



Pearson

GCSE English Language

AO4: Evaluation

Some more exemplars

In response to requests for more exemplars on the AO4 evaluation questions, please find a further 3 responses in this booklet.

These exemplars are taken from the June 2017 exam. Students answered the evaluation question on the extract from *The Woman in White* in Paper 1 and Libby Purves' downsizing article in Paper 2.

4 In this extract, there is an attempt to create an atmosphere of mystery.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15) 1504

An atmosphere of mystery is very successfully achieved in the extract. In the first line, the scene is already set and creates tension and ~~conspicuous~~ uncertainty instantly. "In one moment, every drop of blood in my body was brought to a stop" immediately conveys that a surprising event has happened, and has startled the narrator significantly.

~~The next~~ In line 3, he says "I turned on the instant, with my fingers tightening round the handle of my stick". Use of short, quick paragraphs aid to the mystery and suspense involved and replicate the short, sharp movements being described in the text. The detail such as him mentioning how his fingers tighten around his stick show that every part of him is scared and he is unsure of the situation. The fact he has a stick also ~~also~~ implies that he could be old or vulnerable. This increases the tension and fear ~~also~~ around the situation further.

The next lines highlight the mystery and surprise. "there, as if it had that moment sprung out of the earth or dropped from the heaven" ~~It~~ describes how its appearance is sudden and surprising, continuing to add mystery also.

The ~~surprise~~ surprise on the narrator is conveyed. "I was far too seriously startled by the suddenness ~~of~~ with which this extraordinary apparition stood before me". There is alliteration in the repetition of 's' in 'seriously, startled and suddenness', and repetition of the vowel sound in 'extraordinary apparition'. Both of these devices are used to emphasise how taken aback the narrator is by the situation and ~~the~~ ^{his} mixed feelings and thoughts which ~~he~~ he is experiencing are very mysterious and leaves the reader excited to find out more information and see ~~how~~ how events unfold.



The extensive description of the woman following her query ~~descri~~ depicts her ~~as~~ as not a very unusual ~~woman~~ woman in her actions or manner, as he states "there was nothing wild, or immodest in her manner." This could be unusual since she is ~~to~~ color ^{contribute to the} despite the very odd circumstances which ~~can~~ may ~~keep~~ ~~us~~ ^{contribute to the} mystery.

The narrator then queries her random appearance: "I was rather startled by your sudden appearance in the road". Her response is instantly ~~is~~ worried; "You don't suspect me of doing anything wrong, do you?" This implies that she could be suspicious of something since she is instantly defensive and seamed at the narrator's question.

When she reveals her actions, the mysterious nature of the woman is not removed, as she confesses "I heard you coming... and hid there to see what sort of man you were... then I was obliged to steal after you, and touch you". These actions ~~are~~ remain unusual and the explanation only adds another layer to the tension and suspense. The conclusion by the narrator summarizes how the reader and himself feel: "strange, to say the least of it"



6 In this extract, there is an attempt to be positive about moving to a smaller house.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

13006
(15)

The positive outlook of moving to a smaller house is made quite obvious from the beginning with the writer's words of "Don't dread downsizing, - a smaller home makes you feel like newlyweds!". The writer immediately establishes their viewpoint - a positive one at that - by using language to make it seem to the readers that moving to a smaller house is in fact the way to go.

The writer attempts to be positive about moving to a smaller house by being intensely enthusiastic about the ordeal, focusing purely on the good and none of the bad. ~~Phrases~~ Phrases like "We did it!" making moving and decluttering seem as a great achievement, one which encourages readers and reassures them that their decision was a wise one. "We decluttered, emptied sheds, filled skips, overloaded local charity shops" - all said from an enthusiastic viewpoint focusing purely on the fact that moving to a smaller house has presented an opportunity to defy sentiment and remove unnecessary items.

The writer, while remaining positive about downsizing, emphasises the lack of the need for so many things and so much space. The former is accurately expressed by "the very bricks seemed to sigh with relief". Not only does this reinforce the sheer amount of unnecessary junk the writer had, but also emphasises that this move is a clear and definite step in the right direction.



Positivity also comes in the form of advice, as the writer provides some which is something most readers should already understand but still needs to be reinforced and emphasised & "start half a year before the move. Categorise things as pure rubbish or charity-shop and jumble-sale". The writer even offers advice to those whose sentimentality is near crippling, reassuring them and providing a comfortable alternative to giving things away, never to be seen again. Words such as "ply them with your unwanted furniture, curtains, crockery and kitchen equipment" make the whole process more bearable, albeit slightly.

The writer highlights the positivity in downsizing by consistently referencing "long-forgotten treasures", and the "rediscovery of treasures". This emphasises the fact that not all is lost, it is not all bad in that readers will find those treasures, which more than replace what had to be given away and sold.

The overall positivity is one again reinforced by the writer's parting words of "It's more like being newlyweds again & resting on the honeymoon first flat with the wedding presents. Honest." The writer's words throw a figurative safety blanket over the shoulders of readers, reassuring them once more for good measure.



6 In this extract, there is an attempt to be positive about moving to a smaller house.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15) 1006

The attempt to show moving to a smaller house to be positive is very successful.

One way this is shown is through the discovery of the junk. She writes of "four copies of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*", "neglected chests", "three snooker sets" as well as ~~the~~ expressing ~~the~~ how they "stared in amazement into a smaller house at the junk". This is very clear in showing how moving ~~can also~~ help you get organised as they found many ~~possess~~ possessions that they did not need and the discovery caused them "amazement". The positive ~~and~~ word "amazement" only has positive connotations, so it creates moving into a smaller house ~~off~~ as a good thing.

The discovery of prized possessions is also used to show the good thing about moving into a smaller house. Purves writes of how you "rediscover long-forgotten treasures". The key word is "treasure" as it has connotations of wealth, money but also a sentimental quality, it is a prized object to them. This shows moving into a smaller house as positive as it shows how people can find things that they had once cherished so much. This would also make the reader think about their forgotten but loved



possessions and therefore causing the reader to relate to the writer.

Another way in which moving into a smaller house is shown as a positive is by expressing how little you lose from it. They had a "guest flat" in the old house, and we would think moving into a smaller house would cause for this to be lost, however, Pat Purves writes of how they put in a "sofa bed" as well as a "shepherd's hut in the garden" and a "camp-bed". She also confesses "Hospitality is my non-negotiable red-line!" This shows how Purves did not have to lose things she liked even if she had to move into a ~~smaller~~ smaller house. She had to adapt but accommodations for guests weren't lost. Thus, moving into a smaller house is shown to be positive as it shows how you can still have the things you want.

