**How to Write an AS Level PEA paragraph**

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| **AO** | **Focus** | **What to include** | **Words to include** | **Example** |
| AO1 | Point | Make a clear but tentative statement about how Plath deals with the theme. | * It is clear that… * It becomes apparent that… | *It is clear that Plath views death as a relief, something that she feels we should empathise and accept.* |
| AO1 | Evidence | Give an interesting and relevant quote that supports your point. | * An example of this is... * This is highlighted in the line “…” | *This is evident in “After all I am only alive by accident.” from A Birthday Present.* |
| AO2 | Analysis | Explore what this quote suggests/ implies about Plath’s views. | * This implies… * Perhaps Plath is suggesting… | *This statement implies that there is no reason for her to be living, other than a simple process gone wrong, establishing Plath’s pessimism and apparent belief that death is a relief; just as life is purely through chance.* |
| AO2 | Word-level | Zoom in on a particular word of interest and explore its’ connotations. | * The word “…” has connotations of.. * Words such as “…” evoke the image of.. | *The use of the noun “accident” evokes the image of something which shouldn’t have happened, or perhaps was unintentional, as well as the negative tone sharing connotations of negativity towards life, regret that she is living and perhaps the idea that death is a good thing.* |
| AO2 | Technique | Try to explore the use and effect of language techniques. | * The use of a metaphor here has the effect of… * Plath emphasises his views through the use of …. | *The use of a negative tone combined with nouns emphasises the transient nature of life in Plath’s eyes, while the statement “After all” in which this sentiment is delivered suggests that this is a universal fact, opposed to being an opinion. Life is almost dismissed negatively through the use of the reference to it being “only”. With these techniques in mind, Plath creates a strong sense that life is not worth living, while death is the climax and goal.* |
| AO2 | Writers’ intentions | Consider why you think the writer used this language – what effect do you think she was trying to achieve. | * Perhaps Plath is exploring… * Plath could be trying to evoke… | *Perhaps through this sentence Plath is trying to imply that there is no meaning to life, aligning her further away from others who believe that life is a gift to be enjoyed and celebrated or to the critics who find confessional poetry difficult to validate.* |
| AO3 | Other interpretations | Explore how others may interpret your quote or link to a piece of relevant criticism. | * Other readers may argue… * The critic, …., stated that… | *Despite this, other readers may argue that Plath is implying that life she should be dead by now, so her living is of no consequence to her.* |
| AO3 | Link to Hughes | Refer to how this links to your study of Hughes and his view on the theme in question. | * While Plath is …., Hughes takes a more…. * Hughes explores a similar view in … |  |

**Suggested essay structure**

1. Intro: Give an overview of how each poet explores/refers to the theme and briefly summarise how the poems you’ve chosen explore the theme.
2. Plath poem 1, first point: Aim for 2 PEAs (or at least 2 quotes) and link to Hughes using 1 PEA.

**Aim to refer to 2 Plath poems in detail.**

**Aim to make 4 clear points.**

**Aim to use 8 Plath quotes.**

**Aim to use 3-4 Hughes quotes.**

1. Plath poem 1, second point: Aim for 2 PEAs (or 2 quotes) and link to Hughes using 1 PEA.
2. Plath poem 2, first point: Aim for 2 PEAs/quotes and link to Hughes using 1 PEA.
3. Plath poem 2, second point: Aim for 2 PEAs/quotes and link to Hughes using 1 PEA.
4. Conclusion: Consider why the poets may have explored this theme in a similar/different way and consider their intentions.

**Suggested essay plan**

Spend 10 minutes planning your answer to ensure that your ideas are organised and developed (AO1). You should look to be able to make 4 clear points about how Plath approaches this theme.

* Poems to cover: 2 Plath, 2 Hughes
* Points to make: 4 Plath
* Quotes to support: 8 Plath
* Links to Hughes: 4 links
* Quotes to support: 3-4 Hughes
* Concluding thought: Consider what you want your arguments to build to – a clear and focused conclusion.