

## Paper Two: 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, violence, family, love and relationships, freedom, appearance, freedom, appearance,
- 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.

### Toolkit for approaching extract

#### **A. Voice and character**

- **Narrative Voice:** Is it first or third person? Why is this important?
- **Speech:** How is dialogue used?
- **Narrator and Character:** What is the tone of the narrator or dialogue? How are the different characters in the extract represented?

#### **B. Language Patterns**

- **Imagery:** What patterns of language are used? What do they mean/represent?
- **Tone:** What is the tone of the extract? Is it satirical/melancholy/romantic/humorous...?
- **Symbols:** What are the key objects or characters in the text? What meanings might they carry?

#### **C. Structure**

- **Sequence:** how does the text begin? How does it develop? How does it end? 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?

#### **D. Typicality**

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

#### **E. Context**

How is the writer influenced by political and historical context of the writing or the setting of the novel?

*Write about general patterns – e.g. identity, migration, interconnectedness, technology, literacy. There is no need to discuss specific historical events.*

