**AO2 Base Therapy**

A02 requires you to **explain** how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers. You need to:

1. Identify and quote the most important parts from the text to support your answer
2. Clearly explain which specific words and phrases from your quote are the most important in helping the writer achieve their desired effect

Consider the words in bold below: how does the writer use language to describe the seriousness of the situation?

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| You can’t run far with a four-year-old child in your arms. They are already too big, too heavy, too awkward to carry with any speed.  I wanted to get Pat home to the car, but I **staggered** out of the park **knowing that wasn’t going to be quick enough.**  I **burst** into the café where we had eaten green spaghetti, **Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms**. It was lunch time and the place was full of office workers in suits stuffing their faces. They stared at us open mouthed, fork twirled with carbonara **suspended** in mid-air.  **‘Get an ambulance!’** **Nobody moved.**  Then the kitchen doors flew open and Cyd came through them, a tray piled high with food in one hand and her order pad in the other. She looked at us for a moment, **flinching** at the sight of Pat’s **lifeless body**, the blood all over my hands and shirt, and the **blind panic** on my face.  Then she expertly slid the tray on to the nearest table and came towards us.  ‘It’s my son! Get an ambulance!’ ‘It will be quicker if I drive you,’ she said.  |

You need 2 steps within your answer:

1. Supporting example
2. Clear explanation of how the word/phrase achieves the effect

Read the examples below and think about whether they do the job of explaining the effect:

1. The writer uses a list of three describing words: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **This makes us see what Pat looks like.**
2. The writer uses a list of three describing words: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **Pale, silent and bleeding all give a slightly different effect.**
3. The writer uses a list of three describing words: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **It helps you picture it and you want to read on.**

Unfortunately, these explanations are too simple and generalised. None of them really discuss the direct effect of the chosen language.

 Read the redrafts of the generalised answers below:

1. The writer uses a list of three: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **All three words make us see that Pat is ill and injured and so when the words are put next to each other, the situation seems very serious.**
2. The writer uses a list of three: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **The first describing word ‘pale’ has the effect of** **making Pat seem lifeless, without blood, maybe even dead. ‘Silent’ suggests he is unconscious and ‘bleeding’ shows danger as he has to get treatment quickly.**
3. The writer uses a list of three: “Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.” **These words give a feeling of emergency. It seems like Pat is dying and so the reader feels panic as well and a need to find out if he makes it.**

Finally, let’s look at the second piece of evidence:

‘‘Get an ambulance!’ Nobody moved.’

Here is a simple, generalised answer:

The writer uses direct speech ‘Get an ambulance!’ to make it dramatic. The short sentence after it ‘nobody moved’ is shocking.

**Write the answer below, using the ideas you have worked on above.**

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| Overall point | Overall, |
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| First major point | Initially,  |
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| Second major point (linked) | Additionally,  |
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| Third major point (linked) | Finally,  |
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