**Plot**

Stranded on an island, Ralph meets Piggy. Piggy has the idea of using the conch to call survivors together. Jack and his choir turn up, Ralph is elected leader and, with Jack and Simon, explores the island. They find a trapped piglet, but Jack cannot wield the knife.

At a meeting, Ralph imposes some rules. He is optimistic about rescue, but one little boy mentions seeing a beast. They start a signal fire, using Piggy’s glasses, but it spreads out of control. Piggy notices some of the small boys are going missing and is frustrated at the mistakes they have made.

The boys divide into “littluns” and “biguns”. Roger enjoys tormenting the littluns. Jack paints his face and leads the hunt. Ralph sees a ship, but realises the fire has gone out because Jack is hunting. When they return with a dead pig, the boys argue. Jack hits Piggy and breaks his glasses. The boys eat the pig.

Ralph calls a meeting and tries to reestablish the rules. They talk about the existence of the beast and the assembly descends into chaos. Jack opposes Ralph over the importance of rules.

Sam and Eric alert the boys to a dead parachutist that has landed on the island. Thinking it to be the Beast, the older boys go looking for it. Simon casts doubt on the safety of the island and isolates himself in the jungle.

Jack leads the choir and the hunters. He finds a dead parachutist and realises the fire has gone out because Jack is hunting. Ralph and Piggy, all are feasting with Jack. Ralph tries to take control, but one little boy mentions seeing a beast. They start a signal fire, using Piggy’s glasses, but it spreads out of control. Piggy notices some of the small boys are going missing and is frustrated at the mistakes they have made.

**Characters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralph</td>
<td>The oldest boy and has a natural authority. As elected leader, he promotes order and the rules of civilised society. His leadership is gradually undermined by Jack, culminating in his total loss of authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Leads the choir and the hunters. He prioritises hunting and becomes more savage as the novel progresses. He wins the boys over through their more primal instincts, leading to his takeover of power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piggy</td>
<td>Physically weaker than the others. Piggy provides intelligence to Ralph’s leadership. He is killed by Roger.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon</td>
<td>Spends time alone and shows insight and understanding beyond his years. He knows the true nature of the beast and shows courage in pursuing the truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger</td>
<td>Jack’s main support. He enjoys cruelty and this escalates throughout the novel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam and Eric</td>
<td>Twins who are loyal to Ralph, until the end. They are interchangeable to the others and referred to as ‘Samneric’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Maurice: Supports Jack; Robert: Hurt when he plays the pig in a tribal dance; Percival: a nervous littlun; Henry: picked on by Roger; Naval Officer: arrives in rescue at the end.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Themes**

- Civilization
- Order
- Society
- Innocence
- Fear
- Rules
- Power
- Identity
- Belief
- Violence
- Politics
- Human Nature

**Assessment Objectives**

**AO1**

- Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:
  - Use textual references, and quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
  - Maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response.

- Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

5 marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of vocabulary and sentence structures.

**AO2**

- Support points with reference to characters and events and refer back to the question set.
- The provided extract can be useful for language analysis (AO2).

**AO3**

- Dystopian Fiction

**Tips**

- The novel has the form of an adventure story. It is linear, with twelve chapters (each with an exciting chapter heading).
- An example of dystopian fiction, Golding uses symbolism and allegory to portray the island as a microcosm of society and the real world.
- The author builds fear and tension through foreshadowing and the gradual descent from order into chaos.
- There is a shift in perspective at the end, when we suddenly see the boys described through adult eyes.

**Background**

William Golding was inspired by ‘The Coral Island’ by RM Ballantyne. The two books share character names and a plot of shipwrecked boys. As a teacher, Golding wanted to portray a more realistic portrayal of what would happen if boys were put in that situation.

The book is partially an allegory, meaning there is a deeper meaning behind the surface story. For example, the boys can be seen to represent different aspects of humanity and the conch is symbolic of democracy.

Although, not explicitly specified when and where the novel is set, Golding had experienced the events of WW2 during his time in the Royal Navy.
Ralph found himself alone on a limb with Jack and they grinned at each other, sharing this burden. Once more, amid the breeze, the shouting, the slanting sunlight on the high mountain, was shed that glamour, that strange invisible light of friendship, adventure, and content. 

"Almost too heavy."
Jack grinned back.
"Not for the two of us."

Together, joined in effort by the burden, they staggered up the last steep of the mountain. Together, they chanted One! Two! Three! and crashed the log on to the great pile. Then they stepped back, laughing with triumphant pleasure, so that immediately Ralph had to stand on his head. Below them, boys were still labouring, though some of the small ones had lost interest and were searching this new forest for fruit. Now the twins, with unsuspected intelligence, came up the mountain with armfuls of dried leaves and dumped them against the pile. One by one, as they sensed that the pile was complete the boys stopped going back for more and stood, with the pink, shattered top of the mountain around them. Breath came even by now, and sweat dried.

Ralph and Jack looked at each other while society paused about them. The shameful knowledge grew in them and they did not know how to begin confession.

"Will you light the fire?"
He glanced at Ralph, who blurted out the last confession of incompetence.
"Has anyone got any matches?"

Commentary
The candidate has a clear focus on the question and addresses the different stages of the boys' relationship. There is thorough knowledge of the text, with well chosen plot references and quotes. The extract is used sensibly, and the candidate selects evidence to support astute AO2 points. Overall this response shows assured understanding of the demands of the task and covers AO1 and AO2 in a sustained, integrated way. The response also gets high AO4 marks for spelling, punctuation and vocabulary. Low Band 5.