

Jekyll & Hyde Revision Toolkit

1. The Information

- English Literature Paper 1 Section B
- 30 marks (you are not assessed for SPaG)
- 50 minutes

2. The Process – How to approach the question.

- Read the question carefully ensuring you understand what is being asked of you. Highlight key words in the question.
- Read the extract ensuring you understand at what point it appears in the novel – it is important you understand what has happened before this extract and what happens after.
- Read the extract again – highlight key quotations that will help you answer the question – you need a minimum of three good quotations.
- Annotate these key quotations with initial ideas.
- Think about the novel as a whole – make a note of some quotations/references from other parts of the novel.
- Then think about context and themes – make some initial notes.

3. Example Question

Read the following extract from Chapter 4 of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and then answer the question that follows:

'We have common friends,' said Mr Utterson.
'Common friends!' echoed Mr Hyde, a little hoarsely. 'Who are they?'
'Jekyll, for instance,' said the lawyer.
'He never told you,' cried Mr Hyde, with a flush of anger. 'I did not think you
5 would have lied.'
'Come,' said Mr Utterson, 'that is not fitting language.'
The other snarled aloud into a savage laugh; and the next moment, with
extraordinary quickness, he had unlocked the door and disappeared into the
house.
10 The lawyer stood awhile when Mr Hyde had left him, the picture of
disquietude. Then he began slowly to mount the street, pausing every step or
two and putting his hand to his brow like a man in mental perplexity. The
problem he was thus debating as he walked was one of a class that is rarely
solved. Mr Hyde was pale and dwarfish; he gave an impression of deformity
15 without any nameable malformation, he had a displeasing smile, he had
borne himself to the lawyer with a sort of murderous mixture of timidity and
boldness, and he spoke with a husky whispering and somewhat broken voice,
– all these were points against him; but not all of these together could explain
the hitherto unknown disgust, loathing and fear with which Mr Utterson
20 regarded him. 'There must be something else,' said the perplexed
gentleman. 'There *is* something more, if I could find a name for it. God bless
me, the man seems hardly human! Something troglodytic, shall we say? Or
can it be the old story of Dr Fell? Or is it the mere radiance of a foul soul that
thus transpires through, and transfigures, its clay continent? The last, I think;
25 for, O my poor old Harry Jekyll, if ever I read Satan's signature upon a face, it
is on that of your new friend!'

Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson present Mr Hyde as a frightening character. Write about:

- How Stevenson presents Mr Hyde in this extract
- How Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as a frightening character in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

4. Model Answer (extract)

This passage occurs before the answer to the mystery is revealed, so Stevenson uses it to increase the reader's understanding of Hyde's true nature. He presents Hyde as a character to be feared because, "alone amongst men", he is "pure evil". Through Utterson's meeting with Hyde, Stevenson brings in the idea of the contrast between good and evil. The reader already knows that Utterson is a respected lawyer who represents tolerance and good values. Hyde leaves him with a feeling of "disquietude" because of his quick change of mood and "flush of anger", reinforced by the verb "savage" to describe Hyde's "laugh", a threatening and animal-like noise. Hyde's animal characteristics continue throughout the novel, his "ape-like" behaviour and Stevenson's reference to him being a "monkey" make people afraid because of the links they suggest with man's evolution from animals. At the time the novel was published, after Darwin's 'Origin of the Species', some people feared that giving in to animal instincts might lead to human degeneration and the breakdown of civilised society.

Stevenson also conveys an atmosphere of horror and fear in the novel by making links between Hyde and ideas about Hell. Stevenson expresses a Christian perspective that his 19th-century readers would be familiar with in Utterson's metaphor "Satan's signature" to describe Hyde's appearance, it is as if the devil himself owns Hyde. Even readers today will recognise the hint of horror that this description contains.

Stevenson develops several ideas based on Hyde as a frightening character. He suggests that characters may be frightened of the truth that Hyde reveals about human nature. Dr Lanyon, for example, dies from shock at the horror of what Jekyll reveals to him. Characters are shown as hypocritical and keen to protect their respectable reputations. They may fear Hyde because he forces them to confront the evil inside themselves. By making the evil side of Hyde so frightening, Stevenson has created a powerful horror story that makes the reader consider the scary idea that there might be Hyde lurking inside everyone. As Jekyll puts it, "Man is not truly one but truly two".

5. Tips/How to get the marks – what is the examiner looking for?

- Ensure you explore language and/or structure and/or form
- Try to embed quotes within your answer
- Focus on key individual words
- Use subject terminology
- Explore the effect of language – think, feel, imagine
- Contextual ideas – a 19th century & 21st century audience
- Thematic ideas
- Try to use quotations from the whole novel (memorise quotations)

6. Revision resources

- Good revision sites: 'sparknotes'
- Youtube: 'Mr Bruff' or 'Stacey Reay' – loads of great videos – all good for revision
- Use your study guides
- Apps – 'litcharts' and 'gojimo'

- Audiobook link
- Quotation cards
- GCSEpod
- Make your own questions and plan the answer

7. Key Quotations

- “marks of prolonged and sordid negligence”
- “like a disconsolate prisoner”
- “with an air of invitation, like rows of smiling saleswomen”
- “snarled aloud into a savage laugh”
- “every mark of capacity and kindness”
- “Had his death-warrant written legibly on his face”
- “packet slept in the inmost corner of his private safe”
- “that man is not truly one, but truly two”
- “I heard what I heard, and my soul sickened at it”
- “copy of pious work...expressed a great esteem, annotated, in his own hand, with startling blasphemies”