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.
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.

An atmosphere of mystery is very successfully achieved in the extract. In the first line, the scene is already set and creates tension and 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.

Next, in line 3, he says "I turned on the instant, with my fingers tightly round the handle of my stick." Use of short, quick paragraphs aid in the mystery and suspense involved and replicate the short, sharp movements kept described in the text. The detail such as him not mentioning how his fly-fisher friends around his stick show that every part of him is scared and he is unaware of the situation. The fact he has a stick also implies that he could be old or unwell, this increases the tension and fear surrounding the situation further.

The next lines highlight the mystery and surprise. "there, as if it had "traitorous memory sprung out of the earth or dropped from the heavens." This describes how its appearance is sudden and surprising. Continuing to add mystery also.

The complete surprise on the narrator is conveyed. "I was far too seriously startled by the sadness with which this extraordinary apparition stood before me." This is alleviation in the repetition of 'it is visibly, startled and suddenly,' and repetition of the vowel sound in 'extraordinary apparition.' Both of these devices are used to emphasize how taken aback the narrator is by the situation. The mixed feelings and thoughts which describe he is experiencing are very mysterious and leaves the reader excited to find out more information and see how events unfold.
The extensive description of the woman following her query depicts her as not a very unusual person in her actions or manner, as he states "she was acting wild, or incoherent in her manner." This could be unusual since she is the only contribute to the scenario, the very one circumstances which best reveal the mystery.

The narrator then queries her random appearance: "I was rather startled by your sudden appearance in the room." Her response is instantly worried: "You don't suspect me of doing anything wrong, do you?" This implies that she could be suspiciously keen to protect someone since she is instantly defensive and scared 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 here to see what sort of man you were... then I was obliged to steal after you, and touch you." These actions are really 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.

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 you've reorganized!". The writer immediately establishes their viewpoint - a positive one - by using language to make it seem to the reader 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 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 shelves, 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, emphasizes the lack of the need for so many things and so much space. He former is succinctly expressed by "The very过程 seemed to sigh with relief." Not only does this reinforce the sheer amount of unnecessary junk the writer had, but also emphasizes 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 need to be reinforced and emphasized — "start half a year before the move. Categorize things as pure rubbish or charity-shop and jumble-sale. The writer even offers advice to those whose sentimental value is near crippling, reassuring them and providing a comfortable alternative to giving things away, never to be seen again. "Put them with your unwanted furniture, curtains, crockery, or between equipment" make the whole process more bearable, albeit slightly.

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

The overall positivity is once again reinforced by the writer's poetic words of "It's more like being newlyweds again, resting in the tiny first flat with the wedding presents, honest". The writer's words throw afigurative 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.

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 smoked sets" as well as expressing how they "stood in amazement 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 word word "amazement" only has positive connotations so it makes moving into a smaller house 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 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 thus fail 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 year
house 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, Annette writes
by how they put in a "sofa bed" as well as a "shepards
bunk 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 house. She had to adapt but accommodations for guests
weren't lost. Thus, moving into a smaller house is
shown to be possible as it shows how you can
still have the things you want.