

Paper 1, Question 2(d)

Language analysis

Your question:

Re-read paragraphs 1 and 2.

- Paragraph 1 begins 'Lights up on New York City ... ' and introduces the setting of the busy city of New York.
- Paragraph 2 begins 'In a dizzying spin, ... ' and describes the various types of people found on the streets of New York.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three examples** of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

Text C

The View from the Other Side

Lights up on dazzling New York City, the Big Apple, the City that Never Sleeps, where Fat Cats prowl and ingénues seek fame, glory or money - whichever comes first. Pan out and see skyscrapers climbing into the heavens, their facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel, like modern-day castles touching the clouds. Each one vies for attention, a dazzling display of architectural prowess, creating a mesmerizing urban landscape that ignites the imagination. And perhaps if we can zoom in close enough, we might see a solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper, looking down, casting judgement or rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh. For what happens below is nothing to be proud of.

In a dizzying spin, we freefall from the lofty heights of those privileged few and come to a sharp halt on the gum-spattered ground. Quick - load in a new reel of film. And action! Pan across the street, through the toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases, and there! Do you see? Huddled into a doorway sits a beggar - is that acceptable to say anymore? Oh, homeless. And - retake. Huddled into a doorway sits a homeless man, burrowed deep into his green overcoat on this brisk day in January. Weariness is etched into every line of his face, deep crags and gullies. Each wrinkle aches with struggle and hardship. And there - that's it! Freeze frame: the man's hand outstretched, trembling, weathered and calloused. Out of focus is a sea of bustling bodies, smooth skin, and purpose, whilst the man is the very picture of uncertainty - a question. Can you help me? Will you help me? Can you see me?

And now a jump cut to a point-of-view shot. Yes, get down, get close. To his eye level. Oh, stop moaning; this is cinema, darling. Can you see what he sees? Luxury cars zooming by, their owners carelessly talking on the phone, their eyes unfocused; the sticky hands of a seven-year-old girl gripping an iPhone; and his own rumpled reflection peering back at him from the window of a pristine and sparkling shopfront. He averts his eyes. He does not want to see himself. And so he instead fixes his eyes upon the sky. Earlier on, it had been bitterly cold but bright, dry (the most important word to someone in his position). But now thick, rolling clouds, like chariots of darkness, were barreling in from the west, their brooding presence casting a heavy shadow over the city, threatening to unleash a torrent at any moment. Perhaps he's thinking of those dry and safe in their Teslas, little seven-year-old girls with homes to shelter in tonight, shop windows that will soon be pummeled by rain unleashed from menacing clouds above. Or perhaps he thinks nothing at all... I don't know. We can add his thoughts during post-production.

Pan out to a long shot and in the midground, encircled by blackening clouds, the Statue of Liberty stands steadfast. Move to a medium shot. Perfect. Her torch seems to flicker as dark clouds gather overhead, challenging the tempest and the turmoil that looms on the horizon. Her noble face, once a beacon of hope and compassion, bears a sombre expression, as if she mourns the deepening disparities plaguing the city she watches. (Perhaps now is a good time to cue some incidental music?) As the storm strengthens, the Statue of Liberty becomes a solitary figure amidst the tempest, a lone sentinel watching over a city that teeters on indifferent to its moral precipice.

The clouds are like coal when the first fat raindrops fall upon the ground, soaking the homeless man from crown to toe. Others scatter, but he stays; he has nowhere else to go. Credits roll as the scene fades to black: the man at the top of the skyscraper shuts his blinds, disgusted by the view outside; the Tesla speeds away; the little girl is dragged into a taxi by her father; Manolo Blahnik-clad women rush into cocktail bars to pay 15 dollars a drink while they wait out the storm; and our nameless, faceless man's eyes meet the lens of our camera. A challenge, another question: do you like what you see?

How would you **summarise** the description?

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What do you think the writer's **message** is about New York?

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Why did the writer choose to use **cinematic language** to frame their description?

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Recommended structure for question 2(d):

Overall effect sentence: what is the overall effect of the paragraph?

- **Quote:** should be a strong image and must match the quote given in the mark scheme
- **Meaning:** give a definition or a synonym of the meaning of your quote
- **Connotations:** pick out a powerful word and state its connotations
- **Effect:** state the effect of your quotation

Your turn!

You should now independently analyse paragraph 2, using the structure I have taught you.

If you're stuck, use these sentence starters:

- The overall effect of the paragraph is to suggest...
- Firstly, the image of "... " means that... (explain/definition)
- The word "... " has connotations of... ,... and ..., which suggests that (effect).
- Secondly, the image of "... " means that... (explain/definition)
- The word "... " has connotations of... ,... and ..., which suggests that (effect).
- Finally, the image of "... " means that... (explain/definition)
- The word "... " has connotations of... ,... and ..., which suggests that (effect).

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The mark scheme

The question

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Paragraph 1

The overall effect of this paragraph is to showcase the dazzling grandeur and ambition of the stereotypical image of New York, whilst casting judgement on the extravagance of the extreme wealth of the city.

- **Lights up on dazzling New York City:** Sun rises, the description begins; sounds like stage directions, performance, setting the stage for a glamorous portrayal of New York, creates a sense of wonder, too bright to look at, like a jewel or something precious.
- **Where Fat Cats prowl and ingenues seek fame, money or glory:** where rich people live and actors hope for success; contrasting characters of powerful and aspiring to be powerful people, prowl suggests a competitive or predatory environment, hints towards the American dream, everyone is seeking status, superficial.
- **Skyscrapers climbing into the heavens:** extremely tall buildings; creates a sense of awe or grandeur, symbols of achievement, represents people's ambition to reach new heights, as though otherworldly or magical.
- **Facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel:** buildings decorated in shining glass and steel; a modern or futuristic city, sparkling like a precious metal, adorned suggests something lovingly decorated, steel and glass are both cold or harsh materials like the lifestyle.

- **Modern-day castles touching the clouds:** comparing skyscrapers to castles reaching high into the sky; castles are historic symbols of power, also symbols of inequality between ruler and the ruled, creates a sense of majesty or dominance, creates a fantasy-like or fairytale image, as though New York is already a myth.
- **Each one vies for attention:** all the skyscrapers want to be noticed; makes the buildings seem alive, even the buildings are competitive like the people, reinforces themes of ambition and success.
- **Solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper:** a single person looking out of the window; sense of isolation from those who are on top, even those who succeed still aren't happy, God-like figure, casting judgement, creates a sense of mystery.
- **Rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh:** the figure shows disdain and/or detachment from the city below; suggests the indifference of those on top to those below them, suggests a cynical outlook of New York's citizens, suggests no-one cares about struggles of those below.

Paragraph 2

The overall effect of this paragraph is to suggest the stark contrast between privilege and poverty.

- **Freefall from the lofty heights of the privileged few:** Move swiftly downward from the skyscrapers to the ground; creates a dramatic sense of rapid descent, emphasises difference between those on top and those below, represents contrast between privileged and marginalised people, suggests a fall from grace, suggests a drop in status, alludes to issues of inequality highlighted by the description.
- **The gum-spattered ground:** the floor littered in chewing gum; gritty image of littered urban city, suggests the mundane and everyday aspects of New York, contrasts with the glittering skyscrapers, suggests New York isn't clean or well-cared for, symbolises the less fortunate beggar who is also sitting on the floor, suggests neglect of the city.
- **The toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases:** the muscled legs wearing expensive designer heels and those holding briefcases; suggests luxury and creates fashionable image, emphasises material wealth, suggests excess money spent on things that don't really matter, contrasts with the beggar who has nothing, symbols of wealth and status.
- **A homeless man, burrowed deep into his green overcoat:** homeless man huddled into his coat; creates empathy for homeless man, suggests his vulnerability and exposure to harsh weather, contrasts with the wealthy individuals above him,

suggests his need for shelter, highlights his lack of resources or safe place to retreat to, burrowed is an animal-like image, burrow is also an animal's home.

- **Weariness is etched into every line of his face, deep crags and gullies:** tiredness is clear by the pronounced wrinkles on his face; creates empathy, suggests a long, hard life, contrasts with the healthy people on the street, suggests the long-lasting effects of hardships on man's body, aligns him with nature.
- **The man's hand outstretched, trembling, weathered and calloused:** hand reaching out, shaking, aged and rough; sense of desperation and vulnerability, plea for help, contrasts his aged and rough hands with the smooth skin of those around him, connotations of begging.
- **Sea of bustling bodies, smooth skin, and purpose:** crowds of people with direction and healthy appearances; suggests chaotic abundance of people in a busy city, crowds of people contrast with the isolated figure of the homeless man, contrasts his weathered skin with their healthy and smooth appearances, contrasts crowd's movement and sense of purpose with homeless man's lack of purpose and movement as he has nowhere to go to.
- **Can you help me? Will you help me? Can you see me?:** asks if the crowd care enough to help or even acknowledge the existence of the homeless man; questions might echo the homeless man's pleas or what he wishes he could say, suggests his uncertainty and vulnerability, prompts the reader to question their own empathy and individual responsibility.

Exemplar for paragraph 2:

The overall effect of paragraph 2 is to contrast the poverty of the homeless man with the extreme wealth of the New Yorkers. Firstly, "the toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases" means that New Yorkers are healthy and own expensive designer accessories. The word "leather" has connotations of wealth and sophistication. This suggests the luxury, excess wealth and fashionable image of New York. By contrast, the image of the "gum-spattered ground" means that the floor is littered with chewing gum. The connotations of "ground" are the bottom, the lowest, and overlooked, much like the homeless man. The image might contrast with the glittering sky scrapers and suggest the neglect of the city. Finally, the image of "weariness etched into every line of his face, deep crags and gullies" means that the homeless man's tiredness is marked by pronounced wrinkles. The word "etched" has connotations of being carved over time and something that is irreversible. This creates empathy as the reader realises the long-lasting effects of a hard life on the man's physical health, contrasting with the healthy people around him on the street.