

Mastering GCSE Paragraphs: WHAT- HOW-WHY Guide

What?

Make your point clearly and precisely. It must link directly to the question and show perceptive understanding of what the writer presents.

Example starters:

- Firstly, the writer presents...
- The writer conveys...
- The writer immediately establishes...

How?

Support your point with carefully chosen evidence. Analyse the language precisely and zoom in on key words. Name the device (e.g. metaphor, repetition, juxtaposition) and offer perceptive comments on its effect.

Example starters:

- This is shown through the use of (device)...
- The phrase "... " immediately draws attention to...
- The writer's choice of (device) implies...

Why?

Explore the writer's purpose and the effect on the reader. Show insight into how meaning is shaped and layers of interpretation.

Example starters:

- This suggests...
- This could imply...
- The writer may be exposing...
- This challenges the reader to consider...

Example Paragraph

Question: How does the poet explore the theme of guilt in Remain?

WHAT?

Firstly, the writer presents the soldier's overwhelming guilt as an inescapable force that dominates his thoughts.

HOW?

This is shown through the metaphor "his blood-shadow stays on the street." The noun "shadow" is significant, as it implies something that constantly follows him, symbolising how his guilt is ever-present. The metaphor as a whole evokes the idea that his crime has permanently stained his conscience, haunting him in both a literal and psychological sense.

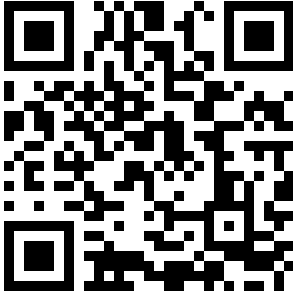
WHY?

This suggests the writer is exploring the lasting psychological destruction caused by war, forcing the reader to consider the invisible scars that soldiers carry long after the violence has ended. It challenges the reader to see beyond physical wounds and reflect on the internal suffering caused by conflict.

Top Tips!

- Integrate subject terminology naturally (don't just spot it- analyse it).
- Aim for precision -zoom in on specific word choices.
- Link to writer's purpose and the reader's response at every opportunity.
- Include multiple WHAT-HOW-WHY chains per paragraph for depth.

Scan the QR codes below to follow us on social media:



TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@alexandriasprivatetuition>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alexandriastuition>

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@AlexandriasPrivateTuition>