**AO2 Mastery Therapy - Structure**

**This assessment objective asks you to explain *what* an author is focussing on in different parts of the extract and *why* they are doing it. A good way to think of it is when you watch a film, look at the camera angles in different parts: when does the film use closeups/zoom in? When do they zoom out and show us a wide angle? When you read the extract, imagine what it would look like as a film.**

***This extract is taken from the beginning of a novel: here, the protagonist is awaiting a ship to come and bring him home.***

Al Mustafa, the chosen and the beloved, who was a dawn unto his own day, had waited twelve years in the city of Orphalese for his ship that was to return and bear him back to the isle of his birth.

And in the twelfth year, on the seventh day of Ielool, the month of reaping, he climbed the hill without the city walls and looked seaward; and he beheld his ship coming with the mist.

Then the gates of his heart were flung open, and his joy flew far over the sea. And he closed his eyes and prayed in the silences of his soul.

But as he descended the hill, a sadness came upon him, and he thought in his heart:

How shall I go in peace and without sorrow? Nay, not without a wound in the spirit shall I leave this city. Long were the days of pain I have spent within its walls, and long were the nights of aloneness; and who can depart from his pain and his aloneness without regret?

Too many fragments of the spirit have I scattered in these streets, and too many are the children of my longing that walk naked among these hills, and I cannot withdraw from them without a burden and an ache.

It is not a garment I cast off this day, but a skin that I tear with my own hands.

Nor is it a thought I leave behind me, but a heart made sweet with hunger and with thirst.

Yet I cannot tarry longer.

The sea that calls all things unto her calls me, and I must embark.

For to stay, though the hours burn in the night, is to freeze and crystallize and be bound in a mould.

Fain would I take with me all that is here. But how shall I?

A voice cannot carry the tongue and the lips that gave it wings. Alone must it seek the ether.

And alone and without his nest shall the eagle fly across the sun.

Now when he reached the foot of the hill, he turned again towards the sea, and he saw his ship approaching the harbour, and upon her prow the mariners, the men of his own land.

And his soul cried out to them, and he said:

Sons of my ancient mother, you riders of the tides,

How often have you sailed in my dreams. And now you come in my awakening, which is my deeper dream.

Ready am I to go, and my eagerness with sails full set awaits the wind.

Only another breath will I breathe in this still air, only another loving look cast backward,

And then I shall stand among you, a seafarer among seafarers. And you, vast sea, sleepless mother,

Who alone are peace and freedom to the river and the stream,

Only another winding will this stream make, only another murmur in this glade,

And then shall I come to you, a boundless drop to a boundless ocean.

And as he walked he saw from afar men and women leaving their fields and their vineyards and hastening towards the city gates.

And he heard their voices calling his name, and shouting from field to field telling one another of the coming of his ship.

And he said to himself:

Shall the day of parting be the day of gathering?

And shall it be said that my eve was in truth my dawn?

And what shall I give unto him who has left his plough in midfurrow, or to him who has stopped the wheel of his winepress? Shall my heart become a tree heavy-laden with fruit that I may gather and give unto them?

And shall my desires flow like a fountain that I may fill their cups?

Am I a harp that the hand of the mighty may touch me, or a flute that his breath may pass through me?

A seeker of silences am I, and what treasure have I found in silences that I may dispense with confidence?

If this is my day of harvest, in what fields have I sowed the seed, and in what unremembered seasons?

If this indeed be the hour in which I lift up my lantern, it is not my flame that shall burn therein.

Empty and dark shall I raise my lantern,

And the guardian of the night shall fill it with oil and he shall light it also.

These things he said in words. But much in his heart remained unsaid. For he himself could not speak his deeper secret.

The most effective way of approaching this question is to think about it in three sections:

1. The start
2. The development
3. The ending

**Task:**

**Read lines 1-6**

What is the focus on in these opening lines?

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Why do you think this is? What impact is the writer intending to have?

Try to use one of the following phrases: *To establish, To force us to ask, To force us to imagine, To ask us to wonder*

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**Challenge**: How is there a subtle shift between lines 6 and 7? Why do you think this might be?

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**Read lines 15-31**

What is the focus on in these developing lines?

Try to use one of the following phrases: *To introduce the idea of/To force us to ask/To force us to imagine/To ask us to wonder/To draw a contrast with.*

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Why do you think this is? What impact is the writer intending to have?

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**Challenge:** can you identify the underlying theme of freedom, and explain how it is explored throughout the extract?

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**Read lines 32 to the end**

What is the focus on in the end of the extract?

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Why do you think this is? What impact is the writer intending to have?

Try to use one of the following phrases: *To introduce the idea of/To force us to ask/To force us to imagine/To ask us to wonder/To draw a contrast with.*

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**Task**

**Write a response to the question: how has the writer structured this text to interest you as a reader? In your answer, you must:**

* Explain ***what*** the focus is in the start, middle and end of the extract, and explain ***why*** you think this is the focus.
* Begin to look for nuances and subtleties of structural choices (small shifts and patterns, for example)

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| The **opening** of the extract | In the extract’s opening, the writer establishes |
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| This forces us to question |
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| The **development** of the extract | As the extract develops, the focus shifts to  |
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| The writer is trying to |
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| The **ending** of the extract | At the extract ends, the focus is |
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| Here, the writer is deliberately trying to |
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