

# Revision Guide

## ESSAY PLANNING

'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'

Robert Louis Stevenson

Scrbblj.

Before beginning to write essays, essay planning can act as a useful exercise. Essay planning refers to the planning of essays before you actually write them. This is mainly done so that you can hone your ideas and think more deeply about the kinds of questions you will be asked in your exams. In any exam, it's important to make a quick (5-7 minute) plan before you write the piece, so you can organise your ideas and structure your paragraph correctly. Outside of timed conditions, when you're practising essays, you want to practise writing extended plans where you explore your thoughts on the question in detail.



## PLANNING QUESTION

“To what extent do we feel sympathy for Jekyll?”

## BEGINNING PLANNING

When starting the plan the first thing to do is to figure out whether or not you agree with the point that is being presented to you. You can agree, disagree, or find a point somewhere in between these two sides of the argument, but you must always establish a clear opinion when writing an essay. It's best to keep an open mind at first - think about both sides fairly, coming up with as many points as you can. Then, evaluate not only the number of points you have for each side, but the strength of each point, and pick your position on the question.

**TASK:** Spend some time developing your own points 'FOR' and 'AGAINST' the idea that we pity Hyde. Evaluate your own opinion - do you feel sorry for him or not? Why?

Once you have developed your own opinion, compare and contrast your thoughts with the ideas below.

## **FOR**

- He represses his true thoughts and feelings - we feel that he can't be his true self in society or talk honestly with others around him.
- He is remorseful and accepts responsibility - chief of sinners / sufferers - Letter at the end of the novella.
- Utterson is determined to help his friend and get to the bottom of the mystery, even though Jekyll's behaviour is so different from how it was in the past.
- When he began his experiments, he did not initially intend to create Hyde. The situation he has found himself in is, largely, an accident.

## **AGAINST**

- He represses his true thoughts and feelings - this is normal for a Victorian society.
- Very secretive/liar and two faced.
- Lanyon feels that Jekyll deserves no sympathy and he cuts all ties with him.
- Jekyll continues to indulge in the experience of being Hyde, even when he is conscious of the fact that it is wrong.

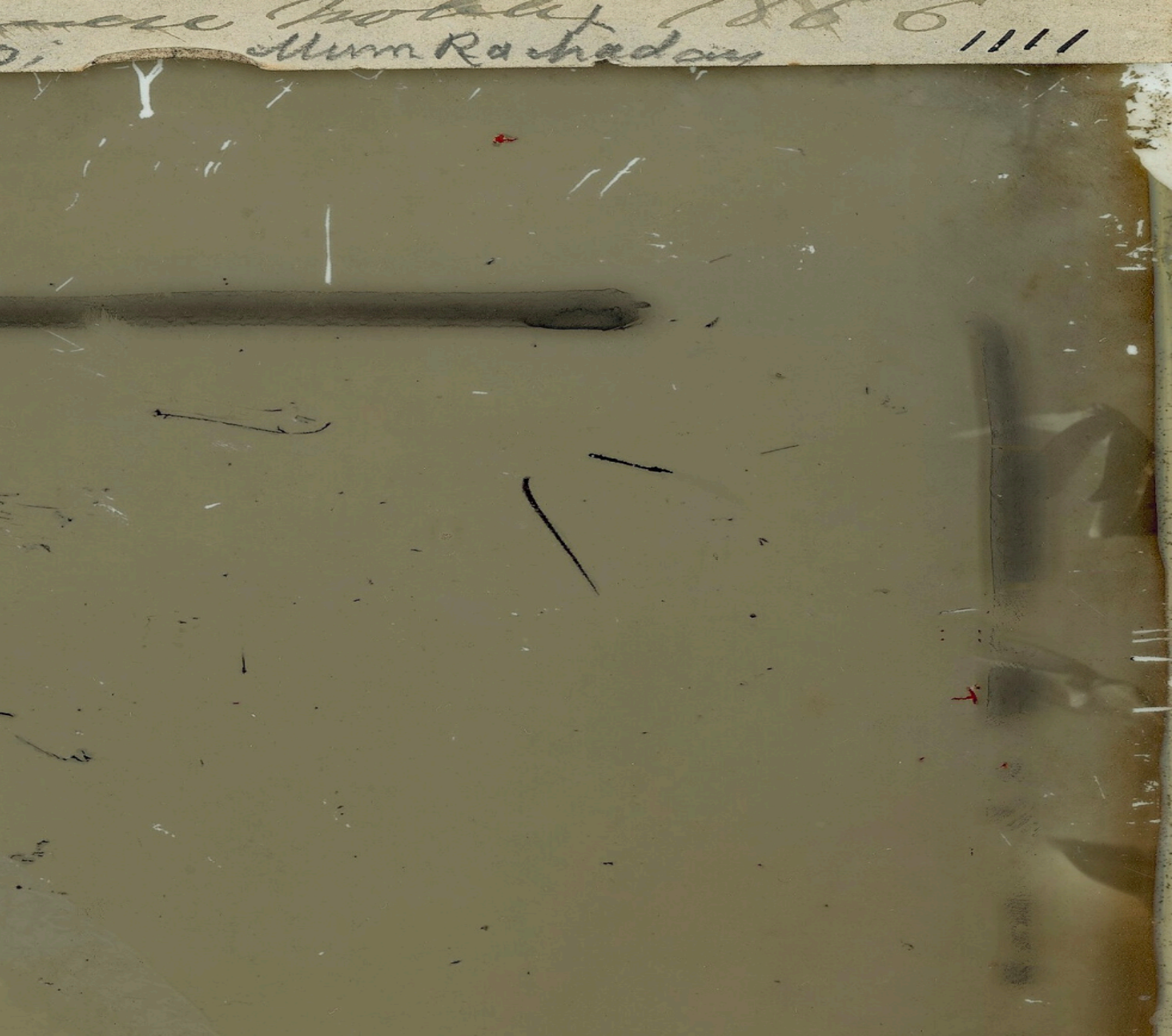
## **SETTING OUT THE ESSAY**

Your plan does not need to detail every single thing you are going to mention in an essay, but it should set out a few clear points.

1. What is your main argument (thesis)? Why is that your main argument? This should form the basis of your intro and be a consistent part of what you say throughout the essay.
2. What sections of the text will you quote to make your argument? Having an argument is good, having points from the text that back up your argument is better. These make the basis of the central paragraphs in your essay.

**TASK:** Plan the essay question that has been discussed above by following the structure below.

- What is your overall response to the question? What about the novella makes you think that?
- Find 5 quotations in the novella that could be used to back up your argument.
- Acknowledge an alternative interpretation from your own, analyse it in depth, and then explain why you don't necessarily agree with it.



## ESSAY PLAN

Now, use the table below to plan out the topics of your essay, including setting out the thesis in the introduction and outlining the main ideas you'd like to put into the conclusion. You can also add the quotations and techniques that you'd like to use for each point (aim for 2-3 quotations per point). If you have time, you can then write the full essay afterwards, or write a practice introduction and middle paragraph.





P3 (counter)

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Conclusion

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