

# Pigeon English Revision Toolkit

## The Information

- Literature Paper 2 Section A (Modern Texts)
- 30 marks (+4 marks for SPG)
- 45 minutes approximately

<b>AO1: 12 marks</b> This tests your ability to read understand and respond. In other words, answer the question which has been set using references to the text and quotations to support and illustrate.	<b>AO2: 12 marks</b> This tests your ability to analyse the language, form and structure used to create meanings and effects, using subject terminology where appropriate. In other words, don't just choose a word and say it is good. Identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what type of word it is,</li><li>• and interpret its intended meaning,</li><li>• the effect it has on the reader.</li></ul>	<b>AO3: 6 marks</b> This tests your ability to show understanding of the text and the context in which it was written. For example, Damilola Taylor's murder, gangs and knife crime, being a teenager, etc...	<b>AO4: 4 marks</b> Four marks are available for good quality writing: SPaG, spelling, punctuation and grammar. These are an easy 4 marks so bear them in mind as you edit/check your response at the end of writing.
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## The Process

- There is a choice of two questions. Read each one carefully; don't rush into picking your option.
- Highlight the trigger words in the question.
- Decide your response and gather your evidence (the sections of the novel which deal with the scope of the question). Order your evidence from strongest to weakest.
- Each piece of evidence needs to be developed into a PEARL/PEARC or PEZEL paragraph. You will need to include quotation – memorise those key quotations!
- You also need a brief introduction and conclusion.

## Example Question

In *Pigeon English*, Harrison says 'Somebody dies on the news every day. It's nearly always a child.'

How does Kelman present Harrison's daily life?

Write about:

- what we learn about Harrison's daily life
- how Kelman presents Harrison's daily life by the way he writes

(30 marks)  
AO4 (4 marks)

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### Model Answer (part of)

Kelman uses contrast powerfully in *Pigeon English*. Using third person narrative, we experience Harrison's daily life from his perspective. As Harri is a positive force in the novel, Kelman manipulates our emotions by contrasting Harri's naive gullibility with the harshness of his surroundings. The estate's deprivation and violence is not really noticed by Harri and it is his lack of response that creates greater empathy in the reader.

At one point, Harri's daily life features a lesson in knife crime, 'I was the dead boy. X-Fire was teaching us about chooking.' Kelman's use of foreshadowing is particularly affecting here; it is ironic that a lesson in how to chook doesn't help Harri at the end of the novel where he is the victim of such a lesson, '...he just wanted to destroy me.' Kelman puts the verb 'chook' into Harri's mouth and it seems incongruous here – a further example of Harri's desire to fit in. This desire is a constant feature of Harri's daily life, be it in school or on the estate, through the use of the words he uses and gives the protagonist, and the reader, a moral dilemma: Harri is an innocent in an increasingly fractured society, '...destroy me' suggesting a society that has stopped caring.

### Tips / How to get the marks

- You need to know the text really well. There is no substitute for this.
- The examiner wants to know your response to the text.
- They want to see quotations (or references).
- They want you to discuss and analyse language and structure.
- They expect you to know something about the context of the text.
- Stick to PEARL/PEARC/PEZEL and you will cover all these aspects.
- It is far better to do fewer paragraphs in detail than to try to cover everything in the novel.

### Revision Resources

- Y10 Pigeon English workbook – completed by you
- 11/1 Pigeon English revision guide – made by the class
- Quotation tests
- Model PEARL/PEARC/PEZEL paragraphs in your class book
- Tables: Friendships - Dean/Jordan/Poppy/Terry Takeaway/Altaf/Brett Shawcross, Violence/Settings – school/home/estate, Teenage problems – school/relationships/fitting in, etc...

### Key quotes

1. 'I pretended if I kept looking hard enough I could make the blood move and go back in the shape of a boy.'

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2. 'I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach ten thousand stars how not to dance.' e e *cummings*
3. 'I was the dead boy. X-Fire was teaching us about chooking.'
4. 'Violence always comes too easy to you.'
5. 'Papa's voice was smiling.' '..her laughing was like a wave in the sea, when it landed on you it made you laugh as well.'
6. 'That's what dying must be like, except the fire isn't beautiful anymore because it actually burns.'
7. 'Asweh...hutiuous...dey touch...bo-styles... fuzzy-wuzzy...Adjei...mighty...confusionist... proper...dope-fine...chook...donkey hours...
8. 'Tell Agnes my story...' 'All babies look the same.'
9. 'Say it with me: I am a drop in the ocean. I am neighbour, nation, north and nowhere. I am one among many and we all fall together.'
10. 'You're not supposed to talk to Somalis because they're pirates.'
11. 'That's why I love stars, because they stand for freedom.'
12. 'Now the whole world knows about us. The footprints are there to tell everybody we were here.'