**National 5 –Critical Essay Questions – Prose**

Choose a novel or short story or a work of fiction in which setting in time and/or place is an important feature.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has portrayed this setting and how this influenced your response to the text.

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Choose a novel or short story which presents a theme that is relevant to you.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has explored this theme.

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Choose a novel or short story where an important character clearly shows development or change.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has portrayed development and how this influenced your response to the text.

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Choose a novel or short story or a work of fiction where you can identify a key moment, such as a turning point or climax.

By referring to appropriate techniques, describe the key moment and then go on to discuss its importance to the text as a whole.

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Choose a novel or short story that creates a mood or atmosphere effectively.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has created this mood or atmosphere and how this influenced your response to the text.

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Choose a novel or a short story or a work of non-fiction that made you consider an aspect of human nature or human society.

By referring to appropriate techniques, describe the aspect of human nature or human society and then go on to discuss its importance to the text as a whole.

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Choose a novel or short story which deals to some extent with a less pleasant side of life.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how this less pleasant side of life is portrayed realistically by the author’s description of people and/or places and/or events.

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Choose a novel or short story in which a character changes in the course of the story.

Briefly describe how the character changes and, by referring to appropriate techniques, explain what caused the change and go on to show how it affects the character and outcome of the story.