**AO2 Base 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 is taken from the opening of The Castle by Franz Kafka. In it, the protagonist has arrived in a mysterious village and is trying to get used to his surroundings.***

It was late evening when K. arrived. The village lay deep in snow. There was nothing to be seen of Castle Mount, for mist and darkness surrounded it, and not the faintest glimmer of light showed where the great castle lay. K. stood on the wooden bridge leading from the road to the village for a long time, looking up at what seemed to be a void.

Then he went in search of somewhere to stay the night. People were still awake at the inn. The landlord had no room available, but although greatly surprised and confused by the arrival of a guest so late at night, he was willing to let K. sleep on a straw mattress in the saloon bar. K. agreed to that. Several of the local rustics were still sitting over their beer, but he didn’t feel like talking to anyone. He fetched the straw mattress down from the attic himself, and lay down near the stove. It was warm, the locals were silent, his weary eyes gave them a cursory inspection, and then he fell asleep.

But soon afterwards he was woken again. A young man in town clothes, with a face like an actor’s—narrowed eyes, strongly marked eyebrows—was standing beside him with the landlord. The rustics were still there too, and some of them had turned their chairs round so that they could see and hear better. The young man apologised very civilly for having woken K., introduced himself as the son of the castle warden, and added: ‘This village belongs to the castle, so anyone who stays or spends the night here is, so to speak, staying or spend- ing the night at the castle. And no one’s allowed to do that without a permit from the count. However, you don’t have any such permit, or at least you haven’t shown one.’

K. had half sat up, had smoothed down his hair, and was now looking up at the two men. ‘What village have I come to, then?’ he asked. ‘Is there a castle in these parts?’

‘There most certainly is,’ said the young man slowly, as some of those present shook their heads at K.’s ignorance. ‘Count Westwest’s castle.’

‘And I need this permit to spend the night here?’ asked K., as if to convince himself that he had not, by any chance, dreamed the earlier information.

‘Yes, you need a permit,’ was the reply, and there was downright derision at K.’s expense in the young man’s voice as, with arm out- stretched, he asked the landlord and the guests: ‘Or am I wrong? Doesn’t he need a permit?’

‘Well, I’ll have to go and get a permit, then,’ said K., yawning, and throwing off his blanket as if to rise to his feet.

‘Oh yes? Who from?’ asked the young man.  
‘Why, from the count,’ said K. ‘I suppose there’s nothing else for it.’ ‘What, go and get a permit from the count himself at midnight?’ cried the young man, retreating a step.  
‘Is that impossible?’ asked K., unruffled. ‘If so, why did you wake me up?’ At this the young man was positively beside himself. ‘The manners of a vagrant!’ he cried. ‘I demand respect for the count’s authority! I woke you up to tell you that you must leave the count’s land immediately.’

You need to refer to the whole extract: how has the writer structured the extract to interest you as a reader?

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:**

Put boxes around the following areas of the text:

Lines 1-10

Lines 11-27

Lines 28 to the end

How does the extract change in these different parts? Why?

**Task:**

**Complete the following table:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **What is the focus?** | **Why?**  Forces us to imagine/ consider/ question  Asks us to contrast  Forms a pattern of… |
| **Start**  *Lines 1-10* | K arrives at the village and looks around. |  |
| **Development**  *Lines 11-29* | The son of the castle warden introduces himself. |  |
| **End**  *Lines 30 to the end* | K is told to go home. |  |

**Explain what is wrong with the following answer, and annotate it to show how you   
might improve it:**

At the start, K arrives and looks around. It feels slightly mysterious. K feels out of place when he goes to the inn. Then the warden’s son introduces himself and the tension is lifted. As the conversation between K and the warden’s son continues the mood changes and it feels more sinister.

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