Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde

Plot

1 The Story of the Door	Passing a strange-looking door whilst out for a walk, Enfield tells Utterson about incident involving a man (Hyde) trampling on a young girl. The man paid the girl compensation. Enfield says the man had a key to the door (which leads to Dr Jekyll's laboratory)
2 Search for Hyde	Utterson looks at Dr Jekyll's will and discovers that he has left his possessions to Mr Hyde in the event of his disappearance. Utterson watches the door and sees Hyde unlock it, then goes to warn Jekyll. Jekyll isn't in, but Poole tells him that the servants have been told to obey Hyde.
3 Dr Jekyll was Quite at Ease	Two weeks later, Utterson goes to a dinner party at Jekyll's house and tells him about his concerns. Jekyll laughs off his worries.
4 The Carew Murder Case	Nearly a year later, an elderly gentleman is murdered in the street by Hyde. A letter to Utterson is found on the body. Utterson recognises the murder weapon has a broken walking cane of Jekyll's. He takes the police to Jekyll's house to find Hyde, but are told he hasn't been there for two months. They find the other half of the cane and signs of a quick exit.
5 Incident of the Letter	Utterson goes to Jekyll's house and finds him 'looking deadly sick'. He asks about Hyde but Jekyll shows him a letter that says he won't be back. Utterson believes the letter has been forged by Jekyll to cover for Hyde.
6 Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon	Hyde has disappeared and Jekyll seems more happy and sociable until a sudden depression strikes him. Utterson visits Dr Lanyon on his death-bed, who hints that Jekyll is the cause of his illness. Utterson writes to Jekyll and receives a reply that suggests he is has fallen 'under a dark influence'. Lanyon dies and leaves a note for Utterson to open after the death or disappearance of Jekyll. Utterson tries to revisit Jekyll but is told by Poole that he is living in isolation.
7 Incident at the Window	Utterson and Enfield are out for walk and pass Jekyll's window, where they see him confined like a prisoner. Utterson calls out and Jekyll's face has a look of 'abject terror and despair'. Shocked, Utterson and Enfield leave.
8 The Last Night	Poole visits Utterson and asks him to come to Jekyll's house. The door to the laboratory is locked and the voice inside sounds like Hyde. Poole says that the voice has been asking for days for a chemical to be brought, but has rejected it each time as it is not pure. They break down the door and find a twitching body with a vial in its hands. There is also a will which leaves everything to Utterson and a package containing Jekyll's confession and a letter asking Utterson to read Lanyon's letter.
9 Dr Lanyon's Narrative	The contents of Lanyon's letter tells of how he received a letter from Jekyll asking him to collect chemicals, a vial and notebook from Jekyll's laboratory and give it to a man who would call at midnight. A grotesque man arrives and drinks the potion which transforms him into Jekyll, causing Lanyon to fall ill.
10 Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case	Jekyll tells the story of how he turned into Hyde. It began as a scientific investigation into the duality of human nature and an attempt to destroy his 'darker self'. Eventually he became addicted to being Hyde, who increasingly took over and destroyed him.

Character

Dr Henry Jekyll	A doctor and experimental scientist who is both wealthy and respectable.
Mr Edward Hyde	A small, violent and unpleasant-looking man; an unrepentant criminal.
Gabriel Utterson	A calm and rational lawyer and friend of Jekyll.
Dr Hastie Lanyon	A conventional and respectable doctor and former friend of Jekyll.
Richard Enfield	A distant relative of Utterson and well-known man about town.
Poole	Jekyll's manservant.
Sir Danvers Carew	A distinguished gentlemen who is beaten to death by Hyde.
Mr Guest	Utterson's secretary and handwriting expert.

Themes

- The duality of human nature
- Science and the unexplained
- The supernatural
- Reputation
- Rationality
- Urban terror
- Secrecy and silence
- Addiction

The Exam

Example Question: Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson present Mr Hyde as a frightening outsider?

Information: 45 minutes. No choice of question. One extract followed by two bullet points, looking at first the extract, then the whole novella. You must learn your key quotes as you will NOT have a copy of the novella in the exam.

A01- Demonstrate an understanding of the question and text, use quotations to evidence understanding. (12 Marks)

A02- Carefully analyse the language used by the writer and comment on the intended effect on the reader. Ensure that you include subject terminology in your response. Comment where you can on structure/form. (12 Marks)

A03- Show understanding of 19th century contextual information, in particular knowledge of Victorian London and the gothic genre. (6 Marks)

Stretch yourself

Be original, develop your own interpretations;
Be critical, give your own justified opinions;
Get to grips with context- what effect does have on the novel & your understanding – consider its application not just existence.
Be sure to comment on how it relates to the themes.

Vocabulary

- aberration
- abhorrent
- allegory
- allusion
- anxiety
- atavism
- consciousness
- debased
- degenerate
- depraved
- duality
- duplicity
- epistolary
- ethics
- eugenics
- feral
- genre
- metamorphosis
- perversion
- professional
- respectability
- restraint
- savage
- subconscious
- suppression
- supernatural
- unorthodox
- Victorian

Context

Fin-de-siècle fears – at the end of the 19th century, there were growing fears about: migration and the threats of disease; sexuality and promiscuity; moral degeneration and decadence.

Victorian values – from the 1850s to the turn of the century, British society outwardly displayed values of sexual restraint, low tolerance of crime, religious morality and a strict social code of conduct.

The implications of ***Darwinism and evolution*** haunted Victorian society. The idea that humans evolved from apes and amphibians led to worries about our lineage and about humanity's reversion to these primitive states.

Physiognomy – Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909) theorised that the 'born criminal' could be recognised by physical characteristics, such as asymmetrical facial features, long arms or a sloping forehead.

Victorian London – the population of 1 million in 1800 to 6.7 million in 1900, with a huge numbers migrating from Europe. It became the biggest city in the world and a global capital for politics, finance and trade. The city grew wealthy.

Urban terror – as London grew wealthy, so poverty in the city also grew. The overcrowded city became rife with crime. The crowd as something that could hide sinister individuals became a trope of Gothic and detective literature.

Robert Louis Stevenson was born and raised in Edinburgh, giving him the dual identity of being both Scottish and British. Edinburgh was a city of two sides - he was raised in the wealthy New Town area, but spent his youth exploring the darker, more sinister side of town.

Deacon Brodie – a respectable member of Edinburgh's society and town councilor, William Brodie lead a secret life as a burglar, womaniser and gambler. He was hanged in 1788 for his crimes. As a youth, Stevenson wrote a play about him.