Castle View
English
Department

English toolkit
KS4
Narrative Writing



Glossary

Key technique	Definition	Example
Simile	A comparison of two things using like or as.	A note of despairing appeal which fell like a cold hand upon one's living soul.
Metaphor	Describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true.	Malevolently the veil of darkness descended.
Alliteration	The repetition of the same sound at the start of a series of words.	The snake slithered slowly, hissing and spitting at the same time.
Personification	An inanimate object is given human qualities.	Snow cradled the earth, the wind sang a gentle lullaby and the trees danced in time.
Pathetic fallacy	The use of the weather and inmate objects to reflect particular emotions of characters.	Each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Imagery	Visually descriptive language.	The waves battered the defenceless rocks, crashing and bashing against them and spraying frigid, salty water into the night.
Repetition	Using a word of phrase more than once for emphasis and effect.	I live, I laugh, I love. Time after time. When the going gets tough the tough gets going.
Onomatopoeia	Words which are the sound in which they describe.	Bang! Creak! Snap! Sizzle
Sensory language	words or phrases that describe one or more of the five senses.	The repugnant stench of death clung to their nostrils.
Oxymoron	A combination of words that are contradictory.	He had a hateful smile. There as a deafening silence.



Key word	Definition	Example
Pronoun	Substitute for a noun.	I, me, he, she
Noun	An object, a person, a place.	Bob. London. Table.
Adjective	A describing word.	Sinister. Beautiful.
Verb	A doing word.	Crawl. Shriek. Yell.
Adverb	Modify meaning of verbs.	Anxiously. Slowly.

Minor

A **minor sentence** is an incomplete **sentence** that still makes sense without all the necessary information. Can be made up of 1 or 2 words.

Simple

A **sentence** that consists of just one independent clause. A **simple sentence** has no dependent clauses. It can be used to create tension.

Compound

A **sentence** joins two or more **sentences** that have related ideas of equal importance. The two **sentences** go together. Each **sentence** or independent clause must still have a subject and a verb

Complex

A **complex sentence** is a **sentence** that contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. They add detail and further information, a good opportunity to sue ; and :

The Narrative Technique

Writing Skills
STRUCTURE

Drop	In this section you begin with action, it drops your reader into the middle of the situation with your character and the action taking place, to create tension and engagement. You can include description of aspects but should be embedded and relevant.	In this section you could use:
Shift	In this section you shift your focus to a different time – whether a flashback or flash forward or different character. This structural shift allows you to change the tone of your writing and showcase your skill.	In this section you could use:
Zoom in	In this section you shift your focus to one particular part of the action and narrative – describe in detail. This could be an object or a character. Remember the tone of the writing and maintain it. This is where there is most tension and your narrative has been building up towards.	In this section you could use:
Leave	This sections ends your writing, it doesn't have to be with a cliffhanger or have everything solved, it could be a cyclical ending? Remember that pace and tension here from earlier. How is your character feeling? And do you reflect this?	In this section you could use:

- Remember the narrative needs to be realistic, believable and plausible.
- We want to see your narrative voice – your wit, your humour, your personality in your writing.
- Ensure that the time frame you are writing across is small and precise and you are writing in the correct tense.

Top Tips

Narrative voice

- Ensure your narrative voice is you and it is believable, you are 15/ 16 years old, and your examiner knows that.
- It is your inner dialogue and should express your feelings – can you use rhetorical questions and minor sentences to show your emotions.
- Write as a 15/16-year-old and things that have happened or could happen to you. It does not need to be autobiographical but believable – you aren't getting married or running around in space!

Tension / Pace

- Tension in your writing creates engagement and develops your initial idea.
- Tension is created through pace in your writing; the use of sentence structure is key here.
- Short and minor sentences are key to crafting tension effectively.
- Using foreshadowing to hint about a climatic event will impress your examiner.
- However, when you achieve that climatic point maintain that level or use a steady fall to end.

Character

- Only have 2-3 characters in your narrative, if 1st person narrative you are one of them.
- Use show don't tell to present emotions and develop that detail and a believable narrative voice.
- Development of character is key for the higher bands; this includes the 1st person narrative.

Developing ideas

- Ensure ideas are linked and develops your plot while linking to the title choice.
- Short time frames are key to plot, change an everyday event into something dramatic.
- Engage your reader / examiner from the very beginning – use your voice effectively (rhetorical questions or direct address).
- To achieve a band 3, you need a beginning, middle and an end – this structure should be clear with the development of your ideas.

Vocabulary

- Appropriate and sophisticated vocabulary is a keyway to ensure a higher band.
- Vocab needs to be relevant to plot and content.
- Even though it is a narrative you can still describe setting / feeling / character / movement in an ambitious way.
- This does not mean overloading the examiner with vocabulary or words that do not fit the context, ensure it is warranted and relevant.

SPAG

- Accurate punctuation is key. You can achieve high marks on A06 with the basics of punctuation .,!? but it must be accurate.
- Ensure you apostrophes correctly.
- Capital letters are vital – these need to be used correctly.
- Tenses are important, switching between past and present will lower your marks drastically.

The 8 ways to start a sentence

Writing Skills
STRUCTURE

Sentence opener	Example	Example	Other suggestions
Discourse markers for time	In the meanwhile, the rain began to pour …	June 1913: the tranquil sun caressed my soft skin…	Years ago… In the future… More recently… At this moment… June 2019:
Past participle verbs	Staring absently at the empty space beneath me…	Deafening, the onslaught of artillery roared on…	Engulfing, Crawling, Creeping, Crouching, Fleeing, Emerging, Scrambling, Cascading
Frontal adverbials	Suddenly, there was a deafening, ear piercing scream...	Malevolently the thunderous grey skies…	Suspiciously, Mysteriously, Sinisterly, Fiercely, Reluctantly, Dubiously, Ferociously
Simile / metaphor	Blanket like, the darkness descended over his eyes…	The veil of darkness descended…	Blanket of doom, A blind rage like a fire swept, Clear as crystal
Noun and verb combination	Silence interrupted by the …	Lightning pierced the ink black night sky…	Thunder erupted, Skies invaded, Swarms captured, Waves surged,
Adjective and verb combination	Torrential rain began to pour from the sky …	Wild wind raged on as the heavens grey darker…	Deafening shrieks echoed around … Icy ripples of…
Emotions	Devastated, I awoke to rain crashing against my window …	Afraid and alone, he no loner wished to…	Frustrated, Disheartened, Elated, Dumbfounded, Aggravated, Paralyzed
Verb and Adverb combination	Crashing endlessly, the rain collided with the shattered shards of …	Churning continuously, my emotions were in turmoil…	Swaying uncontrollably, Creaking eerily, Pelting violently,

Helpful paragraph sentence

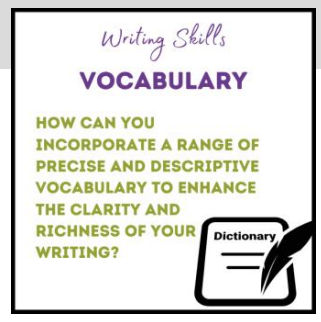
•Inform - external. The writer tells us something is happening Perhaps this is functional - it moves the narrative on. Can be an action, a series of actions, or observations.

•Describe - self-explanatory in a way it adds extra imagery/detail to the Inform stage

•Reflect - these are internal. The narrator/character reflects on their own or others' actions. Inner monologue, perhaps

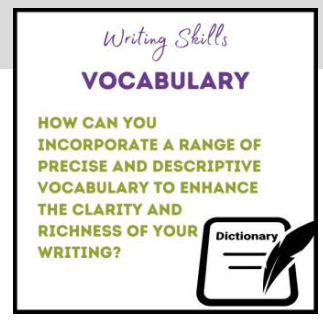
•React - character/narrators react to environment/other characters/events etc. This overlaps with the previous three

•Connect - how does this element in the narrative 'connect' to others; structural links: does it reinforce any big ideas or contribute to the 'unity of effect"?



Vocabulary bank - Negative

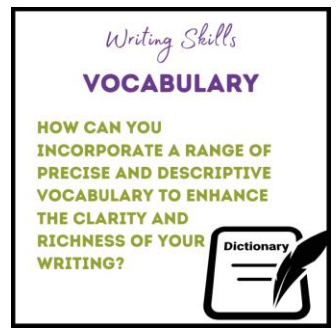
Survival	Endurance	Hysterical	Perilous
Anguish	Distress	Tremble	Fatally
Tormented	Plagued	Malevolent	Thundering
Catapulted	Conquer	Diversion	Turbulent
Turbulent	Raging	Collide	Mischief
Fragile	Vindictive	Chaos	Exposed
Hostility	Antagonism	Disorder	Gravely
Strife	Massacre	Intrepid	Malicious
Barrage	Discord	Bedlam	Maiming
Chaotic	Fusillade	Mayhem	Intrigue
Raucous	Hectic	Shambles	Annihilation
Vociferous	Boisterous	Meandering	Eradication
Ricochet	Vindictive	Pulverise	Deterrent
Sombre	Recoil	Disarray	Anarchy
Repugnant	Solemn	Disorderliness	Revolting
Frenzied	Obscene	Isolated	Deception
Disastrously	Atrocity	Crumbling	Forbidden
Onslaught	Detestable	Torrential	Resentment
Riot	Carnage	Solitary	Inconsolable
Savage	Ambush	Secluded	Daunting
Debris	Belligerent	Deliberate	Ferocious
Menacing	Sinister	Contagious	Ominous



Vocabulary bank – Positive

Bewitching	Captivating	Divine	Intensity
Adorable	Tender	Enlighten	Blossom
Beautiful	Breath-taking	Epiphany	Caress
Enchanting	Blissful	Reconcile	Endearing
Enthralling	Innocent	Superficial	Stellar
Angelic	Captivated	Platonic	Amusement
Masquerade	Idolise	Amicable	Array
Intoxicating	Fascination	Contentment	Inevitable
Heavenly	Affectionate	Majestic	Universal
Mesmerising	Virtues	Magical	Compassion
Embrace	Heartbroken	Charming	Tenderness
Bustling	Comfort	Smitten	Splurge
Entice	Security	Selfless	Alluring
Fantasy	Refuge	Gallant	Exhilarated
Immortalise	Sanctuary	Unconditional	Tranquil
Devotion	Elegant	Optimism	Serene
Amorous	Svelte	Exquisite	Harmonious
Infatuated	Serendipitous	Dreamy	Compelling
Euphonious	Aromatic	Luminous	Evocative
Reminiscent	Opulent	Ornate	Effervescent
Splendid	Pristine	Serene	Vivacious
Sublime	Odour	Calm	Animated

Vocabulary bank – Speech



Cheered
Chuckled
Chorused
Applauded
Cooed
Congratulated
Giggled
Encouraged
Beamed
Joked
Marvelled
Soothed
Vowed
Praised
Quivered
Recoiled
Gulped
Cautioned
Scoffed
Threatened
Critised
Reprimanded

Sniffed
Reckoned
Bragged
Teased
Whimpered
Groaned
Clarified
Illustrated
Forewarned
Alluded
Scrutinised
Probed
Implored
Begged
Asked
Formulated
Broadcast
Proclaimed
Articulated
Vocalised
Presumed
Assumed

Remarked
Yammered
Hailed
Divulged
Disclosed
Insinuated
Emaciated
Cried
Howled
Roared
Screamed
Wailed
Bellowed
Screeched
Yelped
Vented
Declared
Insisted
Mentioned
Boasted
Pleaded
Squeaked

Purred
Sighed
Shrieked
Voiced
Whispered
Uttered
Murmured
Gasped
Mumbled
Spluttered
Blurted
Affirmed
Conveyed
Asserted
Contended
Professed
Slander
Clamour
Insulted
Emphasised
Said
Shouted















Vocabulary bank – Emotions

Happy	**Sad**	**Fear**	**Anxious**
Delighted	Sorrowful	Trepidation	Apprehensive
Elated	Inconsolable	Petrified	Hesitant
Jubilant	Despondent	Horrified	Angst
Thrilled	Sombre	Frightened	Neurotic
Blissful	Aggrieved	Paralysing	Distraught
Beatitude	Woeful	Panic stricken	Agonise
Ecstasy	Heavyhearted	Fearsome	Concern
Euphoria	Mournful	Chilling	Perturbed
Gaiety	Forlorn	Dismay	Distressed
Exhilaration	Miserable	Tremulous	Anguish

Disgust	**Angry**	**Surprise**
Revulsion	Outraged	Marvel
Repugnance	Infuriated	Phenomenon
Loathing	Enraged	Astound
Aversion	Wrathful	Astonishment
Loathsome	Exasperated	Amazement
Repelling	Resentful	Bewilderment
Repulse	Cantankerous	Perplex
Nauseate	Petulant	Dazed
Detestable	Vindictive	Startle
Contempt	Incensed	Alarm

Remember to show don’t’ tell

Show how a character is feeling in your writing though your description, think about body language and facial expressions:

- What do you do when you are scared? Hands shake, tremble, sweat, heart races etc.
- What do you do when you are happy? Skip, spring in your step, smile, tone of voice etc.

Remember this detail is important in your writing.

First sentence – direct speech, exclamation, question, action etc.	
Drop What action are you beginning with? How can you instantly create drama and tension?	
Shift Shift your focus to a different time – Is it a flashback? Or a flash-forward?	
Zoom **What** part of the action or narrative can you focus on in detail? – is it an object? A character? A feeling?	
Leave Are you ending with a cliffhanger? How is your character feeling? How will you leave your reader engaged?	

The Writing Process

IN ENGLISH



PLAN

- HAVE YOU EXPLORED ALL POSSIBLE IDEAS YOU INTEND TO INCLUDE IN YOUR WRITING?
- WHO IS YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR WRITING?



DRAFT

- IS YOUR WRITING CLEAR, CONCISE, AND ORGANISED, WITH SMOOTH TRANSITIONS BETWEEN IDEAS?
- HAVE YOU EXPLORED SUFFICIENT IDEAS TO SUPPORT YOUR MAIN POINTS OR PURPOSE?



WRITE

- IS YOUR LANGUAGE AND TONE APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR INTENDED AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE?
- HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES RELATED TO YOUR TOPIC, AND HAVE YOU ADDRESSED THEM EFFECTIVELY IN YOUR WRITING?



EVALUATE

- WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF YOUR STYLE OF WRITING, INCLUDING YOUR USE OF LANGUAGE, TONE, AND LITERARY DEVICES?
- HAVE YOU EFFECTIVELY CONVEYED YOUR MAIN IDEAS, FULFILLED YOUR PURPOSE AND YOUR WRITING IS STRUCTURED IN A LOGICAL ORDER?



EDIT

- HAVE YOU CHECKED FOR GRAMMATICAL ERRORS, PUNCTUATION MISTAKES, AND SPELLING ERRORS THROUGHOUT YOUR WRITING?
- DOES EACH PARAGRAPH HAVE A CLEAR TOPIC SENTENCE AND SUPPORTING DETAILS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE MAIN IDEA?