

Key Words from Assessment Objectives

Part (ii)

AO1: Terminology: written expression

(10 marks)

AO2: Meanings

(10 marks)

AO3: Context

(15 marks)

Total 35 marks=35 minutes



Some key themes

- Discuss/explore how Williams presents
- Violence
- Family relationships
- Male/female relationships
- Social class
- Mental illness
- Desire
- The past
- Truth vs. illusion
- Loneliness
- Love and romance
- Power and conflict
- Exploitation
- Disappointment and disillusion
- ...in 1940s America in at least two other episodes**



Suggested essay structure



Introduction: include key word(s) from the question. Outline a line of argument.

Paragraph 1: Select a key episode. Analyse several quotations using the Statement-Evidence-Analysis approach. Include analysis of dramatic/performance features. Embed context.

Paragraph 2: Further key episode. Make links with previous paragraph. Embed context.

Conclusion: Return to key word(s) from question. Explain how line of argument has been proved.

Key Linguistic/ literary terms (AO1)

Adverbials; stative/dynamic verbs; common/proper/concrete/abstract nouns; adjectives; pronouns; simple/compound/complex/minor sentences; noun phrases; connotations; similes/metaphors/personification; alliteration; declaratives/imperatives/interrogatives/exclamatories



Key contextual ideas (AO3)

Poverty; domestic violence; gender; crime; social class; racism; social hierarchies; community; family; the history of the South; the American Dream; plastic theatre; Southern Gothic



Extract from response to task: **Explore how Williams presents truth and illusion in 1940s America in at least two other episodes from the play**

Clearly, Blanche, the tragic hero of the play, immerses herself in her self-constructed fantasies and illusions, as a means of coping with her destitute circumstances, by connecting herself with a happier past. Even from Scene One she is seen to be obsessively fearful of being seen under light, as, using an imperative, she compels Stella 'Turn that off! I will not be looked at in this merciless glare!' Her hyperbolic personification of the light suggests how she perceives it a harsh, malign force to be kept at bay. It becomes evident that Blanche's fear of intense light is not only a result of her desire to be perceived as younger and more attractive than she actually is, but is also used by the playwright as an extended metaphor for her inability to accept her illusions being corrupted by reality. In this way the light becomes a symbol for reality, and the paper lantern Blanche purchases to dim the light a symbol of her fantastical world of illusion; the fragile nature of the lantern could also be seen as reflective of her delicate mental health. Additionally, it could be argued that this makes Blanche a shallow, self-indulgent character; however Tennessee Williams seems more inclined to encourage his audience to sympathise with her plight, and interpret her as a woman struggling with mental health issues and alcoholism, exacerbated by her exposure to the patriarchal world of America at the time, that valued women predominately for their appearance and the position of their husband. Tennessee Williams' own mental health struggles, and his mother's experience as a repressed wife driven to mental instability, probably contributed to the characterisation of Blanche...

Success criteria:

AO1 Terminology

AO2 Quotations+comments on meanings

AO3 Analytical link to context, i.e how does context influence text?

Also notice:

Adverbials to introduce ideas

Speculative and tentative language

Alternative readings where possible

Embedding of quotations