes to Magwitch on Christmas Day.
4. Where does Miss Havisham live? Why is the name of the house significant?
5. Where does Pip go to try to improve himself?
6. Where does Pip first meet Herbert Pocket?
7. What story did Pip tell Mrs Joe and Uncle Pumblechook of Mrs Havisham after his first visit? Why did he tell this story?
8. Describe Miss Havisham's room's appearance when Pip first meets her.
9. Describe the incident with the two pound notes. Why is it important?
10. How does meeting Estella change Pip?
11. Who is to be Pip's guardian when he moves to London?
12. Who is to be Pip's tutor when he moves to London?
13. Name the students who study with him.
14. What play does Pip go to see Mr Wopsle in?
15. Describe Wemmick's house.
16. Put these events in the correct order:
 - a) Pip tries and fails to rescue Miss Havisham from a fire.
 - b) Pip acquires a boat.
 - c) One stormy night, Pip is visited by a stranger we later learn is Magwitch.
 - d) Pip goes to the theatre again and Compeyson is here for the first time having been sitting behind him.
 - e) Pip goes to see Miss Havisham and accuses her of misleading him about the source of his wealth.
17. Who rescues Pip from Orlick?
18. How do they plan to escape with him away from England?
19. How does Estella die?
20. Where does Magwitch die?

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Quotations, quotations, quotations! (AO1/2)

Knowing some good quotations will ensure that your essay stands out from the crowd as you will be able to provide evidence for your analysis. Learning quotations takes effort – one or two a day, however, will soon build up into a good list of quotations which merely tell the story.

Here are some to start with:

... knowing how she had to have a hard and heavy hand, and to be much in the habit of laying it upon her husband as well as upon me, I supposed that Joe Gargery and I were both brought up by hand.

This is a good quotation because it contains:

- Mrs Joe's character
- Joe's life and character – it adds to our understanding of him
- Pip's childhood – adding to our understanding of his life
- family life
- the role of women in the novel
- humour – the play on words of 'brought up by hand' and 'understanding it'

Home had never been a very pleasant place for me because of my sister's temper but Joe had seen the best in her.

This quotation shows

the relationship between Joe and Mrs Joe, the saintliness of Joe as a character and the rejection of Joe by Pip later in his life and family life.

It was then I understood that everything in the room had stopped, like the clock and the watch.

Task 2a Write your analysis of the quotation.

Extension Task

Look at the quotations below and write your analysis for each one.

'I took her hand in mine and we went out of 'her room' place...' (Chapter 59)

'His mouth was such a post office of a mouth that he had a mechanical appearance of smiling' (Chapter 59)

Task 2b - Revision Challenge

Find 20 quotations from the novel which cover a range of themes and characters. Put the quotation onto one of the cards.

You can do this in groups and share the work as a class! You should already have a good number underlined in your copy of the novel.

Annotating the text (AO2)

Look at the example below of a passage from the book which has been annotated.

Chapter 39, where Pip realises the truth



Words used to show his pain as if it were physical, not emotional.

Use of the word 'mere' suggests illusion. 'Mere' adds to the sense that his feelings have no substance.

Miss Havisham's intentions towards me, all a mere dream. I only suffered in Satis House as a convenience, as a model with a mechanical heart to practise on when no other model was available. Those were the first sorrows I had. But, sharpest and deepest convict, guilty I knew not what crimes, and liable to whom not thinking, and hanged at the Old Bailey door.

Use of first person ensures we understand that we are seeing Pip's thoughts as he recalls this time as a young man, but it is also a moment of revelation and realisation for the younger Pip. First person allows us to see this from his point of view.

Reminders of the opening of the novel and show Pip's disgust of Magwitch.



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Task 3a

Now do the same with this paragraph, which comes soon after the one above:



Crowding up with these reflections came the reflection that I had seen in the face of a desperately violent man; that I had heard that other convict reiterate that I had seen him down in the ditch tearing and fighting like a wild beast. I brought into the light of the fire, a half formed terror that it might not be him in the dead of the wild solitary night. This dilated until it filled the candle and go in and look at my dreadful burden.

Task 3b

Write a short paragraph, based on your annotations, to explain how Dickens shows Pip's fear in the text.



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Task 4a:

Now try with a longer passage. Annotate this passage.

"So proud, so proud!" moaned Miss Havisham. "I have never seen her grey hair with both her hands.

"Who taught me to be proud?" returned Estella. "Who praised me when I learnt my lesson?"

"So hard, so hard!" moaned Miss Havisham, with her former action.

"Who taught me to be hard?" returned Estella. "Who praised me when I learnt my lesson?"

"But to be proud and hard to me!" Miss Havisham quite shrieked, as she stretched out her arms. "Estella, Estella!"

Estella looked at her for a moment with a kind of calm wonder, but was not otherwise disturbed; when the moaning ceased, she said:

"I cannot think," said Estella, raising her eyes after a silence "why you should be so unreasonable when I come to you, and their causes. I have never been unfaithful to you or your schooling. I have never shown any weakness that you could have reproached me with."

"Would it be weakness to return my love?" exclaimed Miss Havisham. "Pshaw! yes, yes, she would call it so!"

"I begin to think," said Estella, in a musing way, after another moment of calm wonder, "that I almost understand you now, and had never let her know that there was such a purpose in it – if you had done that, and then, for a purpose, had wanted her to understand the daylight and know all about it."

Miss Havisham, with her head bowed, was, as, sat making a low moaning, and swaying herself on her chair, but made no answer.

"Or," said Estella, "which is a nearer case – if you had taught her, from the dawn of her intelligence, with your own hand, the daylight, but then, for a purpose, had wanted her to take naturally to the daylight and she could not do it, you would have been making her an enemy."

Miss Havisham sat listening (or it seemed so, for I could not see her face), but still made no answer.

"So," said Estella, "I must be taken as I have been made. The success is not mine, the failure is not mine, but I am what I am."

Some suggestions to start you thinking:

- Why does Dickens use so much direct speech here?
- Why is the word 'proud' repeated so often?
- Look at the words used to describe Miss Havisham's behaviour and the sounds she makes and consider what they tell you about her.
- Look at the ways Dickens uses language to show that Estella is the product of Miss Havisham's upbringing and what this tells you about her.
- For what might 'daylight' be a symbol?

Task 4b

Write a paragraph to explain how Dickens presents Estella as cold and unfeeling in the passage above.

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Key areas to revise – a summary and

Themes

Key themes are:

- Class and social position
- Ambition and expectations
- Crime, guilt and punishment
- Violence
- Family and love
- Loyalty and integrity

Characters

Key characters are:

- Pip
- Joe
- Mrs Joe
- Biddy
- Magwitch
- Miss Havisham
- Estella
- Jaggers
- Wemmick
- Herbert Pocket

Style

Key features are:

- Use of first person narrative
- Use of irony
- Use of symbolism
- Characterisation
- Description
- Use of language
- Humour
- Writing style
- Romanticism
- Well-known

Context

Published in 1860/1

- The Industrial Revolution was well advanced
- Social mobility – new class of people being able to move up the social scale more possible
- Victorian attitudes to punishment included the use of fetters and deportation to Australia
- Education was not available to all and children were often treated cruelly
- There was no welfare state and work was seen as a duty

Task 5

CHALLENGE:

As a class, divide into groups and choose a character. Context, language and style.

Think about:

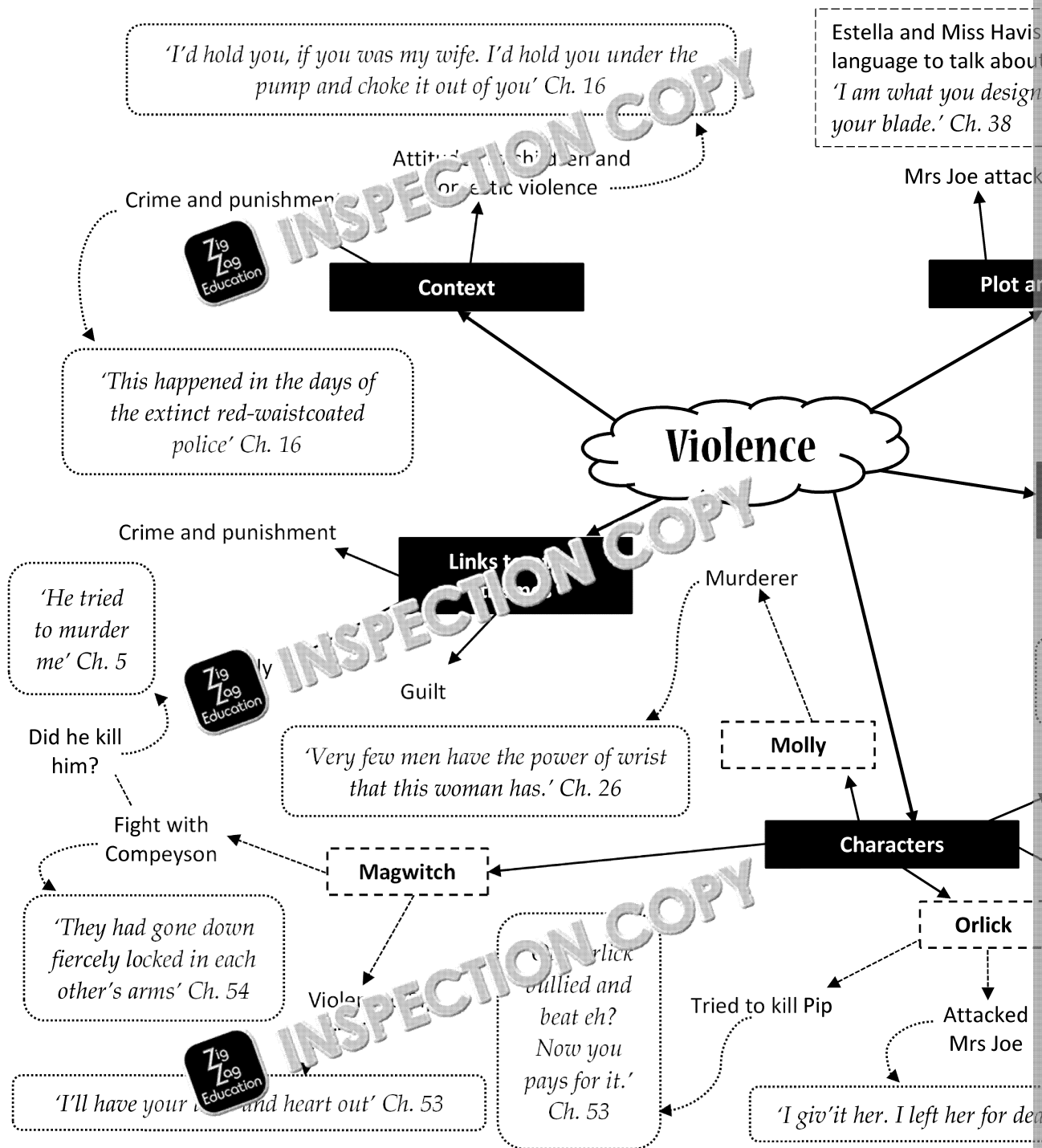
- what characters do or say which is significant
- where the action takes place
- how characters interact
- how Dickens' own style and language is used
- how the plot adds to our understanding

There is an example on the next page.

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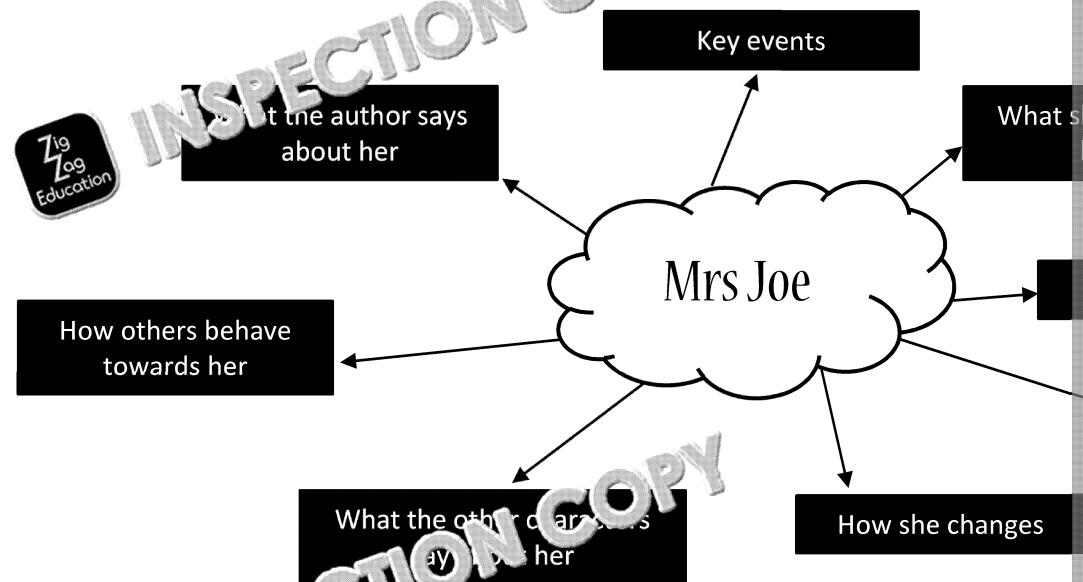




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Here is a template for the character of Mrs Joe for you to complete and add some suggestions of quotations



Quotations:

- *My sister was 'unjust to me', brought me up 'by jerks' and 'made me sensitive'. Chapter 8*
- *'... she had brought me up "by hand" ... and knowing her to have a hard and heavy hand and to be upon me...' Chapter 2*
- *'She's a fine figure of a woman.' 'I am dead afeerd of going wrong in the way of not doing what's right'*
- *"'Like you, you fool" said she to Joe, "giving holidays to servants like that." Chapter 15*
- *'Her temper was greatly improved and she was patient.' Chapter 16*

Other ideas

- She is never given her own name by the author – why?
- She brings Pip up to take money he earns, punish him with a cane and scold him for it
- She always wears an apron and cleans the house – what is the importance of this?
- She is at the end of the novel by Orlick.
- Pip lies to her about Miss Havisham.

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Exam Preparation Activities

Context (AO3)

Remember, context includes:

- Life at the time when the novel was written, such as the effect, in this case, that had on the society in which this novel is set.
- The author and his particular life and concerns. Dickens was a social reformer published in episodes.
- The literary genre. This is a novel, written in the first person, which draws on Gothic and Romantic.
- Context helps us to understand the novel better.

Context is not just starting an essay with a paragraph about Dickens' life or merely details. Also be careful to avoid generalisations such as 'there were a lot of poor people'. **You need to relate context to the text and it should be integrated into your essay. Context informs your understanding of the ideas of the novel.**

For example:

Mrs Joe has not only taken her husband's second name, Gargery, as was expected, but her first name. In not using her own name, Dickens is presenting her as a less warlike figure, and the reader of the status of women in marriage in Victorian times.

and:

The opening of the novel is set in a graveyard, a traditionally Gothic setting which gives the meeting with Magwitch with greater horror. The scene started up from an almost ghost-like.

Quotations and textual reference (AO1)

Remember, you must support what you say from the text by

- citing an episode in your own words (but be careful not to simply tell the story)
- using a quotation from the text

Quotations should be *integrated* into your own writing and analysed.

For example:

Joe is presented as a sympathetic character with 'his combination of strength and morality'. Mrs Joe, we are told, lashes out at him and throws things at him, but instead he continues to tell Pip that she is a good woman, and accepts her outbursts without retaliation.

Quotations should be short and used to show your understanding and response to relevant to the essay question you are answering.

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Analysis of a writer's technique (AO2)

This can be:

- An analysis of language – but it is not enough just to recognise a simile, metaphor without saying why the writer has chosen it and what effect it has.
- A comment on the structure of the novel – this might include looking at where it relates to the rest of the novel or what comes before or immediately after.
- Consideration of characterisation, such as a comparison between two characters.

You should use technical language, but this alone does not get you extra marks. You are trying to create a particular response in the reader by the way he writes.

For example

Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure in the opening chapter of the novel. He is a 'coarse, grey man' which gives him the aura of a ghost, in the sense that he is among gravestones, but also he is 'coarse', which could suggest uncouth or rough. This frightening picture is added to by the fact that immediately on his appearance, Pip has been looking at the graves of his dead parents, which both makes him vulnerable and evokes the idea of death and ghosts.

Task 1

Look at this paragraph from an essay 'How is Joe presented in the novel and what does this tell us about the social conditions of the time?'

- a) Why is this not a good example of how to write an essay? Be specific.
- b) Can you rewrite it so that it would score more highly in an exam?

Dickens published this novel towards the end of the Industrial Revolution. Joe is a simple man. Dickens wants us to feel sympathy for him. Joe was a fair man. This is how Dickens introduces Joe to the reader. The word 'fair' as an adjective for a blacksmith and later Pip becomes an apprentice to him. He is married to Pip's mother. Pip up because in Dickens's time that was what happened if a child was an orphan.

Answer the question

- You must know the novel well enough to answer any question set. DO NOT try to force an answer and simply try to make them fit.
- There will always be an extract to use as a starting point.
- You will then be asked to look at the subject, theme or character in the novel.
- There is no one way to answer the questions. You can tackle the extract and combine the extract with your wider comments. BOTH are acceptable.
- You must pay attention to the AOs. Have you shown that you have read, understood and responded to *Great Expectations* (this is not done by merely learning what other people have said about your own engagement with this complex and fascinating novel!)? Have you used good, appropriate quotations? Have you written about how language, form and style affect you as a reader? Have you shown how understanding context helps you understand the novel? Is your writing in a suitably formal style and accurate? Have you answered the question?

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Task 2

Look at the question below and highlight the key words in the question, and the which follows which best describes what you are being asked to do.

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how far you think Dickens presents Mr Magwitch as a sympathetic character.

- How is Magwitch presented by the author in this extract?
- How is Magwitch presented in the rest of the novel?

In this question you are being asked to:

- tell the story of what Magwitch does to help Pip
- look at the extract with this character and say what he is like
- consider how the reader responds to Magwitch because of the way Dickens changes during the novel. Is he a character we can sympathise with?
- show how Magwitch is seen as unsympathetic



TOP TIP

Taking time to read the question carefully is vital if you are going to answer under pressure to misread a question.

Task 3

Write your own summary of what you are being asked to do in this question:

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how far you think violence is an important part of the novel.

- How is violence presented by the author in this extract?
- How is violence presented in the rest of the novel?

Planning your essay

Once you are sure what the essay question is asking for, you need to plan your answer.

There is no right way of doing this: some people favour mind maps or spider diagrams, others prefer a list format. Whichever you choose, you must:

- ensure you are answering the question
- ensure you deal with both bullet points
- ensure you are meeting all the assessment objectives

Remember that everything you say in an essay needs to be supported and analysed with evidence from the text. Your plan should show how you will do this.

Here is one strategy for planning an essay:

- To begin, **underline the key words** in the question. This will help you get an idea of what the question really means and what the examiner is looking for.
- Note down any **initial ideas** that come to your head.
- If the question is accompanied by a passage from the text, skim-read it and then read it thoroughly.
- Highlight or underline parts of the text that relate to the question. Try to include these in your answer. If you use quotes from outside the passage remember to include them in your points.
- Use a spider diagram or bullet points to organise your ideas. This should be a mix of text and your ideas.
- Remember that you only have a set amount of time to write this essay. If you use a spider diagram, write your points in the order that you would like them to be in your essay.
- Do not spend too much time planning! Spend only around 5–10 minutes on planning. Make sure you have enough time to write a decent answer and check over it at the end.

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Sample plan of an essay on Pip

Section 1: The Famous Graveyard Scene

- Using your language table from earlier (Dickens' Language: The Graveyard Scene) to create a PEE form.

Example

Point	Evidence	Technique
Dickens uses pathos to create sympathy for Pip	'I never saw my father or my mother'	Thematic
Dickens uses pathos to create sympathy for Pip in phrases such as 'I never saw my father or my mother'		Thematic
Dickens uses pathos to create sympathy for Pip in phrases such as 'I never saw my father or my mother'		Thematic

- Now select techniques from the rest of your table to include in your essay.

Remember, your own techniques and examples will make your essay much more interesting and you will receive a better grade.

Section 2: Life at the Forge

- As in Section 1, take evidence from your table Dickens' Language: The Forge.

Example

Point	Evidence	Technique
Dickens uses wordplay and an ironic metaphor to create sympathy for Pip	'She brought me up by hand'	Thematic
Dickens uses wordplay and an ironic metaphor to create sympathy for Pip		Thematic
Dickens uses wordplay and an ironic metaphor to create sympathy for Pip		Thematic

Section 3: Linking Evidence

If you have already done so, use this section to link in Dickens' era with his character. For example:

- His interest in children – vulnerable, at the lowest social level, orphans, punished.
- Work – with his early experiences in mind, is it any wonder he wanted Pip to work?
- Novels – Victorian readers did not expect to be exposed to violence in books, so humour can be times when the reader may have been feeling anxious about Pip. What moral does this novel teach?

Section 4: Sympathy for Pip

Discuss how these early scenes have influenced the reader to feel any sympathy for Pip for the rest of the novel.

Extension tasks:

- You could also explore the effect of Estella and Miss Havisham upon Pip. Focus on the 'knaves' and 'thieves' which changed Pip's entire future.
- Including other quotes from the novel which you have found independently will make your essay more likely to receive a better grade.

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Task 4

Write an essay plan in answer to the following question:

I took Joe by the coat-cuff and conducted him into Miss Havisham's presence. She and looked round at us immediately.

"Oh!" said she to Joe. "You are the husband of the sister of this boy?"

I could hardly have imagined dear old Joe looking so unlike himself or so like some one he did, speechless, with his tuft of hair ruffled, and his mouth open, as if he were

"You are the husband," repeated Miss Havisham, "of the sister of this boy?"

It was very embarrassing; but, throughout the interview Joe persisted in addressing

"Which I mean to say, Pip," Joe now observed in a manner that was at once expressive of strict confidence, and great politeness, "as I have married your sister, and I would call (if you were anyways inclined) a single man."

"Well!" said Miss Havisham. "And you have reared the boy, with the intention of making him what is that so, Mr. Gargery?"

"You know, Pip," replied Joe, "as you and me were ever friends, and it were looked calculated to lead to larks. Not but what, Pip, if you had ever made objections to the open to black and sut, or such-like – not but what they would have been attended to

"Has the boy," said Miss Havisham, "ever made any objection? Does he like the trade?"

"Which it is well beknown to yourself, Pip," returned Joe, strengthening his former confidence, and politeness, "that it were the wish of my own heart." (I saw the idea he would adapt his epitaph to the occasion.) He went on to say) "And there were and Pip it were the great wish of my heart!"

It was quite some time to endeavour to make him sensible that he ought to speak more made faces and gestures to him to do it, the more confidential, argumentative, and so on. Me.

"Have you brought his indentures with you?" asked Miss Havisham.

"Well, Pip, you know," replied Joe, as if that were a little unreasonable, "you yourself and therefore you know as they are here." With which he took them out, and gave them to me. I am afraid I was ashamed of the dear good fellow – I know I was ashamed of stood at the back of Miss Havisham's chair, and that her eyes laughed mischievously

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how the relationship between Joe and Pip changes throughout the novel.

- How is the relationship presented in this extract?
- How does the author show the changes in the relationship throughout the novel?



TOP TIP In your plan, include the context and examples you will use in answer to the question.



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Writing an introduction

Task 5

Look at the three introductions to the essay below. Which is better, and why? Write your answer in the space below the other two?

1. Joe is Pip's sister's husband who has helped to bring him up. He is a blacksmith who works for him. Pip leaves Joe to go to London but Joe looks after Pip later when he returns. He marries Biddy when his wife dies. Joe and Pip have a good relationship and then gets better again.
2. The relationship between Joe and Pip is an important part of the novel as it represents the domestic side of the story as well as contributing to our understanding of the class system. This extract is taken from the first part of the novel and shows Joe and Pip at this stage as Joe is asked to present the details of Pip's apprenticeship. Joe's relationship undergoes many changes but Joe's attitude to Pip and his love for him is constant, allowing Dickens to make a clear statement about the nobility of a person's origins.
3. Dickens published *Great Expectations* in 1860 towards the end of the Industrial Revolution. He was born in 1812 and wrote this story about Pip, who is an orphan, being brought up by his sister and her husband Joe. He has a mysterious benefactor and moves to London.

Writing a main body

The main body of your essay will be a collection of **paragraphs**, each paragraph containing a point, evidence and explanation. This will make your essay easy for the examiner to follow and will also help you to refer back to your plan at this stage. You should have already planned your paragraphs to include.

The last sentence of your paragraph should have a transitional link to connect it to the next paragraph.

Be careful that when writing, your essay doesn't become too bullet-point-like; we want you to write in full sentences. Try to follow the structure above but try using embedded quotations and connectives like 'likewise'.

You should spend the majority of your time on this part of your essay.

PEE

A good way of structuring the main body of your essay is using the PEE structure.

You may already have come across PEE as it is incredibly helpful at GCSE level in many subjects. It is a skill that you use the **point evidence explain** skill in order to give structure to your answers. You should write in detail on a topic or aspect of a text.

P: POINT – a point or statement is made.

E: EVIDENCE – a quotation from the text is provided to back up your point.

E: EXPLAIN – a further comment is made on your point. You should also explain the significance of the point.

Here is an example:

What are the reader's first impressions of Miss Havisham?

P: The first impression is that Miss Havisham is initially frightened of Miss Havisham.

E: 'Not even the withered bridal dress on the collapsed form could have looked so like a shroud. So she sat, corpse-like, as we played cards.'

E: This use of morbid and gloomy imagery creates a frightening atmosphere for the young Pip.

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You can see how the PEE skill forms the basis of a paragraph. In order to make a paragraph include more of your ideas using PEE.

Here is an example of how a longer answer would gradually form from an extended paragraph. The reader is initially frightened of Miss Havisham.

'Not even the withered bridal dress on the collapsed form could have looked so like a shroud. So she sat, corpse-like, as we played cards.'

This use of witchy, mysterious, and supernatural imagery creates a frightening atmosphere in the eyes of the young Pip.

- P: The mysterious and frightening atmosphere is continued with:
- E: *'I saw that within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and the brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes.'*
- E: Here, Miss Havisham is compared to a skeleton; this is not only suggestive of her terrifying and mysterious countenance when Pip first meets her, but also of her death.
- P: Our first impressions of Miss Havisham are also that she belongs to the upper classes.
- E: *'She was dressed in rich materials – satins, and lace, and silks- all of white.'*
- E: These rich materials were affordable only to the higher classes.
- P: The difference in class between Pip and Miss Havisham is furthered with the contrast between their hands.
- E: *'And what coarse hands he has! And what thick boots!'*
- E: As a blacksmith's son, Pip is restricted to his 'thick' workman's boots. This contrasts with the fine materials she is a worker. His rough appearance is amplified by the appearance of her fine materials.

PEE tips

To improve your standard of writing, try the tips when using the PEE skill:

- Where to begin? Make sure you read the question thoroughly. If an example is helpful to read this can help you think of any points you might want to include in the question. The relevance of these points.
- People often use lengthy quotes when providing evidence from the text to support their point. If the quote is entirely relevant to your point, try to avoid doing this! The marker will be looking for quality, not the quantity!
- To make your answer more sophisticated, try embedding your quotations. This makes the PEE structure less visible. For some people, embedding quotations can be difficult for you, you might want to try practising this.

Writing a conclusion

Like your introduction, your conclusion should be one short, clear and concise paragraph. It should summarise your key points and findings and once more refer back to the question.

Task 6

Is this a good conclusion to the essay above? Can you improve on it?

Great Expectations is a great book to read, though it is rather long. In the story, Pip and Estella have a relationship, but this goes wrong for a while. By the end of the book they are a lot of lessons.

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Task 7

Your own style and spelling and grammar matter. You need to use **critical language**, as well as ensuring your own spelling and grammar are accurate. SPaG is not marked but is important because it can impede meaning and make you look careless.

Look at this paragraph and rewrite it so that it a) uses correct spelling and grammar and c) includes suitable critical vocabulary as appropriate.

This extract shows us that Pip is beginning to feel ashamed of Joe. There relationship admits, 'I am afraid I was ashamed of the dear good fellow – I know I was ashamed of the word 'ashamed' twice with Joe, as that he really did feel ashamed and the relationship makes it stronger. The reason for the change is made clear as Pip says, 'when I was back of Miss Havisham's chair, and that her eyes laughed mischievously.' It is clear in effecting how Pip feels. Pip starts to grow apart from Joe. He is too keen to point out Joe's bad points. He forgets the loyalty Joe has shown to him. The reader, however, is out of his comfort zone so only speaks to Pip. Joe's words are dialect to show he is from Havisham, for example he says 'in my 'at'. Estella seems to want to make Pip feel the word 'mischievously' is used and the reader can see that she is too blame.

**Task 8: CHALLENGE**

How are tension and fear created in the first chapter of *Great Expectations*?

Read the extract below and underline at least three words or phrases that show tension and fear shown in the first chapter of *Great Expectations*.

At the same time, he hugged his shuddering body in both his arms—clasp-
ing himself, as it were—together—and limped towards the low church wall—
scrambling along, picking his way among the brambles that bound the green
yard, and looked in my young eyes as if he were one of the dead people,
stretching out his arms out of their graves, to get a twist upon his
arms.

When he came to the church wall, he got over it, like a man whose legs were numbed
turned round to look for me. When I saw him turning, I set my face towards home, and
legs. But presently I looked over my shoulder, and saw him going on again towards the river
in both arms, and picking his way with his sore feet among the great stones dropped into
there, for stepping-places when the rains were heavy, or the tide was in.

The marshes were just a long black horizontal line then, as I stopped to look after him;
just another horizontal line, not nearly so broad nor yet so black; and the sky was just
lines and dense black lines intermixed. On the edge of the river I could faintly make out
things in all the prospect that seemed to be standing upright; one of these was the beaver
steered—like an unhooped cask upon a pole—an ugly thing when you were near it; the
chains hanging to it which had once held a pirate. The man was limping on towards the
where the pirate came to life, and come down, and going back to hook himself up again.
turn when I thought so; and as I saw the cattle lifting their heads to gaze after him, I
thought so too. I looked all round for the horrible young man, and could see no signs of
frightened again, and ran home without stopping.

Now put your underlined words or phrases into paragraphs using the PEE structure
out of ideas, reread the paragraphs and see if you can underline any other key words.

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Remember – whichever essay you write, the following three areas **must** be covered

Form	Structure
<p>Novel (longer and more detailed than poems)</p> <p>Victorian era (readers expected happy endings that taught good morals through melodramatic characters who were good or evil)</p>	<p>Bildungsroman – story of Pip from youth to adulthood</p> <p>Many cliffhangers at the end of chapters as the original text was published in small parts in a magazine</p> <p>What Pip learns (and what morals the reader, therefore, learns)</p> <p>Effect of the first-person narrative voice (my, I) creating plentiful emotion but also bias / a one-sided portrayal of events. Can we trust Pip's point of view, especially as a child?</p>

Tips!

- ✓ In each section, also discuss the success or otherwise of Dickens' technique
- ✓ Put quotations 'mid sentence' rather than at the end of a point before inserting
- ✓ Ensure that each quotation is analysed. Think of the marks where the marks are. Different possibilities are best, e.g. it could mean this, but it could also mean that.
- ✓ Read your work back to check your expression.
- ✓ Check that you have covered form, structure and language in your essay.

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Practice Exam-style Question

Question 1

Read the following passage from when Pip encounters Magwitch for the first time.

"Hold your noise!" cried a terrible voice, as a man came creeping up from among the grave-porch. "Keep still, you little devil, or I'll cut your throat!"

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and an old rag tied around his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered and stuffed and hung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

"O! Don't cut my throat, sir," I pleaded in terror. "Pray don't do it, sir."

"Tell us your name!" said the man. "Quick!"

"Pip, sir."

"Once more," said the man, staring at me. "Give it mouth!"

"Pip. Pip, sir."

"Show us where you live," said the man. "Pint out the place!"

I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat in-shore among the alder-trees and poplars, by the church.

The man, after looking at me for a moment, turned away, and emptied his pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread. Then the church came to itself – for he had made it go head over heels before – and I saw the steeple under my feet – when the man was seated on a high tombstone, trembling, while he ate the bread ravenously.

"You young fellow," said the man, licking his lips, "what fat cheeks you ha' got."

I believe they were fat, though I was at that time undersized for my years, and not at all fat.

"Darn me if I couldn't eat em," said the man, with a threatening shake of his head.

I earnestly expressed my hope that he wouldn't, and held tighter to the tombstone to keep myself upon it; partly, to keep myself from crying.

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure.

You should look at:

- how Magwitch is presented as a terrifying figure by Dickens in this extract
- how Magwitch is presented as a terrifying figure by Dickens in the whole text

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Question 2

Read the following passage from when Pip is making his way to the kiln to meet the

It was a dark night, though the full moon rose as I left the enclosed lands, and passed beyond their dark line there was a ribbon of clear sky, hardly broad enough to hold minutes she had ascended out of that clear field, in my mind the piled mountains of

There was a melancholy wind, and the hillsides were very dismal. A stranger would have been deterred, and even to me they were so oppressive that I hesitated, half inclined to go back. But I could not, and could have done so only on a far darker night, and had no excuse for returning there again. With a reluctant inclination, I went on against it.

The direction that I took, was not that in which my old home lay, nor that in which My back was turned towards the distant Hulks as I walked on, and, though I could see of sand, I saw them over my shoulder. I knew the limekiln as well as I knew the old house apart; so that if a light had been burning at each point that night, there would have been no horizon between the two bright specks.

At first, I had to shut some gates after me, and now and then to stand still while the banked-up pathway, arose and blundered down among the grass and reeds. But after that I have the whole flats to myself.

It was another half-hour before I drew near to the kiln. The fire was burning with fires were made up and left, and no workmen were about. Hard by, was a small stream my way, and had been worked that day, as was shown by the tools and barrows that were

Coming up again to the house, I crept out of this excavation – for the rude path lay through the old sluice-house – quickened my pace, and knocked at the door with my hand. Waiting about me, not knowing how the sluice was abandoned and broken, and how the house – would not be proof against the weather much longer, if it were so even now, and how with lime, and how the choking vapour of the kiln crept in a ghostly way towards me, and I knocked again. No answer still, and I tried the latch.

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens creates tension.

You should look at:

- how Dickens creates tension in this extract
- how Dickens creates a sense of tension at different points in the whole text

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Task 1

Look at some sample paragraphs in response to the essay question above. Use the highlighters to show examples of **AO1**, **AO2** and **AO3** – the first paragraph has been

Tension is used throughout the novel by Dickens to maintain the **they would wa** **when it was published** reader's interest, not least so that. In this extract we can see how through his narrator, Pip, builds up an atmosphere as if it is a **gothic novel or mood** 'night' and the moon is 'red' and then disappears **adding to the darkness**. The writer's use of pathetic fallacy in his choice of adjective adds to the gloomy picture with which Dickens himself is so familiar, and are also described as 'oppressive' which add to the tension. Pip takes his way to the kiln surrounded by the eeriness

Dickens uses series of short paragraphs also to add to the tension of Pip's journey of isolation. Paragraph three makes mention of the 'hulks' behind him, reminding the reader of the chapter and the role played by convicts in the story, but they are in the far distance of him, so that 'there would have been a long strip of the blank horizon between

A similar type of tension is shown at the end of the second stage of the novel with Magwitch. Again, the weather adds to the atmosphere as it is 'stormy' and 'wet', words which are repeated to ensure the nature of the 'wretched' weather is emphasised. Pip is in a state of movement and calls down. Dialogue is used to add to the building suspense of the scene as the stranger is referred to as the 'stranger', thereby withholding his identity from the reader until the recognition. The recognition that it is Magwitch, a reminder of the fear he instilled, adding to the tension here, is delivered through the drama of dialogue. Pip feels the tension as he goes into the terrible weather and this stage of the novel ends with him asleep in Pip's room with the suspense of what will happen next as well as the tension of Magwitch's

Task 2

Plan and write some paragraphs for this essay of your own and use the same three paragraphs you have covered in the assessment objectives.

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Question 3

Read the following passage from Pip's visit with Wemmick to Newgate Prison before his life.

We were at Newgate in a few minutes, and we passed through the lodge where some bare walls among the prison rules, into the interior of the jail. At that time, jails were a period of exaggerated reaction consequent on a long-drawn-out doing – and which in punishment – was still far off. So, felons were not lodged and fed better than soldiers and seldom set fire to their rooms. With the excusable object of improving the flavour was visiting time when Wemmick took me in; and a potman was going his rounds with behind bars. Men were buying beer, and talking to friends; and a frouzy, ugly, dirty

It struck me that Wemmick walked among the prisoners, much as a gardener might first put into my head by his seeing a shoot that had come up in the night, and saying, there? Ah, indeed!" and also, "Is that Black Bill behind the cistern? Why I didn't look how do you find yourself?" Equally in his stopping at the bars and attending to any singly – Wemmick with his post-office in an immovable state, looked at them while taking particular notice of the advance they had made, since last observed, towards trial.

He was highly popular, and I found that he took the familiar department of Mr. Jaggers something of the state of Mr. Jaggers hung about him too, forbidding approach beyond recognition of each successive client was comprised in a nod and in his settling his with both hands, and then tightening the post office. When settling his hands in his pocket there was a difficulty respecting the raising of fees, and then Mr. Wemmick, backing insufficient money produced, said "a shilling, my boy. I'm only a subordinate.

Using this extract as a starting point, explore how Dickens presents convicts and the novel.

You should look at:

- how the convicts and the way they are treated are presented in this extract
- how convicts and the way they are treated are presented in the whole text

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My worldly affairs began to wear a gloomy appearance, and I was pressed for money. Even I myself began to know the want of money (I mean of ready money in my own pocket). I was converting some easily spared articles of jewellery into cash, but I had quite determined to abstain from any heartless fraud to take more money from my negro in the existing state of my uncle's affairs. Therefore, I had sent him the unopened book by Herbert, to hold in his own hands, as a satisfaction – whether it was a true or a false, I hardly know – in not having purchased his revelation of him.

It was an unhappy life that I lived, and its one dominant anxiety, towering over all mountain above a range of mountains, never disappeared from my view. Still, no start from my bed as I would, with the terror fresh upon me that he was discovered would, with dread, for Herbert's returning step at night, lest it should be fleeter than the evil news; for all that, and much more to like purpose, the round of things went on. In a state of constant restlessness and suspense, I rowed about in my boat, and waited,

You should be at

- how Dickens explores Pip's dissatisfaction with life in this extract
- how Dickens explores dissatisfaction as a theme in the whole text

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Question 5

Read the following passage from when Pip is recovering from his illness towards the end of the novel. Joe is the blacksmith who lives with Pip's parents and is the only person who knows where to find Joe there.

I sank back on my pillow after drinking, and the face that looked so hopefully and tenderly at me. At last, one day, I took courage, and said, "Is it Joe?"

And the dear old home-voice answered, "No, it ain't air, old chap."

"O Joe, you break my heart! I'm a-dying at me, Joe. Strike me, Joe. Tell me of my ings and outings!"

For, Joe had only laid his head down on the pillow at my side and put his arm round me, and I knew him.

"Which dear old Pip, old chap," said Joe, "you and me was ever friends. And when I was a boy for a ride – what larks!"

After which, Joe withdrew to the window, and stood with his back towards me, wiping his eyes. As extreme weakness prevented me from getting up and going to him, I lay there, penitently waiting for him! O God bless this gentle Christian man!"

Joe's eyes were red when I next found him beside me; but, I was holding his hand, and he said,

"How long, dear Joe?"

"Which you meanersay, Pip, how long have your illness lasted, dear old chap?"

"Yes, Joe."

"It's the end of May, Pip. To-morrow is the first of June."

"And have you been here all that time, dear Joe?"

"Pretty nigh, old chap. For I says to Biddy when the news of your being ill were brought by the doctor, that being formerly single he is now married though underpaid leather, but I was not a object on his part, and marriage were the great wish."

"It is so delightful to hear you, Joe! But I interrupt you in what you said to Biddy."

"Which it were," said Joe, "that how you might be amongst strangers, and that how you might be friends, a wisit at such a moment might not prove unacceptabobble. And Biddy, he says, 'without loss of time.' That," said Joe, summing up with his judicial air, "were the words Biddy say, 'without loss of time.' In short, I shouldn't greatly deceive you," Joe added, "if I represented to you that the word of that young woman were, 'without a minute'."

There Joe cut himself short, and informed me that I was to be talked to in great moderation, and to take a little nourishment at stated frequent times, whether I felt inclined for it or not, and to do all his orders. So, I kissed his hand, and lay quiet, while he proceeded to indite a letter to me.

Using this extract as a starting point, consider how Dickens presents the close relationship between Pip and Joe.

You should look at:

- how Dickens presents the close relationship between Pip and Joe in this extract
- how Dickens presents the relationship between Pip and Joe in the whole text

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Question 6

Read the following passage from when Pip visits Miss Havisham for the last time

"My name is on the first leaf. If you can ever write under my name, "I forgive her broken heart is dust – pray do it!"

"O Miss Havisham," said I, "I can do it now. There have been sore mistakes; and I am a thankless one; and I want forgiveness for a fault far too much, to be bitter with."

She turned her face to me the first time since she had averted it, and, to my amazement and my terror, she fell on her knees at my feet; with her folded hands raised to me in the poor heart was young and fresh and whole, they must often have been raised to heaven. To see her with her white hair and her worn face kneeling at my feet, gave me a shock. I entreated her to rise, and got my arms about her to help her up; but she only pressed her hands nearest to her grasp, and hung her head over it and wept. I had never seen her shed tears. In hope that the relief might do her good, I bent over her without speaking. She was now upon the ground.

"O!" she cried, despairingly. "What have I done! What have I done!"

"If you mean, Miss Havisham, what have you done to injure me, let me answer. What have I done to her under any circumstances. – Is she married?"

"Yes."

It was a needless question, for a new revelation in the desolate house had told me so.

"What have I done! What have I done!" She wrung her hands, and crushed her tears to cry over and over again. "What have I done!"

I knew not how to answer, or how to comfort her. That she had done a grievous thing to her child to mould into the form that her wild resentment, spurned affection, and wounded love knew full well. But that, in shutting out the light of day, she had shut out infinitely more; that she had secluded herself from a thousand natural and healing influences; that, her mind was diseased, as all minds do and must and will that reverse the appointed order of things; that, And could I look upon her without compassion, seeing her punishment in the ruin she had made for this earth on which she was placed, in the vanity of sorrow which had become a penitence, the vanity of remorse, the vanity of unworthiness, and other monstrous things in this world?

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents the importance of forgiveness.

You should look at:

- how the importance of forgiveness is presented by Dickens in this extract
- how the importance of forgiveness is presented by Dickens in the whole text

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Question 7

Read the following passage from the final chapter of the book when Estella and Pip meet at Satis House.

As I drew nearer, I saw it to be the figure of a woman. As I drew nearer yet, it was stopped, and let me come up with it. Then, it faltered as if much surprised, and uttered "Estella!"

"I am greatly changed. I wonder you will be so. The freshness of her beauty was all gone, but its indescribable majesty and its pride remained. The attitude of her head, I had seen before; what I had never seen before, was the once proud smile; what I had never felt before, was the friendly touch of the once proud hand. We sat down on a bench that was near, and I said, "After so many years, it is strange again, Estella, here where our first meeting was! Do you often come back?"

"I have never been here since."

"Nor I."

The moon began to rise, and I thought of the placid look at the white ceiling, which had begun to rise, and I thought of the pressure on my hand when I had spoken the last word. Estella was the next to break the silence that ensued between us.

"I have very often hoped and intended to come back, but have been prevented by many other old place!"

The silvery mist was touched with the first rays of the moonlight, and the same rays shone from her eyes. Not knowing that I saw them, and setting herself to get the better of the mist, she said, "Were you wondering, as you walked along, how it came to be left in this condition?"

"Yes, Estella."

"The ground belongs to me. It is the only possession I have not relinquished. Even little by little, but I have kept this as the subject of the only determined resistance for many years."

"Is it to be long?"

"At last it is. I am here to take leave of it before its change. And you," she said, looking at me as a wanderer, "you live abroad still?"

"Still."

"And do well, I am sure?"

"I work pretty hard for a sufficient living, and therefore – Yes, I do well."

"I have often thought of you," said Estella.

"Have you?"

"Of late, very often. There was a long hard time when I kept far from me, the remembrance away when I was quite ignorant of its worth. But, since my duty has not been incompatible with that remembrance, I have given it a place in my heart."

"You have always held your place in my heart," I answered.

Using this extract as a starting point, consider how Dickens presents the idea of self-realisation.

You should look at:

- how Dickens explores Estella's change in this extract
- how Dickens explores the idea of self-realisation in the whole text

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Question 8

Read the following passage from when Pip meets Miss Havisham for the first time

In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, I saw her face – the face I had never seen, or shall ever see.

She was dressed in rich materials – satins, and lace, and silks – all of white. Her shawl was a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had a few flowers in her hair, but no bright jewels sparkled on her neck or on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling about her. Her dress and half-packed trunks, were scattered about her. One shoe was on her dressing, for she had the other shoe on – the other was on the table near her hand – her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her bosom lay with those trunks. A handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a prayer-book, all confusedly heaped together. It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of her than might be supposed. But, I saw that everything within my view which ought to have been bright, had lost its lustre, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the funeral dress, had like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her eyes, which had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which the dress lay, was shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some ghastly waxwork at the Museum, and what impossible personage lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old churches, and in the ashes of a rich dress, that had been dug out of a vault under the church pavement, a skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me. I should have cried

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents Miss Havisham's character.

You should look at:

- how Miss Havisham is presented as a strange and unusual character by Dickens
- how Miss Havisham is presented as a strange and unusual character by Dickens

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Question 9

Read the following passage from when Pip first meets Wemmick on his arrival in London.

Casting my eyes on Mr. Wemmick as we went along, to see what he was like in the dry man, rather short in stature, with a square wooden face, whose expression seemed chipped out with a dull-edged chisel. There were some marks on it that might have been softer and the instrument finer, but which, as it was, were only dints. The character of these attempts at embellishment overruled the fact that he had given them up without an effort. I judged him to be a bachelor, from the frayed condition of his linen, and he appeared bereaved: for he wore at least four mourning rings, besides a brooch representing a tomb with a urn on it. I noticed, too, that several rings and seals hung at his belt laden with remembrances of departed friends. He had glittering eyes – small, keen, and red. He had had them, to the best of my belief, from forty to fifty years “So you were said Mr. Wemmick to me.

“No,” said I.

“I was new here once,” said Mr. Wemmick. “Rum to think of now!”

“You are well acquainted with it now?”

“Why, yes,” said Mr. Wemmick. “I know the moves of it.”

“Is it a very wicked place?” I asked, more for the sake of saying something than for

“You may get cheated, robbed, and in a word, in London. But there are plenty of people for you.”

“If there is a bad blood between you and them,” said I, to soften it off a little.

“Oh! I don’t know about bad blood,” returned Mr. Wemmick; “there’s not much blood there’s anything to be got by it.”

“That makes it worse.”

“You think so?” returned Mr. Wemmick. “Much about the same, I should say.”

He wore his hat on the back of his head, and looked straight before him: walking in the streets were nothing in the streets to claim his attention. His mouth was such a post office mechanical appearance of smiling. We had got to the top of Lamborn Hill before I knew a mechanical appearance, and that he was not smiling at all.

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents Wemmick.

You should include:

- how Dickens presents Wemmick in this extract
- how Dickens presents Wemmick in the whole text

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Question 10

Read the following passage from when Mrs Joe is introduced.

My sister, Mrs Joe Gargery, was more than twenty years older than I, and had established herself and the neighbours because she had brought me up 'by hand'. Having at the time what that expression meant, and knowing her to have a heavy hand, and to lay it upon her husband as well as upon me, I supposed that Mrs Joe Gargery and I were both

She was not a good looking woman, my sister; and I had a general impression that Mrs Joe Gargery married her husband. Joe was a fair man, with curls of flaxen hair on each side of his face, and eyes of such undecided blue that they seem somehow to have got mixed with green. He was good-natured, sweet-tempered, easy-going, foolish, dear fellow- a sort of Hercules

My sister, Mrs Joe, with black hair and eyes, had such a prevailing redness of skin that it was as if she washed herself with the nutmeg grater instead of soap. She was tall and bony, and wore a coarse apron fastened over her figure behind with two loops, and having a square iron plate stuck full of pins and needles. She made a powerful merit in herself, and a strong recommendation in her apron so much. Though I really see no reason why she should have worn it at all: and I think she should not have taking it off, every day of her life.

Joe's forge adjoined our house, which was a wooden house, as many of the dwellings of them, at that time. When I ran home from the churchyard, the forge was shut up, and the kitchen. Joe and I being fellow sufferers, and having confidences as such, Joe in that moment I raised the latch of the door and peeped in at an open window opposite to it, sitting in

'Mrs Joe has been been out a doze' and she's looking for you Pip. And she's out now.

'Is she?'

Yes, Pip, said Joe; 'and what's worse, she's got Tickler with her.'

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents Mrs Joe.

You should look at:

- how Dickens presents Mrs Joe in this extract
- how Dickens presents Mrs Joe in the whole text

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AQA GCSE Student Self- or Peer-mark

This mark scheme combines the ideas given in the AQA and the AQA mark scheme. You should use this to mark your own work or your peers' work and identify areas to improve.

		Level →	0 marks	Level 1	Level 2
		Key words →	Nothing worthy of credit	Simple, explicit	Supported and relevant
Skills to demonstrate in your work	A01	I demonstrate my knowledge of the text*			
	A01	I present an informed personal response			
	A01	I use references to the text to support my interpretations			
	A02	I analyse the methods used by the author			
	A02	I analyse the effects of these methods on the reader	If this is not done, give 0 marks for this skill.		
	A02	I use appropriate specialist terminology			
	A03	I understand the relationship between text and context			

*This does not apply to the AQA SAMs mark scheme.

Best area:

Areas to work on:

Teachers should refer to the mark schemes given on the AQA website for marking and to ensure students are marked consistently.

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Indicative Content for Practice Exam-st

Question 1

See also sample essays.

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

A01

Everything about Magwitch adds to the impression of him as terrifying:

- His physical description ('coarse', 'bearing a leg iron')
- His actions – he uses force towards Pip including turning him upside down
- His voice – 'growled' and threatens to tear Pip apart and eat parts of him
- Pip's observations are described, such as clinging onto the gravestone, which adds to the terrifying impression

A02

- Setting adds to the effect – bleak marshes and a graveyard as well as Pip being an orphan who has been looking at his parents' graves
- Animalistic language such as 'growled', 'ravenously' and the threat to tear Pip apart
- Choice of adjectives – 'terrible', 'fearful', 'coarse', 'grey' and 'growled'
- Use of first-person narrative to show Pip's terror and so ensure the reader sympathises with Pip

A03

- Gothic tradition evoked in the setting here leads to association with horror and danger
- Mention of the leg iron is a reminder of harsher treatment of convicts as well as being chained like an animal

Rest of text

- Other characters' reactions (including Pumblechook, Wopsle and Mrs Joe) to Magwitch's appearance and the soldiers in pursuit of him along with the men of the village
- Magwitch's recent escape from prison accused of attempted murder and hounded down
- Magwitch's escape is a direct parallel to the opening – he has escaped and does not recognise him at first, etc.
- Change of attitude as we learn his story and as Pip becomes more sympathetic

Question 2

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

A01

- Pip is alone in an isolated place responding to an anonymous letter – these details heighten the sense of fear
- Pip's own fear is made clear ('I was half inclined to go back')
- There are no other people around and even the cows disappear
- The only light is from the limekiln and distance from everywhere else is emphasised

A02

- Language used to describe nature such as 'the red' moon (suggests danger), 'bleak marshes', adds to a sense of mystery and tension
- Use of first-person narrative means we sense Pip's own fear
- As he runs towards the limekiln 'I quickened my pace', and the sentences get shorter, this point is emphasised
- Darkness is emphasised by the repetition of the word 'dark' and the contrast with the opening paragraph

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A03

- Mention of convicts in line 8 reminds reader of Pip's fear in the early chapters
- As in the opening chapters, a Gothic atmosphere, which would have been a feature of the time, is created to add to the tension

Rest of text

There are many examples which could be cited:

- Description of arrival at Satis House – seen through Pip's eyes as a child
- Episodic nature of the publication leads to many cliffhangers, including the revelation of the truth about the family
- Scenes involving Magwitch in the early chapters and on his return are full of tension and 'fearful' from the outset of his flight in the Thames and the bid to escape while being pursued

Question 3

See also sample essay in worked-through example below.

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

A01

- Visit to Newgate described here builds on the theme of the treatment of convicts
- Convicts are described in detail but mostly negatively
- The description of the prison shows how prisoners were kept at this time
- The mention of manacles on the wall was a reminder of their use at this time

A02

- Hyperbole – used by Dickens to mock later prison reforms but also clearly criticism of the author's own voice breaking through
- List of adjectives (Dickens likes lists!): 'Fouzy, ugly, and filthy' and depressing final adjective sums up the scene and its effect on Pip and the reader
- Use of first-person narrator means we see the world as Pip does, and he is shocked by the conditions
- Use of the metaphor 'gawd' to describe how Wemmick looks at the inmates shows recognition rather than judgement
- Wemmick's 'post-office mouth' – metaphor to show an immovable expression and how prisoners are treated in a professional light and is unmoved by them

A03

- Mention of prison reform and Dickens' use of humour to show his view
- Dickens himself spent time as a debtor in Marshalsea Prison so has some personal experience
- Shows life in a typical prison of this time when prisoners were given fewer rights and were chained. It is possible to look at how we as a modern reader view this.

Rest of text

- Magwitch – his descriptions at the beginning and on his return, his story (and how it changes) which sees him get a harsher sentence because he is not a gentleman). His return and the description of other convicts in the court scene.
- Compeyson – way he manipulates the law but is still convicted
- The people met at Jaggers' office and Jaggers' reactions, including his need to maintain his reputation. How far does he actually feel responsible? Is it a 'born to rule' fate act?

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Question 4

See also sample essays.

Answers might include the following points:

Extract**A01**

- Pip himself describes his life as 'unhappy'
- Loss of Estella has left him feeling without hope
- Realisation that his benefactor is the man that he met as a child also makes the causes him to be dissatisfied
- His expectations have been dashed and he begins to realise what he has lost

A02

- Personalisation – 'my world began to wear a gloomy appearance' – earlier he
- Clothing image picked up again in describing his hopes as a 'rag of a robe' representing his lowly status in the eyes of Estella, whom he still loves
- Images of oppression and pressure, which suggest his emotions are weighing heavily
- Image of the mountain to which his anxiety is compared – immovable, oppressive, insurmountable

A03

- Contrast with Pip setting off to London – full of hope
- Class – it is not enough to have money to make you a gentleman or to bring

Rest of text

- Miss Havisham – Satis House, but she is anything but 'Satisfied' and by the end she has tried to carry out on Pip through Estella, who has not even shown love brought dissatisfaction.
- Pip is dissatisfied with his home and lack of learning, especially once he sees
- Mrs Joe – dissatisfied with her life and being a mere blacksmith's wife and on peace after her attack
- Estella – sees that she has lost in rejecting Pip and being unable to show
- Contrast between Joe and Biddy, who are satisfied with what they have – honest work despite money never coming easily
- Opposite of the idea in the title of *Great Expectations*

Question 5

Answers might include the following points:

Extract**A01**

- Extract comes from the end of the novel and Pip has rejected Joe, but Joe reminds me of having ever been friends.' Reminder of Chapter 1. Effect of the words allies against Mrs Joe.
- 'Home voice' implies welcome despite his earlier shame of his home
- 'I kissed his hand' affection
- Prepared to do as Joe says

A02

- Joe's simple speech – shows the genuineness of his affection for Pip ('wisit', 'and me')
- Repeated use of the word 'dear' – Pip calls Joe 'dear' and Joe does likewise with Pip
- Repetition of Joe's use of the word 'friends' – suggests a mutual affection
- Line 5 – short statements used to show Pip's guilt and heightened emotion as he
- Joe
- Pip's prayer with the repetition of 'bless' again used to show his reawakened

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A03

- Joe's use of the word 'friends' reminds the reader of the opening chapters of *Great Expectations*. Biddy reminds us of the way she tells Pip that she does not believe he will keep his promise to her. Joe now regrets.
- The news was sent by letter – a reminder of Joe's lack of education and the slow pace of communication, contrasted with his speedy response, urged by Biddy, to attend at Pip's bedside.

Rest of text

- Chapter 2 – example of Joe warning Pip about Miss Joe's temper and trying to 'knock him out the door' – imperative used to show urgency to save himself
- Chapter 6 – Pip 'loved' Joe but hates lying to him, but has no such scruple about Joe's feelings
- Chapter 7 – Pip and Joe in a homely and amusing scene of Joe just recognising Pip's name and being so pleased
- Chapter 8 – Pip starts going to Satis House: 'It is a most miserable thing to be changed, but a change was made in me' – as if he is not able to control it
- As Pip is about to leave for London he fails to see the effect he is having on Joe. Joe seemed to hint to me that 'he wanted comforting, for some reason or another'
- Pip feels lonely once he knows he is leaving – the familiar for the unfamiliar
- Biddy sees Pip's rejection of Joe (who remains 'unchanged to him') 'Are you sure you will not see him often?'
- At the end of the novel the relationship is restored. Joe and Biddy name their children after him
- Pip recognises Joe's value when he tells Biddy: 'You have the best husband in the world'

Question 6

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

A01

- Miss Havisham wants, but can no longer demand, Pip's forgiveness, but Pip is not ready to forgive her.
- Pip aware of his own need for forgiveness
- Pip understands that Miss Havisham she has done to him but also to herself
- The presence of Miss Havisham is now penitent and begging to be forgiven

A02

- Pip describes his life as 'blind and thankless'. Metaphor of blindness implies that Pip is not seeing the truth about himself and his actions.
- Regret: 'What I have done, what I have done' – repetition and adverb 'despairing' 'wrung' and 'cry'
- The use of the question in the final paragraph engages the reader in the discussion of Pip's guilt.
- The repetition of 'vanities' – could imply pointlessness but also a sense of superiority over her downfall. The repetition builds up the sense of Pip's emotion as the rhetorical device of anaphora.

A03

- More-able candidates may put this scene in the context of the Lord's Prayer – 'forgive those who have sinned against us. Pip can forgive Miss Havisham because she has forgiven him too.
- The role has changed: Miss Havisham was once in control but now she is begging for forgiveness. This is a reminder of why she needed to be forgiven in the early chapters at Satis House.

Rest of text

- Joe forgives Pip for all things – the story he made up after he first visited Miss Havisham. Later he does not hold Pip's rejection of him against him but still goes to be with him
- Pip asks Joe for forgiveness but is aware he does not deserve it: 'Oh Joe, you break my heart'
- Estella shows regret but Pip never condemns her for breaking his heart
- Magwitch and Compeyson never forgive each other

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Question 7

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

AO1

- Her change in appearance shows her change in character
- She has changed in her willingness to show her emotion
- The change in Satis House has been a catalyst for other change of which it is a part and a damaging marriage, for example)
- Estella realises what she has lost in rejecting Pip

AO2

- Candidates should be encouraged to focus a great deal on the effect of the language
- The change in her has made clear: 'the freshness of beauty' has gone but its 'charm' remains – words here such as 'freshness' and 'charm' warrant comment
- 'Proud eyes' now 'softened' and 'sad' – word choice again important
- 'friendly touch' – another example of her hardness and coldness melting
- The change in the Satis House grounds seems to reflect the change in Estella
- Regret at her loss of Pip: 'I was ignorant of its worth' – again, choice of words – the word 'ignorance' suggests the opposite and a growing self-awareness.

AO3

- Estella has had an unhappy marriage but only the death of her husband could not be an option, no matter how badly your husband treated you
- Her ownership of Satis House gave her choice not often open to women
- Structurally, the comparison between Estella here and at the start of the novel both times at Satis House, although it now lies in ruins

Rest of text

- Pip is on a journey: contextual link to other books Dickens would have known – his journey is physical but also a journey of self-discovery
- Pip describes himself as 'blind' later on in the novel this implies an opening of eyes
- Miss Havisham realises the harm she has done to Estella and herself
- Pip comes to realise the wrongs of Joe and Biddy and even Magwitch
- The fall of the money and 'Great Expectations' which do not bring happiness
- Pip was misled about his benefactor, and the realisation of his actual identity and money brings about a big change of self-realisation in Pip

Question 8

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

AO1

- Detailed description of the way Miss Havisham sits
- The clothes and surroundings are described and are strange
- The fact the clothes no longer fit
- The colour of the face and faded nature of the room are strange
- NOTE the way the picture is gradually revealed as Pip takes in more and more

AO2

- The superlative, 'strangest', sets the tone
- Repetition of white
- The focus on the light from the windows which 'sparkled' and were 'splendid'

Contrasts with

- Final paragraph is not quite as it first appeared'
- Negative language: 'lost its lustre', 'withered'
- Simile: 'Like a ghastly waxwork' – combined with 'withered' and 'like a skeleton' and death
- Horror of 'dark eyes that moved and looked at me'

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A03

- No child would be sent unescorted to such a strange house and lady today. This shows how children were treated as objects.
- This was presented as Pip's opportunity to better himself, which makes the notion even stranger.

Rest of text

- The use of clocks link to Satis – or stasis perhaps – making changes, trapped
- Her name 'sham' – it is all a rejection of the world, a sham, just as the proposal
- Satis could also link to satisfaction but she has none
- The way she treats Estella and Pip and then regrets it
- At the end of the novel she is a pathetic figure, full of regret and misery, who
- Witch-like character – even dies in a fire. A spooky house, strange clothes, dark spell over Estella.

Question 9

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

A01

- Cold man, almost wooden in his behaviour
- Jewellery is connected with death
- Unemotional response to the list of serious crimes
- Pessimistic attitude towards how people treat each other
- Seems to shut himself off from what is around him

A02

- Wemmick is made to seem mechanical: a 'dry man' with a 'wooden face' as the extended metaphor dehumanises him
- 'Mechanical' – again gives him the appearance of a robot
- 'Post office mouth' – metaphor to show that he is not smiling but his lips are were. This is picked up elsewhere in the novel.
- Short responses to Pip's questions which add to the cold impression of him

A03

- Important introduction of Wemmick's cold, professional nature on our first meeting of Wemmick at home and the marriage to Miss Skiffins
- London is not presented in as bad a light here as in other works, such as Black

Rest of text

- Contrast between Wemmick at work and Wemmick at home
- Walworth Wemmick is affectionate to his aged P and Miss Skiffins – comic scene seems almost an accident
- Loyal to Pip
- Eccentric house
- Shows the professional need to conceal his real self – use of metaphor post office then descriptions of it softening as he approaches home and vice versa: 'by degrees harder as we went along'

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Question 10

Answers might include the following points:

Extract

AO1

- Mrs Joe is presented in a negative way both in terms of her treatment of Joe
- She takes pride and gains credit from others for bringing Pip up
- She complains about her life and having to wear an apron (for housework) all day
- She clearly uses physical violence against both Pip and Joe
- Pip believes she must have forced him to marry her as no one would choose to

AO2

- Contrast between Joe and Mrs Joe – Joe is fair but Mrs Joe is dark – this seems to be a reflection of their characters
- Use of dialogue – Joe warns Pip about Mrs Joe and Tickler – the cane has a name
- The description of the apron as 'coarse' with an 'impregnable' bib makes it a symbol of her cause to complain at being a working man's wife and forced to do housework. She uses it as a symbol of martyrdom, which is why she 'made it a powerful name' and 'take it off!'
- The idea she may wash herself with a 'nutmeg grater' adds to the sense of her being harsh and makes the reader to flinch a little perhaps
- 'Confidences' and 'fellow sufferers' – these words make Mrs Joe seem like they are part of the sense of their conspiracy against her.

AO3

- Mrs Joe is not untypical of women at this time with few options and unhappy marriages. Violence towards both child and husband was more acceptable then than now
- She has brought up her brother – probably not a good choice except for Pip to go to

Rest of text

- Other examples of Mrs Joe's unsympathetic character – to Orlick, for example, who is beaten and earns by Pip
- Mrs Joe's reaction to life shown by the way she behaves with Pumblechook, the blacksmith's wife and is keen to gain the advantage by Pip going to Miss Havisham
- Change after her attack – becomes more patient and milder in temper
- Her words of repentance before she dies – she becomes a much more sympathetic character
- The contrast between her character before and after the attack, and contrast with her previous happy

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Worked-through Example

Imagine that Exam-style Question 3 is the question you have in the exam:

Q3 This extract comes from Pip's visit with Wemmick to Newgate Prison before Magwitch's trial.

We were at Newgate in a few minutes, and we passed through the lodge where some bare walls among the prison rules, into the interior of the jail. At that time, jails were a period of exaggerated reaction consequent on some public wrong-doing – and which its punishment – was still far off. The prisoners were not lodged and fed better than soldiers and seldom set fire to their prisons with the excusable object of improving the flavour of the time when Wemmick took me in; and a potman was going his rounds with beer; and the yards, were full of beer, and talking to friends; and a frouzy, ugly, disorderly, depressed

It struck me that Wemmick walked among the prisoners, much as a gardener might walk among his plants. He was first put into my head by his seeing a shoot that had come up in the night, and saying, "Are you there? Ah, indeed!" and also, "Is that Black Bill behind the cistern? Why, he's been here months; how do you find yourself?" Equally in his stopping at the bars and attending to the prisoners always singly – Wemmick with his post-office in an immovable state, looked at them and they were taking particular notice of the advance they had made, since last observed, towards their trial.

He was highly popular, and I found that he took the familiar department of Mr. Jaggers, something of the state of Mr. Jaggers hung about him too, forbidding approach beyond the recognition of each successive client was comprised in a nod, and in his settling his hands with both hands, and then tightening the post office, and then putting his hands in his pockets. There was a difficulty respecting the raising of fees, and when Mr. Wemmick, backing up with insufficient money produced, said, "I'm only a subordinate."

Using this extract as a starting point, explore how Dickens presents convicts and the legal system in the novel.

You should look at:

- how the convicts and the way they are treated are presented in this extract
- how convicts and the way they are treated are presented in the whole text

Wording of the question

What are the key words?

- The key words are: 'convicts and the way they are treated', but the emphasis is on them, which is an important focus when answering the question.
- The extract focuses on a particular prison and some characters within it. Elsewhere, Dickens focuses on Compeyson and Magwitch.

Task 1: Planning your essay

1. Look at the extract and highlight anything which is relevant to this essay. Remember that the question is about convicts and the legal system are presented. This means 'How' does Dickens present them, not 'What are they like?' or 'How do we know what they are like?' There is a contrast between the two views.
2. Find two or three other examples from elsewhere in the novel – do they link to the contrast in your different view?
3. Write your plan – remember to include references from the text. You might use paragraph headings and notes – practise whichever approach suits you.
4. Look at your plan and check you have
 - answered the question
 - included Point, Example and Explanation

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Task 2

Look at the plan below and decide whether it is a good plan or not, and why. Is your plan better than the sample plan?

Sample Plan**Extract**

- Pip visits Newgate
- Comment on prisons of the time: 'At that time...' gives Pip as voice of Dickens
- Comment also made on prisons later on in his novel
- Scene is described as 'depressing' but also is being sold and prisoners were treated well
- Link with money made clear 'difficulty respecting the raising of fees'
- Link to Compeyson who got a lighter sentence as a 'gentleman'
- Negative attitude to suggest the prison (legal system) is bad

Rest of novel

- Fetters used – Magwitch needs file – link to extract where fetters are also seen
- Magwitch at start of the novel – a fearful character
- Change of view of Magwitch to greater sympathy when we learn his full story
- Jaggers' handwashing

Writing the essay**Task 3**

Use your plan to write the essay. There are two ways that you can approach the question – you can look at the extract and then the novel as a whole **or** combine the two. Both are equally acceptable to the examiners. The plan below is a suggested writing frame for this essay.

Introduction

(make sure you refer directly to the question in your introduction and remember to write between 50–75 words)

Main Body Paragraph 1 – How is Newgate Jail described, and what is Dickens' view of prisons at this time compared to his satirical comment about later reforms?

Point 1

Evidence:

Explanation:

Point 2

Evidence:

Explanation:

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Main Body Paragraph 2 – Wemmick’s relationship with the prisoners. How do they present convicts and their treatment?

Point:

Evidence:

Explanation:



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Main Body Paragraph 3 – Money, and prisoners who can or cannot afford the Compeyson’s treatment by the legal system

Point:

Evidence:

Explanation:



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Main Body Paragraph 4 – Look at one or two examples of negative language in the legal system

Point:

Evidence:

Explanation:



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Main Body Paragraph 5 – Magwitch in Chapter 1 compared to the convicts in

Point:

Evidence:

Explanation:



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Main body Paragraph 6 – How our attitudes to Magwitch change when we learn that he is a convict. Dickens uses that to affect our view of convicts and the legal system

Point:

Evidence:

Explanation:



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Conclusion – sum up the main points in answer to the question: How does Dickens use the legal system to affect our view of convicts?

- If your plan is very different you might make different points in the main body paragraphs.
- Remember your own response is important too.



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Task 4

Look at the peer review marking scheme (on p. 46) to mark your essay, or ask a peer to answer these questions:

- What did I do well?
- What could I do to improve this essay? (What do I need to do to move up a band?)

Task 5

Now read the essay below, which would score very well in a GCSE examination.

- Highlight quotations.
- Highlight other references to the text.
- Underline examples of context – remember this can include reference to other texts, help to explain the story, literary genres, historical or biographical detail and so on.
- Circle a few subject-specific language used.
- Draw a wavy line under any sections of analysis.
- List the key points made in this essay.

What makes this a top-band essay? It was written in 45 minutes, but you can only

- write with practice
- by knowing the text extremely well, including a good number of short, relevant quotations
- with good planning

Dickens presents convicts and their treatment through his use of characters, especially Magwitch but also Jaggers and Wemmick. The visit to Newgate described in the extract is another insight into the treatment of convicts at this time. Dickens himself spent time in Marshalsea Debtors' Prison, so had first-hand experience to draw on.

Convicts are presented as frightening and violent from the very start of the novel. Magwitch's like appearance as he 'started up from among the graves' and is dressed in 'coarse, grubby clothes' against the bleak landscape of the moorland, Dickens creates an atmosphere of gloom. When the reader first meets the convicts in the novel, Magwitch is a central figure in Pip's life and 'beat out his heart and liver'. The use of the word 'growled' to describe Magwitch as a wild animal. He also warns Pip of a second convict who will 'tear him open', again as a wild animal might. Dickens introduces convicts negatively to the terrified young Pip. The mention of the leg iron is a reminder of the way convicts were treated as animals at this time and the 'hulks' remind us of the punishment of deportation.

The extract builds on the picture of how prisoners were treated at this time when they were 'better than soldiers'. Dickens seems critical of later prison reform when prisons were seen as an 'excusable object of improving the flavour of the soup'. Dickens uses hyperbole to describe the conditions in prisons but seems no less critical of the conditions in prisons before the reforms. Through Pip's eyes as 'frouzy, ugly, disorderly' and 'depressing'. This list of adjectives sums up how convicts were treated.

Wemmick, however, is described as viewing the prisoners 'as a gardener might view his roses'. This seems a strange simile to me, but I think it is because Dickens is describing the way he treats them as a professional, not as a gardener cultivating them or even nurturing them. His mouth is described as 'a post office' which is a reference to his office but not in Walworth. His withdrawal from those who are in prison hints at a class-based system of justice which favours those who can pay.

Compeyson is, perhaps, not our typical view of a convict, despite his introduction as a 'foul creature'. He was educated and 'set up for a gentleman', Magwitch tells us, and yet his actions and behaviour and how, by using his gentleman status, he made the judge feel sorry for him.

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sentence than that given to Magwitch again adds to a sense of corruption. The terrible behaviour and its consequences on, for example, Miss Havisham and Est Compeyson seems like the embodiment of evil.

The novel ends with a more sympathetic view of prisoners – as Pip's attitude to causes the reader to change their attitude too. Magwitch is 'manacled' again on the 'bare wall' in the extract remind us that this was in on practice, but Mag injured. Pip does all he can to help him as his 'help' once had melted away'. 'melted' shows that this has been a big process for both Pip and the reader, but of how we feel. Magwitch is 'melted' as feeling 'affectionately, gratefully and whose arms he lies'. Again uses a list of adverbs to win our sympathy.

Dickens' focus on this novel on convicts and their treatment raises questions. Mag terrifying figure, becomes an object of sympathy, while the 'gentleman' Compe evil. The prisoners at Newgate live behind bars in 'neglected' conditions but We to money, hinting at corruption. Prisoners were held in harsh conditions and throughout the novel, reflecting attitudes to crime and criminals in the mid 18

Task 6

Now look at the annotated version of the essay below – did you spot all the features? Compare your essay to this one. What do you need to focus on to move up to the

Dickens presents convicts and their treatment through his use of characters, especially Magwitch but also Jaggers and Wemmick. The visit to Newgate described in the another insight into the treatment of convicts at this time. Dickens himself spent Marshalsea Debtors' Prison, so had first-hand experience to draw on.

- Clear introduction linked to question
- AO1 – knowledge of how extracts link to text
- AO3 – relevant and in context

Convicts are presented as frightening and violent from the very start of the novel like appearance as he 'started up from among the graves' and is dressed in 'coats against the bleak landscape of the marshes, Dickens creates an atmosphere of the reader have their first encounter with convicts in the novel. Magwitch is a Pip's life and to 'tear out' his heart and liver. The use of the word 'growled' to the metaphor of Magwitch as a wild animal. He also warns Pip of a second 'tear him open', again as a wild animal might. Dickens introduces convicts negatively terrified young Pip. The mention of the leg iron is a reminder of the way convicts animals at this time and the 'hulks' remind us of the punishment of deportation

- AO1 – well integrated and chosen quotations
- AO2/3 – context of Gothic genre used well and effect of setting analysed
- AO2 – excellent focus on writer's techniques and use of language
- AO3 – again, background knowledge used to inform understanding

The extract builds on the picture of how prisoners were treated at this time which better than soldiers'. Dickens seems critical of later prison reform when prisons excusable of improving the flavour of the soup'. Dickens uses hyperbole to prisons but no less critical of the conditions in prisons before the reforms through Pip's eyes as 'frouzy, ugly, disorderly' and 'depressing'. This list of adjectives bleakest – 'depressing' – sums up how convicts were treated.

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- AO3 – picks up Dickens' own comments
- AO2 – good analysis of technique
- AO1 – technical language used appropriately and accurately but leading to analysis

Wemmick, however, is described as viewing the prisoners 'as a gardener might seem a strange simile to me, but I think that Dickens is describing the way he treats them at Jaggers' office rather than any sense of cultivating them or even nurturing them. He treats them as a professional as his mouth is described as 'a post office' which is described at Jaggers' office but not in Wemmick's. His withdrawal from those hints at a corrupt system of justice which favours those who can pay.

- AO1 – technical language used appropriately and personal response. Good critical analysis
- AO2 – good analysis of technique

Compeyson is, perhaps, not our typical view of a convict, despite his introduction. He was educated and 'set up for a gentleman', Magwitch tells us, and yet his actions and behaviour and how, by using his gentleman status, he made the judge feel sorry for him. The sentence than that given to Magwitch again adds to a sense of corruption. The terrible behaviour and its consequences on, for example, Miss Havisham and Estella. Compeyson seems like the embodiment of evil.

- AO1 – good knowledge of the text

The novel ends with a more sympathetic view of prisoners – as Pip's attitude to Magwitch causes the reader to change their attitude too. Magwitch is 'manacled' again on the 'bare wall' in the extract remind us that this was common practice, but Magwitch is injured. Pip does all he can to help him as his 'room in the prison had melted away'. 'melted' shows that this has been a slow process, both Pip and the reader, but of how we feel. Magwitch is described as 'crawling' 'affectionately, gratefully and gratefully' whose arms he dies. Dickens uses a list of adverbs to win our sympathy.

- AO1 – good knowledge of the text and well-chosen quotations
- AO2 – very good analysis of the effect of the metaphor and list of adverbs

Dickens' focus in this novel on convicts and their treatment raises questions. Magwitch, a terrifying figure, becomes an object of sympathy, while the 'gentleman' Compeyson is evil. The prisoners at Newgate live behind bars in 'neglected' conditions but Wemmick is to money, hinting at corruption. Prisoners were held in harsh conditions and throughout the novel, reflecting attitudes to crime and criminals in the mid 18th century.

- AO1 – good conclusion which shows understanding of critical style, and the question

Sample Student Responses with Annotations

Question 1

Using this extract (p. 35) as a starting point, explain how Dickens presents Magwitch.

You should look at:

- how Magwitch is presented as a terrifying figure by Dickens in this extract
- how Magwitch is presented as a terrifying figure by Dickens in the whole text

Sample Response (Question 1)

Extract

In this extract, Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure from the moment he appears in the graveyard through the way he is described. The adjectives 'terrible' to describe him make clear the first impression that Pip gets of him. His sudden appearance 'from among the graves' makes him frightening as he appears out of nowhere and in a dark setting. He speaks to Pip in a way that would be intimidating for a young child, making demands and using imperatives to assert power over Pip: 'Hold your noise', 'Keep still' and 'Don't say a word'. His scruffy appearance not only makes him look frightening ('smothered in mud') but also suggests a life of hardship. Being 'cut... and stung... and torn' makes him terrifying because he has not been protected. Furthermore, the fact that he is dressed 'in coarse grey, with a mark on his forehead' marks him out as a convict, somebody who is excluded from society, and adds to his terrifying appearance. Dickens also describes him in an animalistic way using words such as 'growled' and 'licking his lips' like an animal might. The fact that he is alone in the graveyard makes him more terrifying because it implies that he may not have human friends or others.

Whole text

Dickens goes on to present Magwitch as a terrifying figure through much of the novel. The young Pip finds him terrifying; many others in society view him, and he represents a fearsome and intimidating figure. As an escaped convict, the thought of him is terrifying. Mr Wopsle and Pumblechook, despite the fact that they are simultaneously excited and terrified by his presence, are also terrified of him. Although not specifically Magwitch, Mr Jaggers' attitude to criminals shows how society views them. He needs them for his living but washes them off upon returning home at the end of the day, distancing himself from criminals, who otherwise might infiltrate into the private lives of the respectable.

When Magwitch first returns from Australia, he crosses exactly this boundary, and it is on a dark and stormy night. Dickens uses the weather here as pathetic fallacy to create a sense of foreboding for Magwitch's return, emphasising that he is still a terrifying figure. The way that Pip hears his footsteps on the stairs and then slowly sees him appear adds to the frightening nature of his return to his lodgings, it is clear that he still intimidates Pip, and his refusal to leave, as Pip pleads with him, increases the sense of terror. When he reveals himself to be Pip's benefactor, Pip is shocked by a mixture of disgust and fear of the future, underlining the fact that Magwitch is still a terrifying figure. When Herbert encounters Magwitch for the first time, he is uncomfortable and nervous at his introduction, suggesting that Magwitch is clearly a figure of terror.

However, once Magwitch tells Pip and Herbert his story, we realise that he is not as terrifying as he first appeared to be. The story he tells about his life reveals him to be a victim of circumstance and not a villain. Our impressions of him begin to change. During the process of planning his escape, we see how he changes too until he is genuinely devastated by Magwitch's recapture and death. By the end of the novel, we no longer see him as the terrifying figure he first appeared to be but as a man who is pitied rather than feared.

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Sample Response 2 (Question 1)

Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure in both this extract and the novel. As Pip's view changes, so does the reader's, and Magwitch becomes a focus for sympathy.

Dickens creates a Gothic atmosphere of horror in this extract, which adds to the image of Magwitch, who suddenly appears in a graveyard on the 'dark, misty marshes' as a ghost. The sense of Gothic horror is added to by the way he and his voice are described: 'growled' and 'a fearful man'. It is important to remember that Dickens presents this first-person narrative of a young boy who has been looking at the graves of his threatened with terrible punishments such as getting his throat cut and his leg cut off. Magwitch is described as 'licking his lips' as he looks at Pip's 'fat cheeks', adding a wild animalistic quality to his character about to prey upon the vulnerable Pip in an act of cannibalism. 'ravenously' adds to the image of a hungry, terrifying animal or savage who is preying on him. Pip's extreme fear completes the sense of terror as he 'held tighter to the tombstone' as symbolised by the gravestone or simply to remind us of the Gothic setting of the scene.

Dickens also shows Magwitch to be a terrifying figure elsewhere in the novel; for example, in the extract when he is captured on the marshes. Several soldiers are used, in the novel, to capture him, and the need for others to join in the chase makes Magwitch seem dangerous and terrifying figure. On his recapture, he is accused of attempted murder, a crime for which he is later convicted, who we later discover is Compeyson, and is returned to the 'hulk' surrounded by soldiers. These details make him seem violent and dangerous, and so more terrifying than even the first extract.

When Magwitch reappears in Pip's life, later in the novel, Dickens ensures that the atmosphere is still one of horror, even though Pip is now grown up. The setting and atmosphere are, once again, 'dark, misty marshes' at night time, Pip is alone and the chimes of the bell 'have been distorted by the footstep on the stair'. This could even be seen as a modern-day horror film technique. The use of the colour 'dark' is also used in Chapter 1 as here we are told 'dark, misty marshes' and 'dark, misty marshes'. 'Iron' makes me think of the leg iron in Chapter 1 and reminds me of the 'dreaded visit' which picks up the word 'fearful' from the extract. It is clear to see that Dickens is reminding us of the terrifying scene of Chapter 1 when Magwitch reappears in Pip's life.

Although Magwitch never really loses his terrifying image, Pip comes to see him as a man and so, therefore, does the reader. He tells the story of how badly he was treated and how he was treated as a very evil man, and this, along with his death in Pip's arms, means Dickens presents Magwitch as a sympathetic and vulnerable character. Magwitch was deceived into believing that the gentleman was money, but even so Pip recognises his 'generosity'. He is sentenced to death and returned to England. This may seem harsh today but was the normal punishment for a crime in Dickens' time even though Magwitch was already dying. On his death, the fear of death is replaced by words of gentleness as 'his head dropped quietly on his breast' and he dies with a 'gentle' expression.

Magwitch's first name, Abel, also makes him seem more innocent as in the Bible Abel was a victim of Cain just as Magwitch is an innocent victim of Compeyson, whose name also brings to mind the 'dreaded visit'.

Magwitch is shown as a terrifying figure by Dickens and presented with Gothic horror elements. Although violent and dangerous to Pip both as boy and young man, Dickens makes him a sympathetic character who deserves sympathy. Although we are left with the unanswered question of why Compeyson betrayed Magwitch, his final fight in the water.

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Task 1 Look at both the sample responses above against the mark scheme provided

For each essay:

- A) list what the candidate has done well
- B) list any faults you can find with the answer and how the candidate could do better
- C) decide what band you would place it in
- D) look at the annotated answers below to see how far you agree

Task 2

Plan and write some paragraphs of your own for this essay, ensuring you have covered all the assessment objectives.

Remember



1. underline key words in the question
2. plan your essay – make sure you think about PEE and what the question is asking and what your response should be related to the question.
3. write the essay – remember you can combine the two parts or tackle them separately
4. check your work very carefully for accuracy and for relevance, and make sure you have covered all the assessment objective,s including analysis and context

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Sample Response 1 (Question 1) Annotated

Extract

In this extract, Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure from the moment Pip first encounters him in the graveyard through the way he is described. The his voice and 'fearful' to describe him make clear the first impression that Pip gets of his appearance as he 'start[s] up from among the graves' and 'make him frightening as and seems to have been hiding. **AO2 – analysis of techniques is rather vague.** He would be intimidating for a young boy, making threats ('I'll cut your throat') and showing power over Pip: 'Hold up! Keep still' and 'Tell us your name'. **AO1/2 – specific language features and comment on the effect it creates.** His scruffy appearance ('frightening' and 'mud') but the idea that he has suffered being 'cut...' makes him terrifying because he has not been weakened by what he has been through. Furthermore, the fact that he is dressed 'in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg' as a convict, somebody who is excluded from society, and adds to the sense of fear. Dickens describes him in an animalistic way using words such as 'growled' to describe how he eats 'ravenously... licking his lips' like an animal might. The fact that he is described as 'fearful' makes him more terrifying because it implies that he may not have human feelings and is purely driven by instinct. **good analysis of language choice and its effect on reader – well linked to question.**

Whole text

Dickens goes on to present Magwitch as a terrifying figure through much of the novel. The young Pip who finds him terrifying; many others in society view him, and he represents, as fearsome and intimidating. As an escaped convict, the thought of him terrifies Mr Wopsle and Pumblechook, despite the fact that they are simultaneously excited by his presence. Although not specifically mentioned, Mr Jaggers' attitude to criminals suggests he needs them for his business, and sends them off upon returning home at the end of the day, distancing himself from criminals, who otherwise might infiltrate into the private lives of the wealthy. **good knowledge of text but pity there are no quotations.**

When Magwitch first returns from Australia, he crosses exactly this boundary, and it is on a dark and stormy night. Dickens uses the weather here as pathetic fallacy to create a sense of foreboding for Magwitch's return, emphasising that he is still a terrifying figure. The way Pip hears footsteps on the stairs and then slowly sees him appear adds to the frightening nature of the scene. In his lodgings, it is clear that he still intimidates Pip, and his refusal to leave, as Pip pleads with him, increases the sense of terror. When he reveals himself to be Pip's benefactor, Pip's feelings of disgust and fear of the future, underlining the fact that Magwitch is still a terrifying figure. **AO1/2 – good knowledge of text but pity there are no quotations, which would have allowed for more detailed analysis. Subject**

However, once he tells Pip and Herbert his story, we realise that he is not as terrifying as he first appeared to be. The story he tells us of his life reveals him to be a victim of circumstance rather than a villain. Our impression of him begins to change. During the process of planning his escape, Pip begins to change too. He is genuinely devastated by Magwitch's recapture and death. By the end of the novel, we no longer see him as the terrifying figure he first appeared to be but as a man who is pitied rather than feared. **AO1 – good knowledge but pity more is not made of**

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Overall comment:

This is a thoughtful and developed response worthy of level 4/5.

There is some analysis of language and the writer's methods, subject-specific language explored. Quotations from the extract are well chosen, and throughout some understanding is shown to inform understanding.

It would be a secure level 5 if it contained more specific analysis in the 'Whole text' section, using quotations to allow this. Greater analysis of the writer's understanding of structure needed.

Sample Response 2 (Question 1) Annotated

Dickens presents Magwitch as a terrifying figure in both this extract and the novel as a whole. As Pip's view changes, so does the reader's, and Magwitch becomes a focus for sympathy. **AO1 – excellent introduction which shows a good understanding of the novel as a whole and the question being asked.** Dickens creates a Gothic atmosphere of horror in this extract with the terrifying first picture of Magwitch who suddenly appears in a graveyard on the night of his escape. He is described as 'grey', like a ghost. The sense of Gothic horror is added to by the way he is described: 'a terrible voice', 'growled' and 'a fearful man'. **AO3 – good understanding of the context of the novel.** It is important to remember that Dickens presents this meeting through the first person perspective of a young boy who has been looking at the graves of his dead parents and who is then threatened with death by a man who has acted such as getting his throat cut and his liver and heart removed. **AO2 – good analysis of the writer's technique and its effect.** Magwitch is described as licking his lips as he looks at Pip, giving us a sense that he is like a wild animal who is about to prey upon the vulnerable Pip. **AO1 – personal critical response.** The use of the adjective 'hideously' adds to the sense of Magwitch as an animal or savage who is about to rip Pip apart and devour him. Pip's extreme fear of Magwitch is shown as he 'held tighter to the tombstone', perhaps fearing death as symbolised by the grave. **AO2 – final two sentences show a very good understanding of the writer's techniques and their effect on the reader.**

Dickens also presents Magwitch to be a terrifying figure elsewhere in the novel; for example, when he is captured on the marshes. Several soldiers are used, in the extract, to surround him, and the need for others to join in the chase makes Magwitch seem even more dangerous and terrifying figure. **AO3 – context well used to inform understanding of the novel.** When he is recaptured, he is accused of attempted murder by the other escaped convict, who is called Compeyson, and is returned to the 'hulk' surrounded by a guard. Both of these situations make Magwitch seem even more dangerous, and so more terrifying than ever. **AO1 – good knowledge of the novel.**

When Magwitch reappears in Pip's life, later in the novel, Dickens ensures that the atmosphere is still one of horror, even though Pip is now grown up. The setting and atmosphere are, once again, dark and scary. It is night time, Pip is alone and the chimes of the nearby clock have been distorted by the sound of his footstep on the stair. **AO1/3 – good knowledge of the text and context of the Gothic novel.**

This could even be a setting for a modern horror film as Pip hears the voice of the convict who is described as 'the colour grey reminds me of a spectre'. Here we are told of Magwitch's 'long, thin, bony leg ironed in a chain' and reminds me that Magwitch is a convict who is afraid that he will be killed. Magwitch in his room when he was asleep and refers to him as 'the old fellow'. **AO1 – good analysis of the writer's techniques and their effect on the reader.** It is clear to me that Dickens wants to create a sense of horror in the scene of Chapter 1 when Magwitch reappears in Pip's life. **AO2 – good analysis of the writer's techniques and their effect on the reader.**

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Although Magwitch never really loses his terrifying image, Pip comes to see him and so, therefore, does the reader. **AO2 – good understanding of the effect of the story of how badly he was treated by Compeyson, who is presented as a very evil death in Pip's arms, means Dickens wants us to see him as a more sympathetic Magwitch was deceived into believing that all you needed to be a gentleman was recognises his 'generosity'. He is sentenced to death because he escaped and return seem harsh today but was the normal punishment for many crimes in Dickens was already dying. AO3 – integrated context** In his death, the fearful image gentleness as 'his head dropped quietly on his breast' and he dies with a 'placid and well chosen quotations'

Magwitch's name, Abel, also makes him seem more innocent as in the Bible Cain just as Magwitch is an innocent victim of Compeyson, whose name also be used clearly to inform understanding.

Magwitch is shown as a terrifying figure by Dickens and presented with Gothic violent and dangerous man to Pip both as boy and young man, Dickens makes who deserves sympathy, although we are left with the unanswered question of why Compeyson in the final fight in the water. **AO1 – conclusion shows ability to w question and shows a good knowledge of the whole text.**

Overall comment:

This essay would be achieve a good level 6. The essay looks at the whole picture and changes the reader's view of Magwitch. There are some well-chosen quotations and Subject specific language is used wisely and accurately and the effects explored.

It would be a top mark essay if there were even more detailed analysis in the whole example of a top grade essay.

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Question 4

Use this extract (p. 39) as a starting point to explain how the author explores the theme of dissatisfaction in the novel.

You should look at

- Pip's dissatisfaction with life in this extract
- how dissatisfaction is explored as a theme in the rest of the text

Task 1

Look at both the essays below, written in answer to sample question 4. Imagine you are a teacher giving the following feedback to the pupils who have written them:

- Tell the pupils what they have done well – link what you say to the assessment objectives
- Give advice on how each essay might be improved.

As you are marking, make a note of where assessment objectives are met by writing in the margin, and underline the text.

Now compare your thoughts with a partner and discuss if you did not agree.

Sample Response 1 (Question 4)

Pip is dissatisfied because he does not have any money and Estella has married. The extract shows how unhappy Pip is when it says, 'It was an unhappy life I lived'. He did not know if he was married or not so did not read the papers.

Other characters in the book are also dissatisfied. For example, Miss Havisham was jilted by Compeyson. She spends all her time in a dark room in a yellow dress, not having a happy life.

Pip is also dissatisfied with his life. He is ashamed of Joe and Mrs Joe and wants to teach Joe but is not successful.

Mrs Joe is also dissatisfied. She thinks she spends all her time looking after Pip and that he had a better life than her.

Orlick attacks Mrs Joe because he feels he is treated unfairly so wants revenge on her with life.

The book has a lot of dissatisfaction in it and it is an important theme.

Sample Response 2 (Question 4)

As the title of the novel makes clear, expectations and hopes are an important theme. When things do not work out, expectation is replaced by dissatisfaction as hopes and dreams of actions are shown. Both the extract and other examples from the text show this theme.

Pip's dissatisfaction is clear in the extract where he describes his life as 'unhappy' when he first set off to London. He had hope when he said, 'the world lay before me' but is dissatisfied to discover that his benefactor is his benefactor and because he believes his choice of clothing makes this clear. For example, the use of the phrase 'my affairs began to wear a gloomy appearance' reminds the reader that earlier in his life at the forge and been ashamed of his cloths. Other phrases such as 'upon me' create an impression that he is weighed down as his hopes are reduced. Another image of clothing, that Estella is not married.

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Sample Response 1 (Question 4) Annotated

Pip is dissatisfied because he does not have any money and Estella has married. This shows how unhappy Pip is when it says, 'It was an unhappy life I lived'. **AO1 – but this quotation is merely repeating what has already been said, with no further analysis so he wastes his time in 'his boat'. The value of this quotation is questionable as he is married but he does not want to find out for certain if he loses hope so he does not. The writer is tending merely to tell the story.**

Other characters in the book are also dissatisfied. For example, Miss Havisham as she was jilted by Compeyson. **There is no excuse for misspelling a character's name. AO1 – lacks any depth of analysis.**

Pip is also dissatisfied with his life and is ashamed of Joe and Mrs Joe and wants to teach Joe but is not successful. **AO1 – a simple summary. Shows knowledge of the story**

Mrs Joe is dissatisfied. She thinks she spends all her time looking after Pip and that he had a better job.

Orlick attacks Mrs Joe because he feels he is treated unfairly so wants revenge with life.

The book has a lot of dissatisfaction in it and it is an important theme.

Overall comment:

This would be a level 1 response as only one of the AOs is fully met.

This candidate shows knowledge of the text and makes a point about both the extract and the question but is not focused on the question.

There is little or no evidence of AO2 or AO3 and there is a tendency to list events in a simple and direct way. **There is no specific language. There is a number of SPaG errors but no marks are awarded.**

Sample Response 2 (Question 4) Annotated

As the title of the novel makes clear, expectations and hopes are an important theme. As things do not work out, expectation is replaced by dissatisfaction as hopes are dashed. A sequence of actions is shown. Both the extract and other examples from the text show this theme. **AO1 – good introduction which shows understanding of the text and question. AO2 – response suggested by the linking of expectations with dissatisfaction.**

Pip's dissatisfaction is clear in the extract and he describes his life as 'unhappy' when he first set off to London full of hope when he said, 'the world lay before me'. **Textual knowledge and use of quotation as well as understanding of the structure of the text is shown. AO2 – No excuse for misspelling a character's name. AO3 – this is a good essay. AO4 – carefully. is his benefactor and because Estella is married. Dickens uses these images to make this clear. For example, the use of the personification 'the world lay before me' is used and analysed. 'my life and affairs began to wear a gloomy appearance' Pip had been dissatisfied with his life at the forge and been ashamed of his parents as 'pressed' settled heavily upon me' create an impression that he is weighed down. reduced to a 'rag of a robe', another image of clothing, that Estella is not interested in him. **evidence here of understanding and analysis of Dickens' techniques and their effect.****

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Pip's dissatisfaction is also linked to fear and his anxiety is compared to 'a' and again this is an oppressive image. **AO2 – interesting analysis. AO1 – well-** dissatisfied with his life at the forge after he met Estella and describes his 'that I was in a low-lived bad way.' **AO1 – good knowledge of the text.** The depressed state of mind and contrasts with the word 'great' linked to his lat **understanding of language use.** It also tells us that he belongs to a low class system was important and low class people were 'put down on at this time to become 'uncommon' and improve his status. Many began to manage to d Revolution. **AO3 – good example of integrated context, but it is rather gen**

Pip is not the only character used by Dickens to show dissatisfaction and it is linked to a character who even money. Miss Havisham is wealthy and can command is one of a dissatisfaction or regret. She is stuck in the past and so v Perhaps we see this most towards the end of the novel when she wants Est Estella cannot. 'So hard, so hard!' she moaned'. **AO1 – well-chosen quotation text.** The choice of the adjective 'moaned' **'Moaned' is not an adjective – misuse of vocabulary.** and the repetitions work together to show her misery and dissatisfaction the way she had brought up Estella an influenced her. **AO2 – good analysis of technique.** She is shocked to find Estella, however, 'to be proud and hard' A her. Here we see dissatisfaction is linked to regret. **AO1 – this is a well-con**

Estella too shows dissatisfaction and regret at the end of the novel when she 'went away' in her rejection of Pip in favour of a marriage which was unhappy.

In contrast, Joe and Biddy find true happiness and are content with their lives. Joe's death that Joe realises true happiness but his death is due to Biddy's 'simplicity and acceptance of life and satisfaction which is such a happiness which seems to be a true understanding of characterisation and a perfect in the novel.

Dickens presents the characters of dissatisfaction in the novel as the opposite of these are. In the first half of the novel, the characters become dissatisfied with their lives. But in the second half, they are satisfied and happy.

Overall comment:

- This is a level 6.
- The candidate shows excellent knowledge of the text and this is presented in an essay which shows insight into the different ways this theme is explored. The candidate uses a range of subject-specific vocabulary. The candidate is able to analyse the text and its impact on the reader.
- It would be a more secure level 6 answer if the analysis had been evident in the use of subject-specific vocabulary and context had been made.

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Answers

Answers to Chapter Summary and Character Summary tasks

All tasks in this section require a personal response.

Answers to Revision Activities

Task 1 – Test Your Knowledge

1. He could not pronounce his full name (Philip Pirrip) as a child
2. Magwitch
3. Bread, cheese, butter, a leg of mutton, a ham, a pork pie, mincemeat and a file
4. Satis House 'feels' enough' yet Miss Havisham is anything but satisfied.
5. Mr Wopsle teaches aunt's evening class but learns more from Biddy
6. In the grounds of Satis House, where they fight
7. A story of carriages and dogs and that they played with flags. Worried the truth will
8. All the clocks are stopped, the room is dark and the remains of a wedding cake and cobwebs everywhere.
9. Joe and Pip meet a man in the pub with a file which Pip recognises. He gives them some are wrapped in two pound notes. This points to the later discovery that Magwitch is a gentleman and that he, not Miss Havisham, is Pip's benefactor.
10. He begins to see himself as Estella sees him, as low and common. He becomes dissatisfied
11. Mr Jaggers
12. Mr Pocket
13. Startop and Drummle
14. It has ramparts on top and looks like a castle with a flag and gun
15. Hamlet
16. c, e, a, d, b
17. Trabb's boy and Herbert Pocket
18. By boat, down the Thames
19. He and Magwitch fall into the river, and fight each other as they fight. Compeyson says whether Magwitch is responsible
20. In prison

Quotations, analysis, quotations

Task 2a

Indicative content for missing speech bubble:

Miss Havisham's life and character have halted.

Shows the damage done to her by Compeyson (reducing our sympathy for him when we find out her bitter desire for revenge.

Use of metaphor – it is not just the clock which has stopped but that represents Miss Havisham

Extension Task

'I took her hand in mine and we went out of the ruined place...' (Chapter 59) – Analysis: symbolising reflecting their lives and earlier hopes or expectations. Simple act shows Pip now in contrast to earlier rejected him. Gives the novel a sense of hope and romance at the end.

'His mouth was such a post office of a mouth that he had a mechanical appearance of smiling' of post office makes reader think of a hard, square mouth, like a letter box. The word 'mechanical' implied by the letter box and makes his smile seem not only false but also rather gruesome

Task 2b

Personal response required for this task.

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Task 3a Annotating Text – suggestions of possible areas of comment are highlighted

Word choice

Narrative voice

Simile -- animalistic

Gothic atmosphere

Word choice

Crowding up with these reflections came the reflection that **him with my childish eyes to be a desperately violent man** **heard that other convict reiterate that he had tried to murder** **that I had seen him down in the ditch tearing and fighting like a** **beast.** Out of such remembrances **I brought into the light** **fire, a half-formed terror** **that it might not be safe to be so close** **with him in the darkness of this solitary night.** This dilated the room and I was obliged to take a candle and go in and draw the curtain.

Task 3b

Personal response based on notes above but might include:

- Crowding – creates sense that Pip cannot escape his fears
- Use of memory with words such as ‘desperately violent’ and ‘murder’
- Simile: ‘like a wild beast’ again reminds the reader of Pip’s fear and Magwitch’s behaviour
- Metaphor of the ‘half formed terror’ which ‘dilated until it filled the room’ makes the fear more tangible
- ‘Dreadful burden’ implies fear (dread) and the weight of the fear he is now experiencing

Task 4a

Some suggestions:

- Repetition reiterates Miss Havisham’s moaning and despair (so proud, so proud... moaning)
- Use of questions by Estella adds to the force of her argument
- Verbs used to describe how Miss Havisham responds: moaned, shrieked, exclaimed, wailed
- Lack of passion from Estella shown by words such as: calm wonder, silence, musing way, cold and hard but also she has ‘been made’.
- Use of direct speech adds to the drama of the event as Miss Havisham is confronted with her own feelings
- Comparison of Miss Havisham’s passion with Estella’s cold calmness
- Daylight is used as a symbol of love, hope, understanding as well as understanding

Task 4b

The notes above are the basis for this personal response but a particular focus might be on:

- Miss Havisham’s own repeated words: ‘so cold, so cold’
- Words used to describe Estella’s behaviour: calm wonder, silence, musing way. This suggests she is cold and hard but also she has ‘been made’.
- Estella’s use of questions to make her point shows her cold, clinical approach to Miss Havisham

Task 5

Mrs Joe mind map suggestions:

- Key events: Brings Pip up ‘by hand’, bullies her husband, is socially ambitious and so on. Attacked by Orlick and ultimately dies of her injuries.
- What she says about herself: For example, ‘perhaps if I wasn’t a blacksmith’s wife, and my apron never off, I should have been able to hear the Carols...’ suggests she is unhappy with her life.
- What the author says about her: ‘She was tall and bony and always wore a coarse apron picture and the apron symbolises her life and desire for cleanliness to a fault.’
- What others say about her: Joe calls her ‘a fine figure of a woman’ whereas Pip thinks she is ‘a nutmeg grater’.
- What she does: She is brutal to Joe and Pip, both are beaten by her both physically and emotionally. She appears respectable in the company of others, such as Uncle Pumblechook and the Veneerings.
- How others behave towards her: Pip is scared of her, Joe is scared he will be like his father if he doesn’t stand up to her. Orlick makes it clear he would not stand for her behaviour.
- Significance of her status of women. Joe could retaliate with no repercussions as domestic violence was not a crime. Her lack of name also indicates her status. She made Pip ‘sensitive’ – could be argued that she made him feel inadequate, and wanted him to go to Miss Havisham, hoping for some change in his life.
- She adds to the themes of family life, food, violence, and appearance and reality.
- How she changes: Her temper becomes sweeter after her attack and she seems to as she dies.

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Answers to Exam Preparation Activities

Task 1

The areas of concern are:

- A lack of focus to the paragraph
- A lack of quotations or poorly chosen quotations
- Unnecessary telling of the story, not related to the question
- 'Random' context, not related to anything else in the paragraph or the question
- No analysis of the writer's technique. An adjective is identified but no explanation of
- The question is not being answered

Here is what a better paragraph might look like:

Joe is presented throughout the novel as a working man who is good with his hands, representative of the skilled manual labour workforce which is unlikely to benefit from some to improve their status which came from the Industrial Revolution, which the novel was published. Joe's honest, simple nature is suggested by the physical description 'tempered, easy-going, [and] foolish', which contrasts him with the bad-tempered Mr. Magwitch. This seems here to suggest affection and to imply innocence rather than stupidity. The character is also shown in the way that he was willing, as we learn later, to take care of his brother-in-law, he married Mrs Joe, who had taken over the care of her brother on the death of her husband, which happened at a time when there was no 'welfare state' and the alternative would have been a life of poverty.

Tasks 2 and 3

Using this extract as a starting point, explain how far you think Dickens presents Magwitch as a villain.

- How is Magwitch presented by the author in this extract?
- How is Magwitch presented in the rest of the novel?

c) best describes what the question is asking you to do

Task 4

Essays might include the following examples of how the extract and the whole novel might be used to answer:

Pip is embarrassed by Joe's behaviour and Dickens' use of first-person narrator makes this clear: he admits to being 'ashamed' of him. It is made clear that this is because of his rejection of Joe. ('Her eyes laughed mischievously'). This reflects Pips shame about his home and rejection of Joe. 'Oh, dear Joe whom I was so ready to leave and so unthankful for moving up in the world, he rejects Joe, the epitome of a working-class man.

Pip loves Joe and respects him – made clear at the beginning of the novel and 'by the coat-cuff' and the use of the simile 'like some extraordinary bird.... With worms suggest his need for help. Pip admits in Chapter 6 that 'I loved Joe'. Pip's love of Joe is prepared for by his tenderness to him here.

The advantage of tackling the question in this way is that it shows how the novel is structured and how the reader is prepared for later events, as well as looking at context and language.

Task 5

Number 2 is the best introduction as it relates directly to the question being asked and makes a point to develop the theme of the novel.

Introduction 1 – Focuses on telling the story of Joe but is related to the question, albeit rather indirectly.

Introduction 3 – Makes the error of thinking context is about the author's life; tells the story of the novel rather than the question.

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Task 6

This is a weak conclusion because:

- a) it is oversimple
- b) it does not refer to the essay question
- c) it includes irrelevant material

In its favour, it is short!

A better conclusion might look like this:

The relationship between Joe and Pip is central to the novel and most significant as it reflects the changes in Pip. Joe is constant and loyal while Pip, who begins as a friend for Joe, becomes ashamed of him and rejects him as his prospects improve. He realises that his 'expectation' of becoming a gentleman is one of his biggest regrets is his treatment of Joe, and the novel is a story of Pip's realisation of what is really important in life.

Task 7

Bold shows spelling and other errors

This extract shows us that Pip is beginning to feel ashamed of Joe. **There** relationship **admitts**, 'I am afraid I was ashamed of the dear good fellow – I know I was ashamed of the word 'ashamed' twice **witch** shows us that he really did feel ashamed and the **li** makes it stronger. The reason for the change is made clear as **Pip sais**, ' – when I was back of Miss Havisham's chair, and that her eyes laughed mischievously.' It is clear **effecting** how **pip** feels. Pip starts to grow **appart** from **Jo**. He is **to** keen to pick out **joes** bad points. He forgets the loyalty **jo** has shown to him. The reader, however, is out of his comfort zone so only speaks to Pip. Joe's words are dialect to show his relationship with Miss Havisham, for example he says 'in my 'at'. Estella seems to want to make **pip** feel the word 'mishchiviously' is used and the reader can see that she is **too** **blam**.

A possible improved version of the paragraph is:

The extract shows us the beginning of Pip's feelings of shame and the changing relationship with Joe. Pip's confession, 'I am afraid I was ashamed of the dear fellow – I know I was ashamed of the word 'ashamed', and the dash creates a pause to add emphasis to his feelings. 'I know' links to Pip's awareness that it is Estella, whose 'eyes laugh' is affecting how he sees Joe. Joe's uses of dialect, such as 'in my 'at' is Dickens' way of showing the relationship between Joe and Miss Havisham is made clear, and Joe's rather simple, almost childlike language gains the reader's sympathy. The use of the word 'mischievously' suggests that Estella is aware of Pip's feelings and links to other times in the novel when Pip feels ashamed of what he has done or said.

Task 8

The key here is for students to follow the PEE structure as detailed on the previous page.

- P: Tension and fear are created when Pip mentions how Magwitch looked into his eyes.
- E: 'young eyes as if he were eluding the hands of the dead people, stretching up cautiously at him.'
- E: The mention of 'dead people' reminds the reader of the grim setting, the small miseries of life. In addition, the gruesome and terrifying imagery of 'stretching up... out of their graves' is created.

Students may comment on any of the following words and phrases in the extract.

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Practice Questions

Task 1

AO1, AO2, AO3

Dickens uses a series of short paragraphs also to add to the tension of Pip's journey, each of which is a paragraph. Paragraph three makes mention of the 'hulks' behind him, reminding the reader of the oppression of the convicts in the story, but they are in the far distance, as is the limekiln ahead of him, so there is a long strip of the blank horizon between the two bright specks.

A similar type of tension is shown at the end of the second stage of the novel when Magwitch adds to the atmosphere as it is 'stormy and dark', words which, along with 'mud', are repeated. The 'wretched' weather is emphasised as Pip is again alone as he hears movement and calls down the building suspecting it is the convict and the man referred to as the 'stranger', thereby withholding and emphasising Pip's lack of recognition. The recognition that it is Magwitch, a reminder of the opening chapter, adding to the tension here, is delivered through the drama of dialogue. Pip is thrown into the terrible weather and this stage of the novel ends with him asleep in Pip's rooms, leaving the reader of what will happen next as well as the tension of Magwitch's actual return to the story.

Task 2

Personal response.

Worked-through Example

Task 1

The essay plan in Task 2 and the sample essay can be referred to.

Task 2

The plan has some good and some bad points.

It lacks reference to the text and quotations in the second section.

It is not clear how the points are linked.

It is not clear that we are focusing on Dickens' intention.

It has some good points but these need to be focused on the question more and examples used.

More context is needed.

There is no sense of a plan for the plan – for example, the gardener simile from the extract.

Task 3

See sample answer.

Task 4

No answer – this is a peer-marking exercise.

Task 5

This is a top-band answer because it includes all of the following:

- Direct reference to the question
- Excellent paragraphing
- Excellent knowledge of the text, including quotations
- Well-used context to support understanding including Dickens' life, the rest of the novel
- Good level of English used by the candidate, including sophisticated vocabulary ('cultured')
- Well-chosen, appropriate and well-integrated quotations
- Clear understanding of the writer's technique (contrast against the bleak landscape) and language
- Integrates the extract with a wider understanding of the novel
- Critical style (evident in paragraph 3, for example)
- Technical vocabulary has been accurately used and effects explained
- PEE structure is clear but not restrictive
- Focuses on the question throughout
- Conclusion is a good summary of the points of the essay

Task 6

Pupils should use the annotated version to help check their answers.

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Sample Student Responses

Question 1

Task 1

Sample Response 1

- a)
- Answer uses the extract and the whole text
 - Close reference made to the extract – use of quotations
 - Analysis of language and writer's methods, using subject-specific terminology
 - Apt selection of other places in the text to support interpretation and response
 - Implicit understanding of relevant context
- b) The answer would be even better if:
- A range of other techniques, e.g. listing of Magwitch's injuries in the description of the convict
 - More specific reference from other places in the text, e.g. mirroring of the way he looks like an animal in the extract but also when he eats with Pip in his lodgings
- c) This answer shows a thoughtful and developed understanding of the question and makes a clear point.

Sample Response 2 to Question 1 Commentary

This is a much better constructed essay than sample 1 because:

- the two parts of the question are well balanced and integrated
- there are quotations from the rest of the text
- there is more detailed analysis of effects created by the writer's techniques
- context is better integrated and used to inform understanding
- the candidate's own style is more sophisticated
- it is a more conceptualised approach with a clear sense of the changes which the novel makes to Magwitch

Task 2

Personal response

Question 4

Task 1

Sample Response 1

- Rather more of a list on telling the story in an almost list-like way
- Lack of quotations
- No clear context included
- Candidate's own style is simple and it is a pity there are spelling errors, even of names, marked on this part of the paper

But

- There is knowledge of the text
- There is an attempt to answer the question
- Relevant examples are supplied even though these are not explored

Sample Response 2

- Wrongly used technical language ('moaned' is a verb, not an adjective)
- Some language is too informal ('stuck in the past', for example)
- Some points are undeveloped and unsupported
- Context seems contrived and over general 'lower-class people were looked down on at the time'

But

- Good use of technical language and mostly correct
- Well-chosen and interesting quotations
- PEE structure and good
- Good knowledge of the text
- Good analysis of language and the writer's techniques
- Good use of context of the rest of the novel and contrast with Biddy and Joe
- Conclusion is a fair summary
- Focused on the question throughout
- A promising critical style

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Task 2

See annotated essay

Errors:

Essay 1

Compyson – Compeyson

aprentise – apprentice

sucesful – successful

Jo – Joe

feals – feels

want's – wants

Essay 2

Magwich – Magwitch

cloths – clothes

anxety – anxiety

relises – realises

Biddy – Lady



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