**AO4 Secure Test:**

**Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual reference.**

Read the extract below and then answer the question. You can use the planning grid to help you structure your answer.

I studied her for, perhaps, a minute; and all that time she kept her eyes quite closed, her head perfectly still. There seemed something rather devotional about her pose, the stillness, so that I thought at last, She is praying!, and made to draw my eyes away in sudden shame. But then she stirred. Her hands opened, she raised them to her cheek, and I caught a flash of colour against the pink of her work-roughened palms. She had a flower there, between her fingers – a violet, with a drooping stem. As I watched, she put the flower to her lips, and breathed upon it, and the purple of the petals gave a quiver and seemed to glow…

She did that, and I became aware of the dimness of the world that was about her – of the wards, the women in them, the matrons, even my own self. We might have been painted, all of us, from the same poor box of watery tints; and here was a single spot of colour, that seemed to have come upon the canvas by mistake.

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Example AQA question

One student, after reading this extract, said: ‘The writer’s use of imagery at the end is what creates the sinister atmosphere within the whole extract.’

How far to you agree with this statement? You could include the following in your response:

* write about your own impressions of the atmosphere
* evaluate how the writer has created this atmosphere
* support your opinions with references to the text.

Example Edexcel Question:

In this extract, there is an attempt to create a sinister atmosphere.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

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| --- | --- |
| Agree/disagree that there is a sinister atmosphere |  |
| Examples from the text to support your opinion |  |
| Explain your opinion |  |
| Conclusion |  |

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