Evaluation:

Assessment Objective (A04): *Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.*

Evaluation questions test a reader's ability to:

- give considered personal judgement
- use the text wisely to support judgements given
- demonstrate clear focus on the question
- provide critical overview of what has been read.

Before answering:

1. Read the statement/view in the question carefully.
2. Underline the part of the statement/view that shows the **focus** of the question.
3. Think about whether you agree/partly agree/ disagree with the statement/view. You might find that you agree and disagree for different reasons.
4. Highlight the text to show which evidence you are going to use to support your opinions.
5. **Look again** at the question. Make sure your evidence and points will provide a clear focused answer.

Timing is key:

This question is worth **10 marks**.
You need to leave yourself around **15 minutes** to answer it.

Useful sentence openings and key vocabulary:

I agree/disagree with this view/statement...
This is reinforced by...
To some extent...
Furthermore...

This...
suggests... creates... demonstrates... uses... reiterates... reinforces... implies... indicates... convinces... highlights...

When writing your answer:

- keep the focus of the question firmly in mind – reuse the words of the question to show that your opinions are on task;
- make sure you are offering clear opinions in response to the statement/view given in the question and take a coherent stance;
- support all points with precisely chosen evidence from the text;
- track through the text to gain a clear range of evidence and help you to organise yourself in a coherent way;
- think about how the writer has shaped your opinion (what methods/techniques/ language have been used).

TOP TIP: Use evidence wisely

1. Any opinions you offer must be supported with evidence.
2. Avoid unsupported opinions or assertions – make your opinions relevant using what you have read to prove them.
3. Look at the text and pinpoint what it is that a writer says that makes you think as you do. Use that evidence to accompany your points.

Checklist for improving your answer:

- Have you responded to the focus of the question?
- Have you used specific and precise evidence to support your opinions?
- Have you made a range of points?
- Have you drawn upon evidence from the whole of the text?
- Have you given consideration to HOW the writer shaped your opinions?
- Have you given an overview statement to respond to the question?

Some examples of previous evaluation questions

Component 1: Q5

"The writer shows that life for immigrants such as the Hamiltons was very hard."
How far do you agree with this view?
You should write about:

- your thoughts and feelings about how the life of the Hamiltons is presented in the passage as a whole;
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings. [10]

"The writer uses the walk to Wreck Island to show a change in both Emma and Robbie."
How far do you agree with this view?
You should write about:

- your thoughts and feelings about how Emma and Robbie are presented in these lines and in the passage as a whole;
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings. [10]

"The writer presents Jonathan as a failure as a father and a husband."
How far do you agree with this view?
You should write about:

- your thoughts and feelings about Jonathan and how he is presented in these lines and in the passage as a whole;
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings. [10]

Component 2: Q4

"In the first three paragraphs of the account, the writer gives the impression that the accident was **so serious that the trapped miners would not be found alive**." How far do you agree with this statement?
You should comment on:

- what he says;
- how he says it. [10]

"In this extract, George Banks presents Blondin in **a very positive way**." How far do you agree with this view?
You should comment on:

- what he says;
- how he says it. [10]

"Pieter Sandrick gets across his feelings **of increasing terror really well**." How far do you agree with this statement?
You should comment on:

- what he says;
- how he says it. [10]

These questions are accompanied by the instruction:
You must use the text to support your comments.
This states you MUST use evidence to support your answer.