**How is law and order presented? Lord of the Flies**

In Lord of the Flies, law and order is shown through the initial desire of the boys to have leaders for every group. In the extract, the choir are obeying Jack – “ the boy who controlled them” The verb “control” gives an image be of one person completely in charge, making every decision and forcing others to act for them. Some readers might add that the word “control” has negative connotations as it suggests, that the choir are somewhat trapped under Jack’s rule. This description of Jack’s leadership could be foreshadowing later events in the book, where Jack becomes chief of his own tribe and forces his “savages” to wait on him (for example when he orders Harry to “get (him) some water”). However, the boys seem happy to obey him, and do not question his rule. This content with having a higher power to to obey is also shown in the first chapter when the boys initially clamour to elect a chief. This could be Golding trying to show that it is human nature to want a strong leader to make decisions for you, rather than acting on you own accord – however, humans also wish to choose this leader, rather than having it thrust upon you.

Law and order is shown as fragile in the Lord of the Flies at the start of the novel. Ralph says “ We’ll have rules! Lots of rules!” the exclamation marks used show his excitement at the prospect of an ordered society, like that of the home countries that they have all been brought up in. Jack also shares this desire for rules at the start of the novel – in the extract , he is shown ordering his chair around, forcing them to follow him; the quote “Chair! Stand Still!” uses imperatives to highlight the fact that he expects them all to follow him without question. He also appears as excited by the rules as Ralph, adding “and if anyone breaks them…whizzo!”. However, he seems to be excited about the prospect of punishment, crucially setting him apart from Ralph (who seems to only desire order and peace) (and possibly foreshadowing his later actions, where he ties up and beats a boy seemingly for no reason, , abusing his power as the chief). Law and order is presented as fragile because of the speed of the boys’ descent into savages, within a relatively short space of time. The boys go from following the rules perfectly to abandoning them without signs of remorse. For example, when Ralph says “only we said we’d have (the water) brought, and it’s not”: the boys appear unaffected by this obvious breakdown of the rules. Law and order further breaks down when most of them object to Jack’s tribe, favouring savagery over the fair structure of Ralph’s society. This could be Golding trying to show how law and order is able to break down at any time and that it must be protected if it is to remain.

Law and order is also shown in the novel in the form of Jack’s dictatorship. Throughout the novel, Jack is portrayed as an authoritarian figure. The quote “his cap badge was golden” immediately sets Jack apart from the rest, acknowledging him as having a higher status and being top of the choir’s hierarchy. The adjective “golden” has connotations of wealth and therefore superiority, suggesting that Jack is superior to the other choir members. Some readers might think that the word “golden” also has connotations of a perfect idol; therefore, Golding could be suggesting that the boys in the choir worship Jack. This could be foreshadowing the end of the book when Jack becomes leader of the tribe and “sat their painted like an idol” and has complete control over the savages.

**Use this example to Peer Assess by annotating for:**

**Links to the question   
analysis of quotes**

**Analysis of the whole novel**

**Zooming in on words**

**Embedding of terminology**

**Exploring the effect of the quotes**

**Looking carefully at writers’ intentions**

**As an essay:**

**Is this coherent, clear and focused on the question? How?**

**What would you improve?**

**Why/How would you improve this?**