YEAR 9 ENGLISH · LANGUAGE PAPER 1, QUESTION 3

Exploring Structure

Explore structural features and use them in a Q3 answer

Part 1 · Explore structural features and read the extract

Part 2 · Plan and write a Question 3 response

PART 1 · STARTER · 3-A-DAY · 5 MINUTES

Answer all three

1 · Vocabulary: What does the word *oppressed* mean?

2 · Punctuation: Rewrite with correct punctuation: *the doors were locked nobody could leave*

3 · Retrieval: What is a dystopia? Name one dystopian text you have read.

Type your answers in the chat.

STARTER · CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

3-a-day answers

1 · Oppressed: treated cruelly or unfairly by people with power, and kept from freedom.

2 · The doors were locked; nobody could leave. (A full stop, colon or dash also works.)

3 · A dystopia is an imagined society that is frightening, unfair or controlled, often to warn us about the real world.

EPISODE 1 · WORK INDEPENDENTLY · PART 1 OF 2

Match each structural feature to its definition

1 · Third person narrative
2 · First person narrative
3 · Chronological order
4 · Narrative hook
5 · Shift of focus
6 · Obfuscation

7 · Cliff-hanger
8 · Exposition
9 · Dialogue
10 · Climax
11 · Tone

Use the lettered definitions on the next slide. Write your matches as 1 = G, and so on, then check in the chat.

EPISODE 1 · THE DEFINITIONS

Which definition fits which feature?

A · Told by a character using “I” or “we”

B · The most tense and important moment

C · A striking opening that grabs attention

D · Deliberately keeping details unclear or hidden

E · Background information about setting, characters or situation

F · Events told in the order they happen

G · Told by an outside narrator using “he”, “she” or “they”

H · The mood or attitude the writer creates

I · Ending at a tense moment so the outcome is unknown

J · Characters speaking, shown in speech marks

K · The writer moves our attention from one thing to another

EPISODE 1 · FEEDBACK

Check your matches, then glue or paste them in

1 = G · 2 = A · 3 = F · 4 = C · 5 = K · 6 = D · 7 = I · 8 = E · 9 = J · 10 = B · 11 = H

Discuss in the chat

Why might a writer choose a narrative hook, a cliff-hanger or obfuscation? Why are these features effective in engaging readers?

Copy the terms and definitions into your notes or booklet.

EPISODE 2 · READ ‘THE HUNGER GAMES’ EXTRACT

Read the extract, then answer in full sentences

1. How does the extract begin? Do we meet characters, setting, events or action, or a combination of these?
2. How does this beginning try to engage the reader?
3. What happens in the middle and how does this build on the opening?
4. As the extract progresses, does the reader get answers to certain questions or just more questions?
5. How does the end of the extract engage the reader?

EPISODE 3 · OPEN THE DYSTOPIAN BOOKLET

Highlight in three colours

Beginning

Middle

End

- Highlight key structural techniques in each section.
- Annotate each section with how it **engages the reader**. This shows you which quotations to use.
- For the middle and end, keep **linking back** to how they develop the opening.

EPISODE 3 · BANNED PHRASES

Avoid superficial comments, aim for insight

Banned

“makes the reader want to read on”

“creates images for the reader”

“makes the reader ask questions”

Insightful model

The writer opens by focusing on **[a detail of the setting]**, which establishes confinement before any action happens. This suggests that restriction is the *normal* condition of this world, so the reader is placed inside the character’s limited view.

Formula: **feature** + **what it shows or suggests** + **why the writer does it**.

PART 2 · EPISODE 4 · FEEDBACK

Share what you found

Which features?

Which structural features did you find in the beginning, middle and end?

Why effective?

Why are they effective in engaging the reader? Avoid the banned phrases.

How linked?

How do the middle and end develop the opening?

Share one finding in the chat. Others improve it with a question: *Why did the writer do that?*

EPISODE 5 · THE EXAM QUESTION · 8 MARKS

How does the structure of the extract create a feeling of restriction and isolation?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops
- any other structural features that interest you

EPISODE 5 · MARK SCHEME

Stick it in and highlight the key sections

Level and marks	Your answer…
Level 4 · 7–8 marks	shows detailed, perceptive understanding of structural features; uses judicious quotations; uses subject terminology accurately
Level 3 · 5–6 marks	shows clear, consistent understanding of structural features; uses relevant quotations; uses terminology accurately
Level 2 · 3–4 marks	shows some understanding; some quotations; some terminology
Level 1 · 1–2 marks	shows simple awareness; simple references to the text

Highlight the words that will improve your response, such as *perceptive*, *judicious* and *terminology*. Use alongside your exam mark scheme.

EPISODE 5 · MODEL ANSWER · THE BEGINNING

At the beginning of the extract, the writer focuses the reader’s attention on **[the setting / a character’s situation]**, as shown by **“[short quotation]”**. This suggests that **[restriction and isolation are already part of everyday life]**, so the reader understands the world before any action begins. The **[structural feature, e.g. exposition or narrative hook]** is effective because it **[why the writer does this]**, and it establishes a feeling the rest of the extract will build on.

Discuss: what questions or concerns do you have about this model? What is the strongest part?

Fill the gaps with details from your own extract

EPISODE 5 · SENTENCE STARTERS (TWEED)

Use these to build each paragraph

Beginning

The extract opens with… The writer first focuses on… This establishes…

Middle or shift

The focus then shifts to… This builds on the opening because… This develops the feeling of…

Ending

By the end… This leaves the reader feeling… Overall, the structure suggests…

Link words: **furthermore · in contrast · this develops · as a result**

EPISODE 6 · YOUR TURN

Continue the model answer

Write the next paragraph about the **middle of the extract** or the **shift in focus**.

- Say how the focus changes and why the writer does this
- Link back to how it develops the opening
- Use one short quotation and structural terminology

Post your paragraph in the chat when you finish.

REVIEW

Check your own paragraph

I named a structural feature accurately.

I explained **why** the writer used it, not just what it does.

I linked the middle back to the opening.

I avoided the banned phrases.

I used a short, precise quotation.

Highlight the mark scheme words your paragraph meets. Write one target for next time.