

DFA English Language Cycle 3 Question 5 Revision PowerPoint

- In this PowerPoint you will find helpful information to revise from ahead of your Cycle 3 English Language Paper 1 Question 5 assessment.

Planning effective stories

Lesson purpose: by planning our stories, they are likely to be better quality than if we didn't, and it helps us know how to approach the exam question.

Big picture: this question is worth 25% of your GCSE and planning a response is a good habit for all of your exam questions.

Sample Paper:

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.
Write in full sentences.
You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.
You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0 5

You are going to enter a creative writing competition.

Your entry will be judged by a panel of people of your own age.

Either:

Write a description suggested by this picture:



Or:

Write the opening part of a story about a place that is severely affected by the weather.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

For your GCSE in English Language:

A story includes description.

A description includes elements of a story.

No matter which task you choose, you should tell a simple story.

There is no such thing as a good story.

There are only simple stories which are told really skilfully.

It is the skilful telling of a story which makes it compelling: not the story itself.

Things to avoid in your stories:

- Avoid writing stories about your 'mates' going to the football, to a party or to do something mischievous.
- Avoid writing incredibly complicated stories: no teenage spies who need to save the world, or young boys with lightning scars who live in cupboards under stairs and have to save the world from a scary, evil wizard.
- Avoid telling stories about the supernatural or superheroes.

Examples of stories that have scored really high marks in the past:

- A girl goes on stage, performs a dance in front of a crowd of harsh students and then walks off stage.
- A deaf pianist performs a piece of music and remembers a moment from his past.
- A boy walks across a beach in a storm and hides when it gets too close.
- An old person sips a cup of coffee as they watch two young people play outside the coffee shop.
- A letter comes through the letter box, a lady picks it up, feels nervous and then begins to open it.

Quiet partners: what do you notice about these stories? What is similar about each of these stories?

Advice for your story:

- Base it around a single character (at most, you can have one other involved)
- Keep it to one place and time (unless using a flashback)
- Focus on one (realistic) moment
- Keep the storyline simple

Success criteria

- Effective planning
- Use a variety of sentence structures
- Use a range of descriptive devices
- Use a wide, effective vocabulary
- Have a clear and engaging structure
- Write on an implied level ('show, don't tell')
- Accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Compelling, convincing story – 1 moment, tells a clear story etc

How should you use your 45 minutes?

- 5-10 minutes planning
- 30 minutes writing
- 5-10 minutes proof-reading

What do we mean by planning?

- Mapping out what you're going to write
- Considering the overall mood/tone/atmosphere that you're trying to create
- Deciding on the best structure for your piece of writing.

Questions to consider when planning:

- Who are my characters?
- What settings will I use?
- What will happen?
- What tone do I want to create?

Sample question:

Write the beginning of a story inspired by this picture:



I do

Questions to consider when planning:

- Who are my characters?
- What will happen?
- What settings will I use?
- What tone do I want to create?

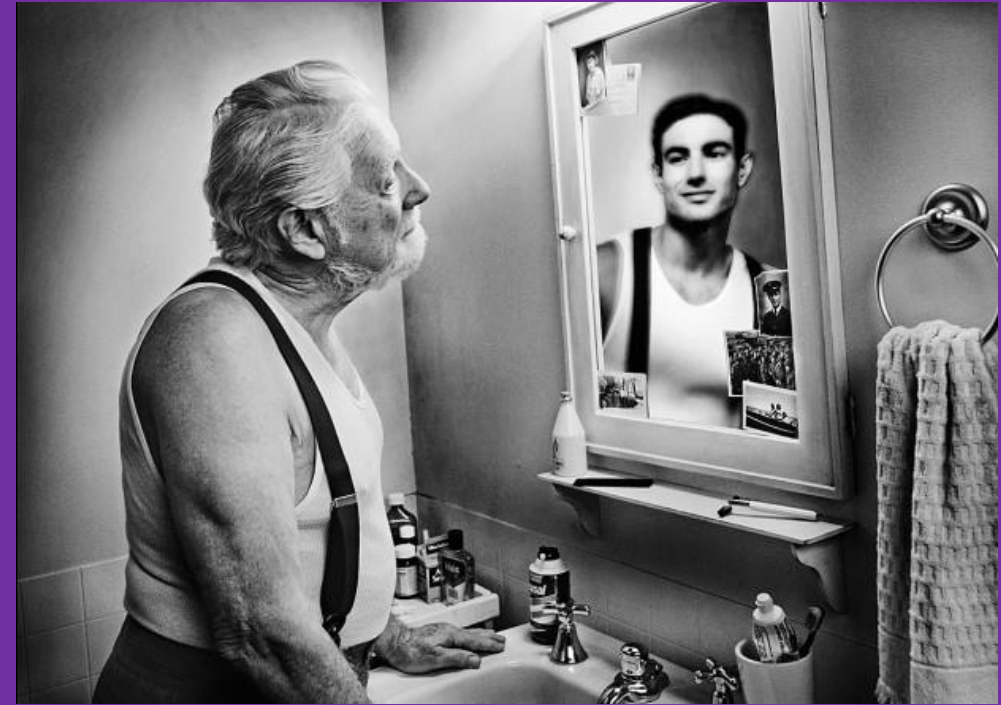
Try to describe a small period of time. Communicate something beautiful in a concise, crafted manner.

I do



Who are my characters?

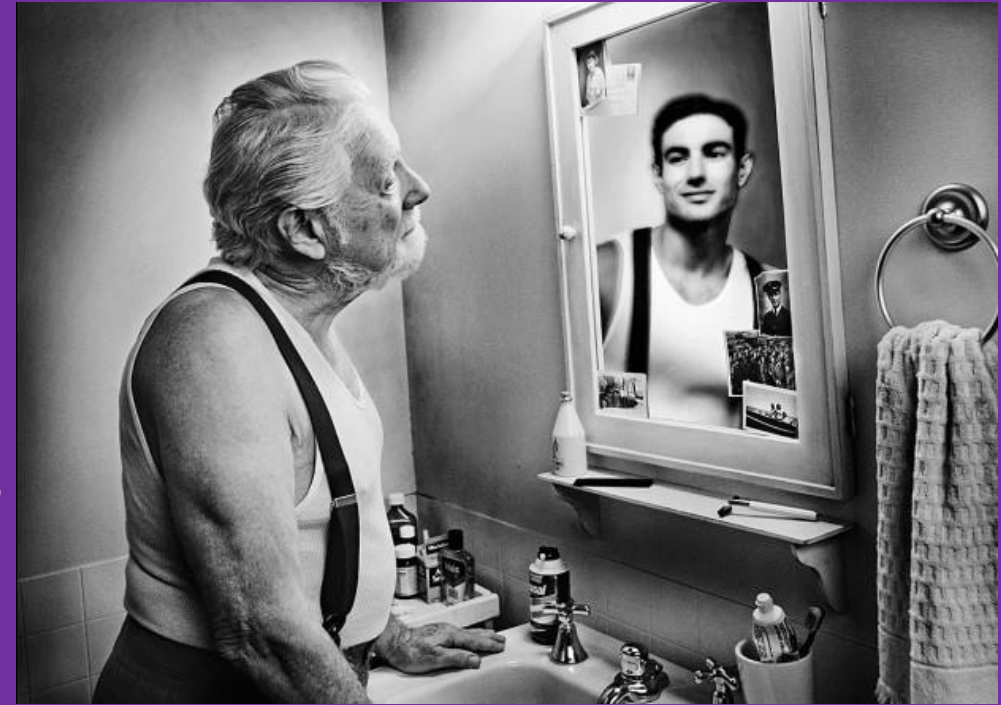
- Old man shaving – describe his beard as being like a snowy mountain?
- His wife – alive? Passed away? Just absent?



I do

What settings will I use?

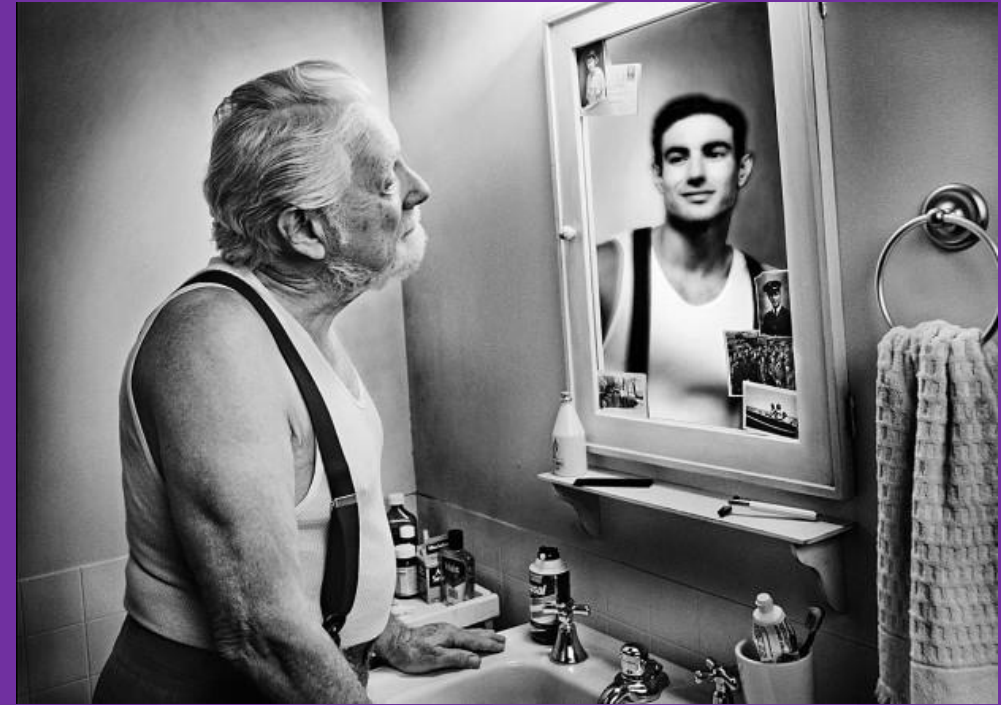
- The bathroom – sink, mirror, razor
- Contrast created through descriptions of the man's face?



I do

What will happen?

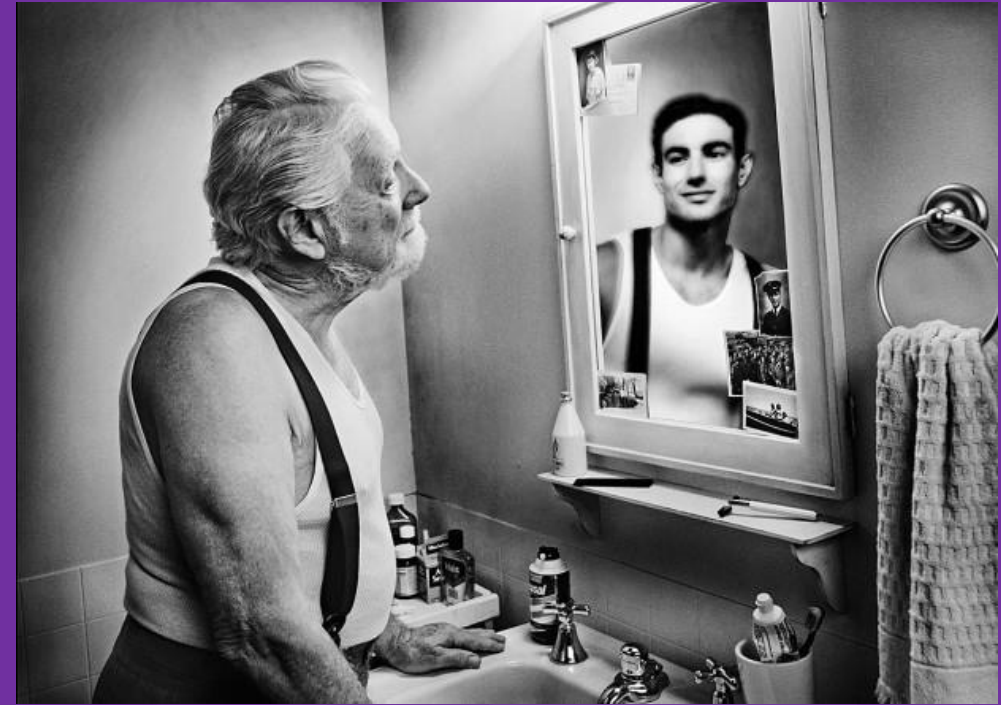
- The man shaves his beard, looks back into the mirror and remembers preparing for a date.
- Come back to the present moment and it is silent.



I do

What tone do I want to create?

- Sad, lonely – establish the change in his appearance and emotion from the present to the past.
- Excited – preparation for the date



I do

Plan:

P1: describe the old man shaving. Extended metaphor of a mountain for his beard and wrinkles?

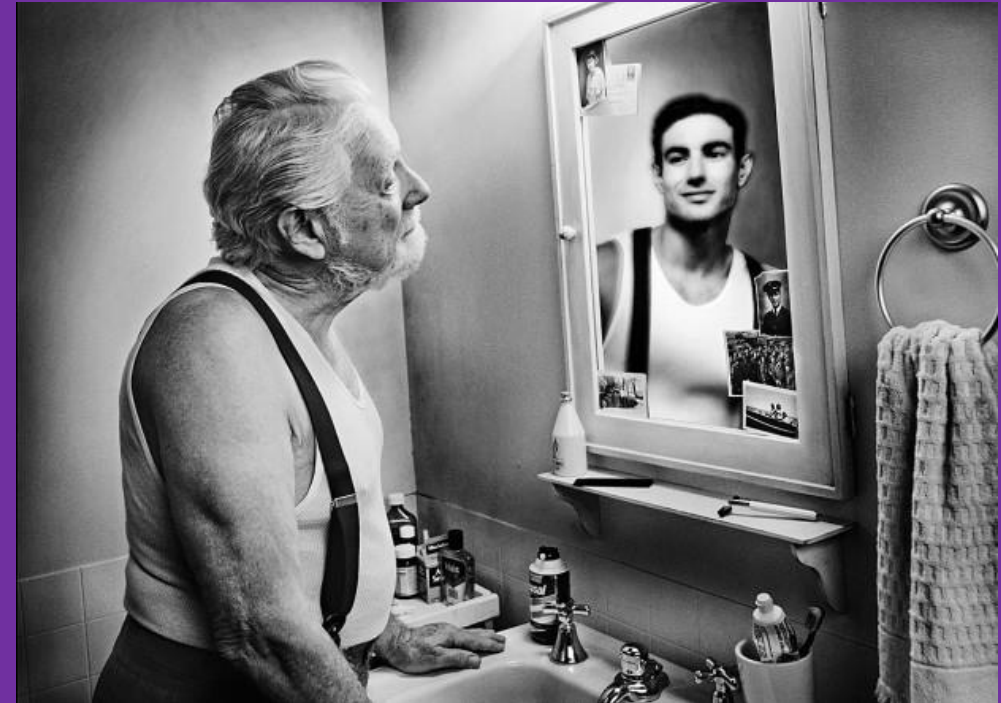
P2: wipes his face and looks into the mirror – describe youthful face and flashback

P3: describe excitement of the night ahead (show it is a date)

P4: emphasise youthful movement and bring in a sound – doorbell? Phone?

P5 - old man fingers burning in sink, snaps back to present. Old again and repeat some of the extended metaphor here.

P6 – emphasise silence in the house.



I do

The plan then ends up becoming this:

I do

Looking into the mirror, he could not quite believe what stared back at him. He was like a rugged mountain standing alone in the swirling winds. Thin lines were etched into his face like tiny crevasses and his hair was a greyish white – almost like snow – at the summit of his mountainous body. Slowly, he brought the shimmering razor to his cheeks, scratched in between each crevasse and caused a minor avalanche of white hairs. They tumbled down into the washbowl below. Despite his efforts to remove any trace of old age, the thin lines remained defiant and his skin sagged a little under the weight of his memories.

After the small avalanche of white snow, the man wiped his face with a small towel and slowly raised his head to face his reflection once more. Instead of sagging skin and sunken eyes, the man had transformed in the mirror. Suddenly, it was as if lustrous black hair rose from his head like an endless galaxy, matching the depth in his eyes. Strong cheekbones protruded from his tight skin, his angular jawline glistened in the reflection and his lips curled into a smile.

He was back on that beautiful night once again.

Stroking his youthful skin with one hand, he placed down the razor and imagined what the rest of the night had in store for him. What colour dress would she wear? Would she enjoy the film? Would she kiss him? As these thoughts raced through his mind, he dried his face with a small towel, winked at the mirror and began to pull on his best shirt.

He opened the bathroom door with a flourish and glided towards the front door. Like an actor playing his role to perfection, he reached the door just as the doorbell rang out across the house. That was his cue to begin the performance of his life and to sweep his date off her feet.

A sharp pain shot through the man's body and, instinctively, he pulled his hands out of the sink which had continued to fill with hot water. Once again, he was confronted by the mountainous, sagging flesh around his cheeks and the youthful skin had been replaced by rows of crevasses. Sighing, he emptied the sink and shuffled towards the door.

There was no doorbell ringing this time, only silence.

Structure: Models

How you structure your story will show how aware you are of planning and how aware you are of controlling the response of your reader.

Most students do not write stories in GCSE exams with any structure in mind, either before they write, or as they write.

You should definitely PLAN your structure and show this planning to the examiner.

Structure: Models

3a) The weather model (cyclical)

- Start with a description of the weather
- Effect of the weather on the setting
- Introduce the character
- Character moves or looks around
- Return to the weather and describe it again

Sentence Structures

The slides below will recap, and provide examples of, the different sentence structures.

Sentence Construction

Simple sentence

David was cold. There is no truth to this statement. I pressed the button. The moon is beautiful.

Task: write your own example of a simple sentence.

Compound sentence

Two bits of information joined into one sentence

I rode my bike **and** arrived just in time.

We were late, **therefore** we waited outside.

The road was empty, **because** it was night time.

The rich get richer, **whereas** the poor get poorer.

The vaccination was expensive, **so** many parents refused to pay for it.

Task: write your own example of a compound sentence.

List sentence

I grabbed my hat, coat and boots.

The wardrobe smelt strongly of dust, faded perfume and old age.

We must consider where these people get their water, where they find food and how they will survive.

The computer is not just useful, it is also adaptable, resilient and reliable.

Task: write your own example of a list sentence.

Begin with a conjunction

Despite being **old**, she ran like a cheetah.

Even though it was **tall**, I could see over it.

Because it is placed here in the **text**, it has a shocking effect on the reader.

Although this is an argument which has been presented **before**, it is still extremely powerful.

Task: write your own example of a sentence that begins with a conjunction.

Begin with an adverb (often an 'ly' word)

Carefully, he edged forward.

Deliberately, the writer is challenging our understanding.

Slowly, the sun emerged planting in him a seed of hope a seed of hope.

Cautiously, Jake opened the can.

Thoughtfully, Jane offered her hand.

Task: write your own example of a sentence that begins with an adverb.

Starting with a verb (an 'ing' word)

Hoping for a chance to speak with **her**, he waited by the door.

Catching my **breath**, I looked around me.

Laughing out **loud**, she clutched her hair.

Trusting my **skill**, I was able to climb the mountain and rescue my sister.

Task: write your own example of a sentence that begins with a verb.

Embedded clause

The hall, which was dark, stretched out before me.

My heart, usually so quiet, was beating wildly.

His hands, hot with sweat, reached out to touch the door.

Her shoes, beautifully clean as always, were red.

Task: write your own example of a sentence that contains an embedded clause.

Descriptive Techniques

The following slides will recap, and provide examples of, the different descriptive techniques to use as part of your English Language Paper 1 Question 5 response

Linguistic devices: the basic 'toolbox'

- Simile – comparison of two things using 'like' or 'as'
- Metaphor – comparing two things by saying one thing is the other
- Personification – giving something non-human human characteristics
- Hyperbole – exaggeration for a specific effect
- Sensory language – use of the 5 senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste)
- Repetition – a word, phrase or idea is used more than once in a text
- Onomatopoeia (if appropriate) – a word that sounds like the thing it describes
- Colour – the use of colour to represent something (e.g. red = danger or passion)
- Symbolism – the use of objects to represent something else

A note on using devices

- You do not need to use all of the different devices in a piece of writing, just the right 'tools' for the job.
- You should avoid over-using devices: there must be a balance between descriptive language and moving the story forwards with straightforward writing.



Using devices to describe a character

You will have a character in your Question 5 response, so you should practise using devices to describe characters.

When thinking about how to describe a character you should consider the following things:

- How do you want the reader to react to your description?
- What do you want the imagery you choose to say about your character?

I Do: a description of a lady (p57 of your booklet)

Occupying one of these heart-shaped seats was the reluctant star of the show. She sat, like a statue, gazing into the distance. Framing the canvas of her face, the lady's elbows rested on the table like the legs of an easel. Her face was a perfectly proportioned masterpiece: thin, lightly drawn eyebrows; mysterious, dark eyes; small, curved nose drawing your attention to slightly parted lips. They rested playfully against her fingers as her eyes slowly started to scan around the café.

1. What techniques/devices have been used?
2. How would the reader likely react to this description of the lady? Why?
3. What does the imagery suggest about this character?



Similes

Occupying one of these heart-shaped seats was the reluctant star of the show. **She sat, like a statue, gazing into the distance.** Framing the canvas of her face, the lady's elbows rested on the table **like the legs of an easel.** Her face was a perfectly proportioned masterpiece: thin, lightly drawn eyebrows; mysterious, dark eyes; small, curved nose drawing your attention to slightly parted lips. They rested playfully against her fingers as her eyes slowly started to scan around the café.

Metaphors

Occupying one of these heart-shaped seats was **the reluctant star of the show**. She sat, like a statue, gazing into the distance. **Framing the canvas of her face**, the lady's elbows rested on the table like the legs of an easel. **Her face was a perfectly proportioned masterpiece**: thin, lightly drawn eyebrows; mysterious, dark eyes; small, curved nose drawing your attention to slightly parted lips. They rested playfully against her fingers as her eyes slowly started to scan around the café.

Effective vocabulary:

Occupying one of these heart-shaped seats was the **reluctant** star of the show. She sat, like a statue, **gazing** into the distance. Framing the **canvas** of her face, the lady's elbows rested on the table like the legs of an **easel**. Her face was a perfectly proportioned **masterpiece**: thin, lightly drawn eyebrows; **mysterious**, dark eyes; small, curved nose drawing your attention to slightly parted lips. They rested **playfully** against her fingers as her eyes slowly started to scan around the café.

Effect on the reader? Effect of the imagery?

Occupying one of these heart-shaped seats was the reluctant star of the show. She sat, like a statue, gazing into the distance. Framing the canvas of her face, the lady's elbows rested on the table like the legs of an easel. Her face was a perfectly proportioned masterpiece: thin, lightly drawn eyebrows; mysterious, dark eyes; small, curved nose drawing your attention to slightly parted lips. They rested playfully against her fingers as her eyes slowly started to scan around the café.

- The reader is likely to sympathise with and support her
- The imagery makes her seem artistic, romantic and playful – a positive character