**Paper 2: Unseen Prose – Knowledge Organiser**

Key Assessment Information

* Featured as Section B (i) on Paper 2 so the focus of the question can be on any issue affecting Modern society (post-1945/WW2). 25 marks​.
* The question will usually be worded as “Explore the significance of…”​
* Potential key words: memory, difference, place, insecurity, isolation, deception, control, identity, rebellion, societal change, gender, conflict, morality, desire, dreams, power, storytelling, social class, death, outsiders, violence, family, love and relationships, freedom, appearance, ethnicity, sexuality, lack of understanding, confusion, restlessness
* Read the information provided in the exam paper about the extract before you begin.
* Highlight areas of the text that refer directly to the key word. Re-read as many times as you need to understand the extract clearly. Number your highlighted evidence on your extract to form a plan.
* Begin with a clear opening thesis to start featuring the key word.
* Aim to write about four or five moments or methods in the text.
* Return to the key word and explain its significance to close your essay

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| Toolkit for approaching extract |
| **A. Voice and character*** **Narrative voice:** is it first or third person? Is the narrator self-conscious (1st), omniscient or close/’over-the-shoulder’ (3rd), etc.? Why is this important?
* **Speech:** how is dialogue used? What is the tone? What do we learn about the characters/ themes?
* **Narrator and character:** How are the different characters in the extract represented? What do we learn about them? How do they move? What do they wear? Who has power and who does not?
 | **D. Genre and Typicality*** **Genre:** do you recognise any features of a particular genre? It is difficult to categorise a text from a short extract, so avoid sweeping statements, but you could say ‘some readers may recognise aspects of [***genre***], for example…’

Many of the texts chosen for the exam will have been influenced by post-modernist trends (**although few will be outright post-modernist texts**). Post-modernism is described as a movement that challenges certainties and “big” narratives (like God or Marxism) through playing with words and texts. ​Some features in this period of literature include:​* **Unreliable narrators** and a questioning of absolute truth​
* **Metafiction** – writing about writing ​
* **Intertextuality** – the relationship with other texts​
* **Identity** – the privileging of previously powerless voices​
* **Playfulness, Irony and Pastiche** – texts that do not take themselves seriously; jokes and word play
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| **B. Language patterns*** **Imagery:** what patterns of language are used? What do they mean/represent?
* **Symbols:** what are the key objects or characters in the text? What meanings might they carry?
* **Language:** Does the writer use language in other interesting or unusual ways? How does this add to the overall effect of the text?
* **Tone:** tone: what is the tone of the voice? Is it satirical/melancholy/romantic/humorous…?
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| **C. Structure*** **Sequence:** how does the text begin? How does it develop? How does it end? Is it linear/chronological? Or does it involve flashback? Why has this order been chosen?
* **Juxtaposition and contrast:** are there moments of difference? Where are the important changes? Why are they significant?
* **Sentence structure:** how does the syntax contribute to the meaning? Are there patterns between sentences?
 | **E. Context and Liminality*** **Social/historical/political context:** how is the writer influenced by the context? How do the events in the extract reflect this? (N.B. you should write about general patterns – e.g. identity, migration, interconnectedness, technology)
* **Liminal spaces:** literature tends to describe tensions on the “borders” between opposites: public-private, child-adult, different cultures. What are the borders in this extract?
* **Setting:** how does the setting affect the reader’s understanding of the novel?
* **Themes/message:** can we learn anything about the author’s perspective/ideology?
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