

THE SINGLE TEXT

APPROACHING THE ESSAY

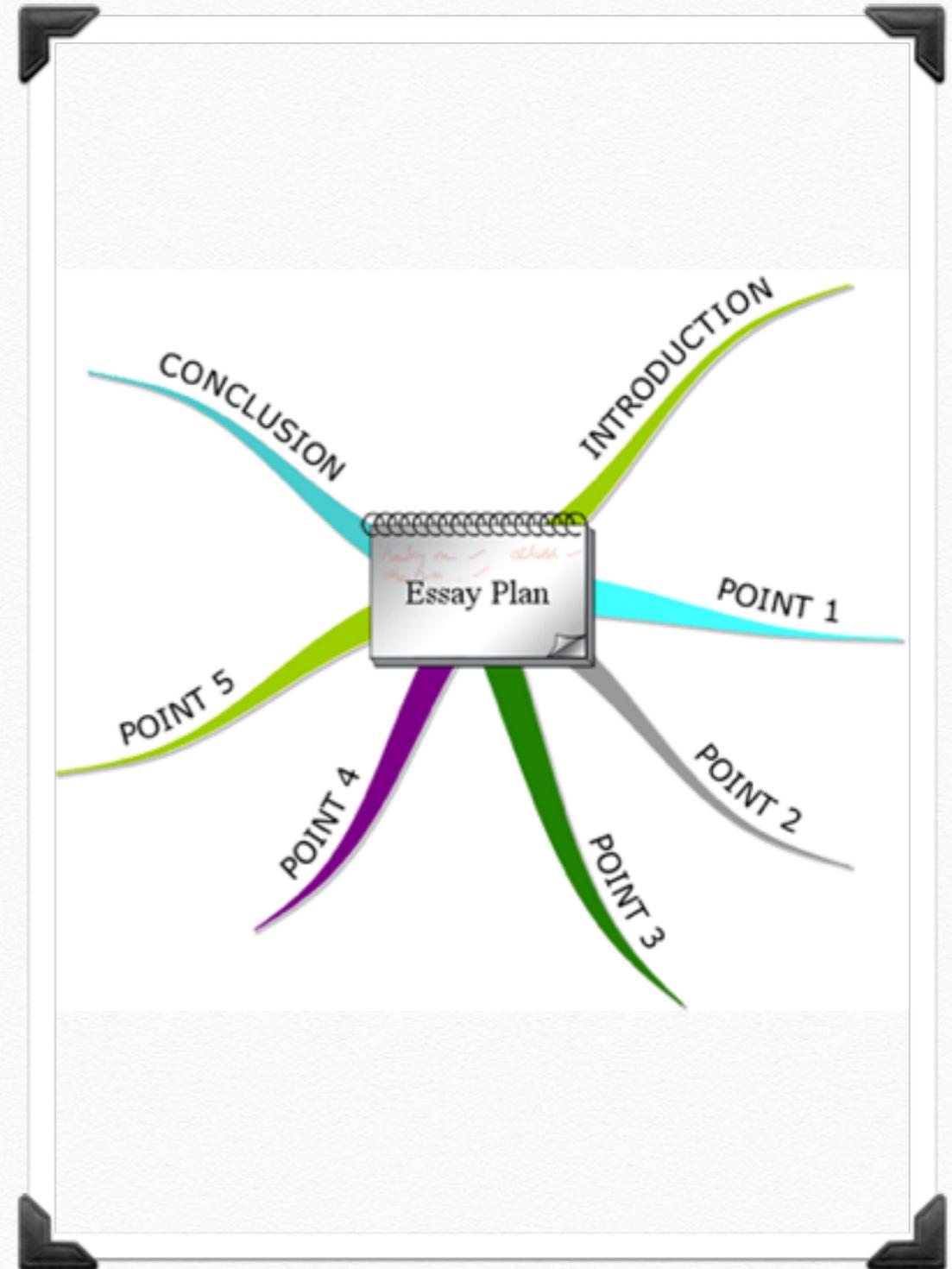
THE QUESTION

- ❖ Careful and detailed analysis is essential
- ❖ Underline key words
- ❖ Do not focus in on one word only - the name of the character or a theme - as HL questions are never as simple as a re-hash of notes on character or theme.



The Plan

- ❖ Ask for additional paper as soon as the exam begins. Use this for planning. This way you will not have to flick back and forth to check your plan but will have it in front of you at all times while answering your chosen question.



- ❖ Jot down every point you can think of in response to the question
- ❖ Look through the points and remove any which do not directly answer the question or which contradict another point
- ❖ Arrange your remaining points in order
- ❖ Now that you know the approach you are taking, plan what you will say in your introduction and conclusion

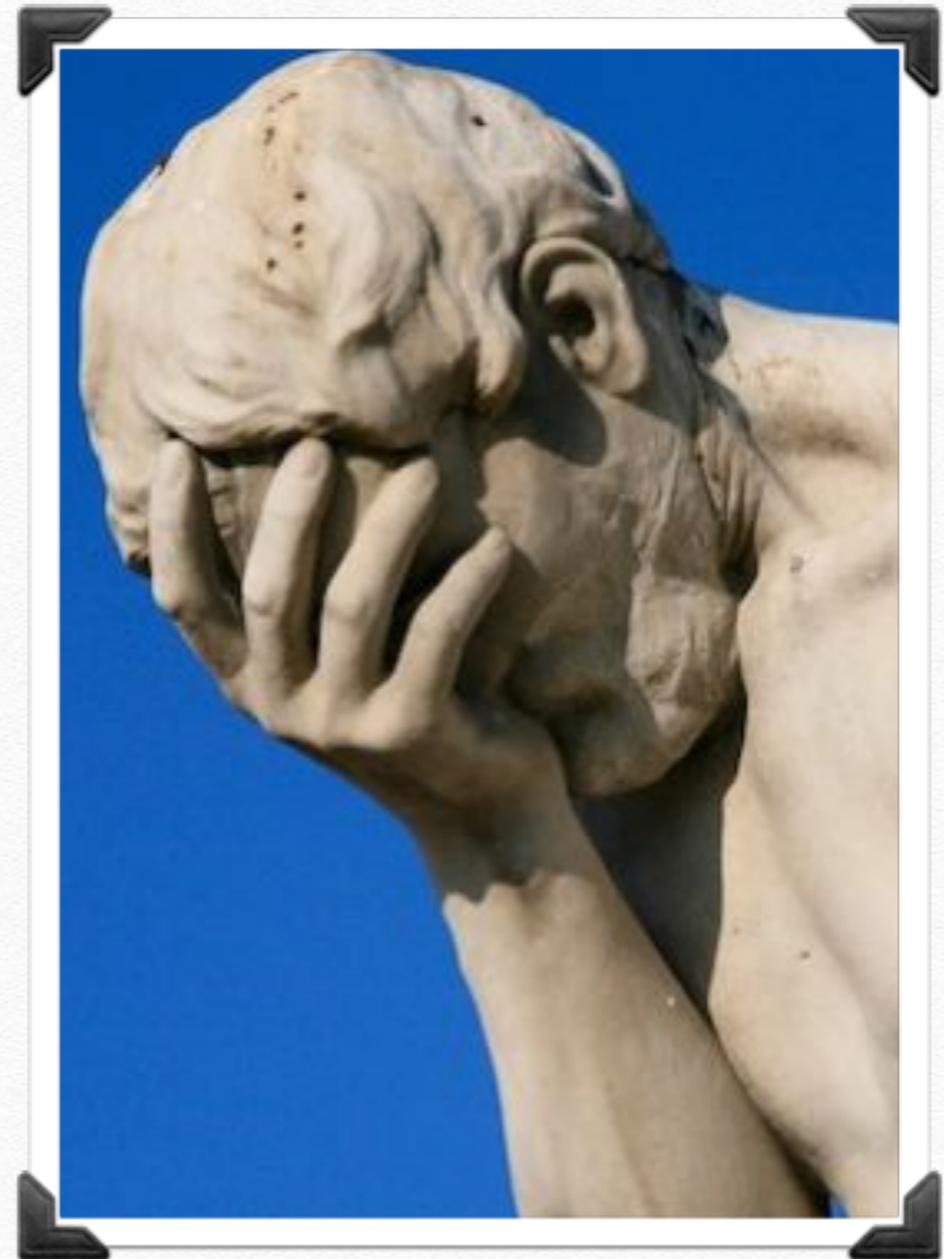
The Marking Scheme

- ❖ All LC English questions are marked according to the PCLM marking scheme
- ❖ Bear this in mind when planning and writing your answer



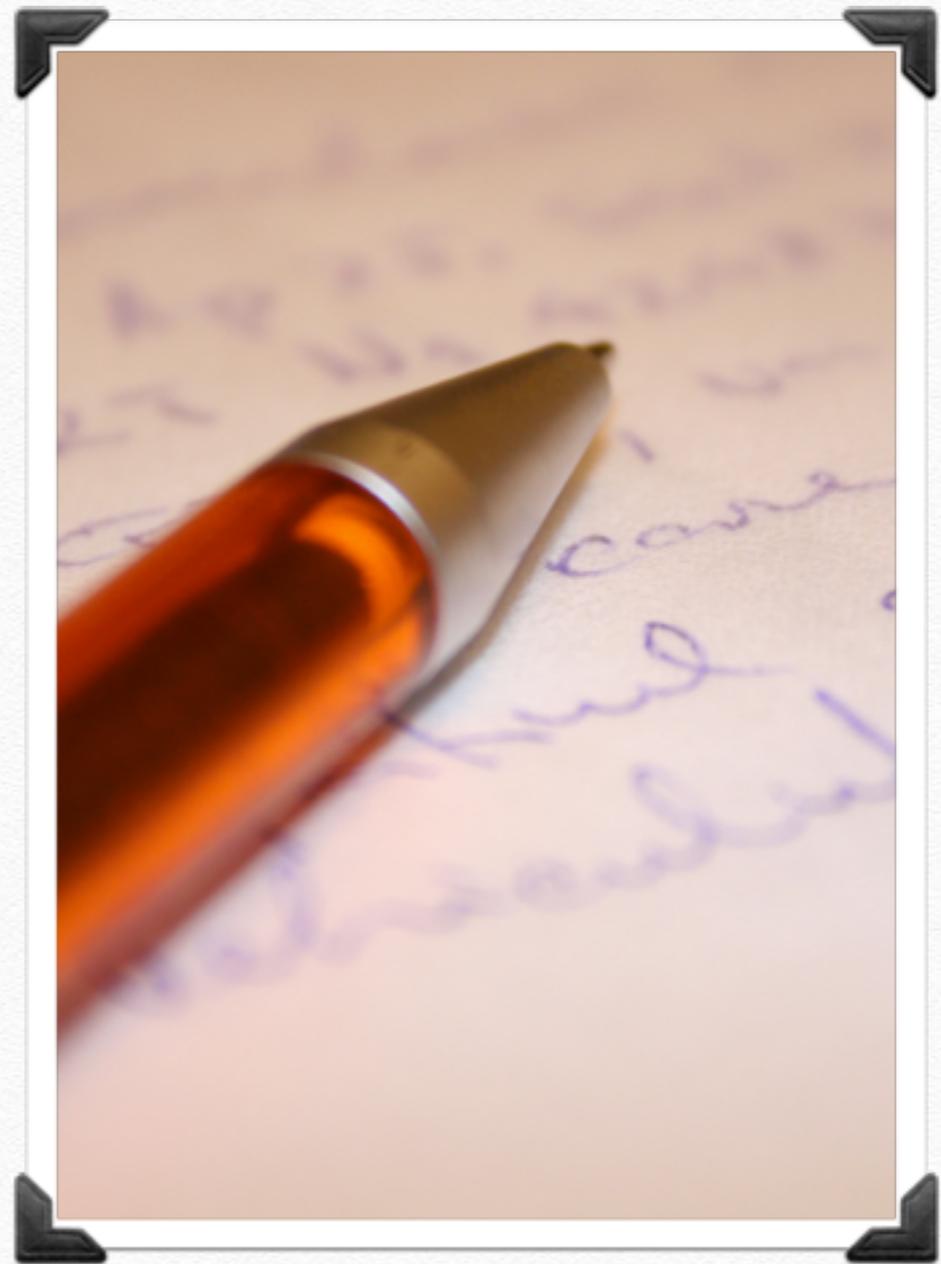
Common mistakes

- ❖ Not realising that there are several elements to the question
- ❖ Not planning the answer and therefore wandering off the point or writing contradictory points
- ❖ Writing unfocused narrative (telling the story of the play)
- ❖ Writing simple character sketches



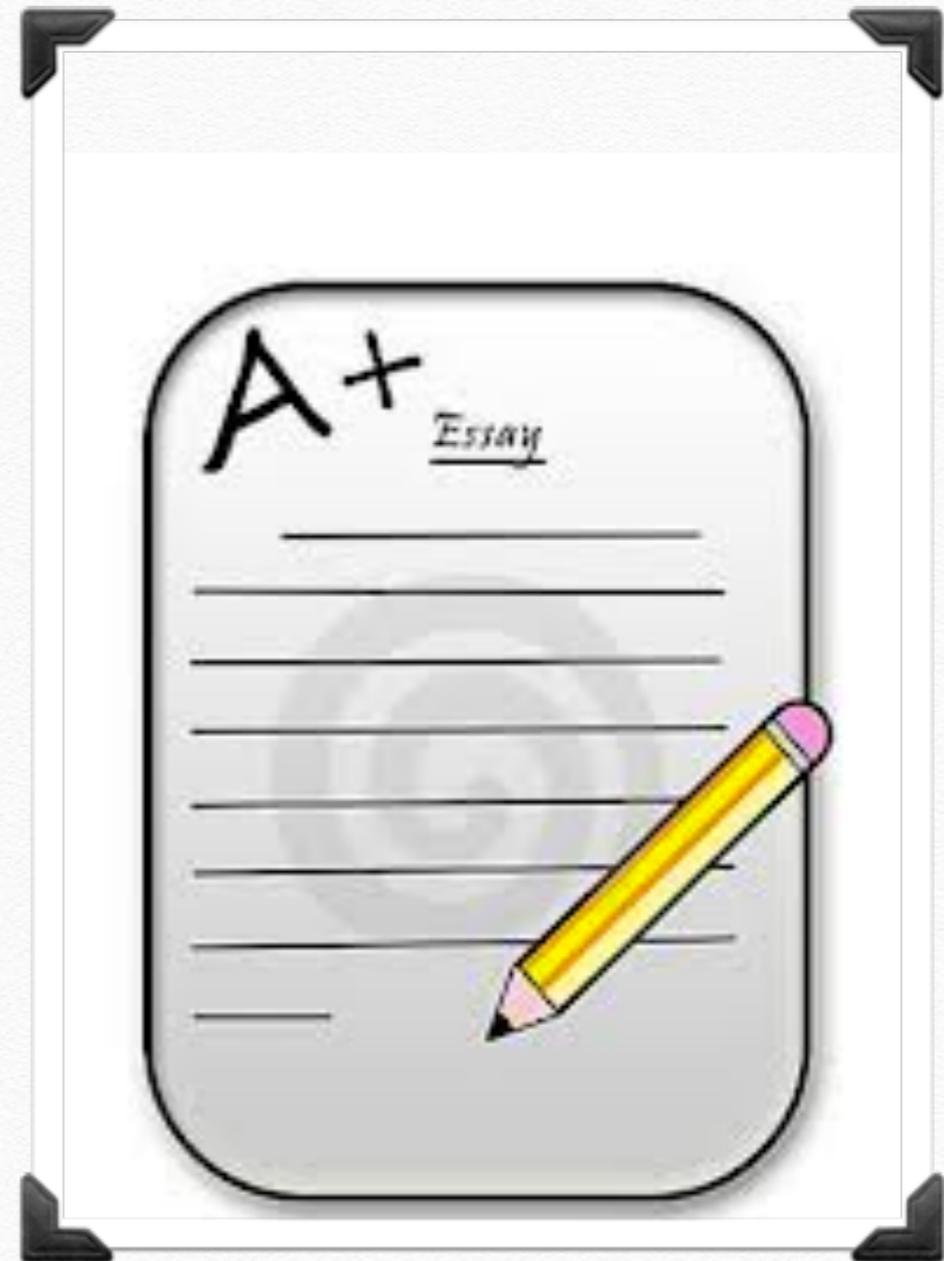
Timing and Length

- ❖ You have approximately fifty minutes to write your answer
- ❖ Your answer should be around four pages in length



Structure

- ❖ Your essay should flow naturally
- ❖ If it were cut into individual paragraphs, the reader should be able to reassemble them correctly as there should be clear links between paragraphs



Introduction

- ❖ Move from the general to the specific
- ❖ Give your thesis statement in response to the question
- ❖ Provide a brief outline of the ideas you will explore in the essay
- ❖ Remember, if you mention it in the introduction, you **MUST** deal with it in the body of the essay

Main body of the essay

- ❖ Each paragraph should advance your argument
- ❖ The topic sentence in each paragraph should be linked in some way to the question
- ❖ Each paragraph should be linked in some way to the paragraphs which come before and after it
- ❖ Use link words or phrases to connect your paragraphs where possible: however, it is not only, we can also see...

- ❖ Reference and quotation should be commented on and evaluated. This does not mean explaining the quotation in your own words. You should show how the example reinforces the point you are making.

Conclusion

- ❖ Summarise your argument
- ❖ Restate your thesis
- ❖ If you have an apt quote from or about the play, this is a good time to use it. Make sure you work it into a sentence / evaluate/comment on it rather than simply throwing it down on the page