YEAR 11 ENGLISH

Text Response Essay Planning

Unpack a prompt, form a contention and plan paragraphs

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 8

Prompt

'The characters in the text are shaped more by their circumstances than by their choices.' Discuss.

Choose the best answer.

1. The key words in the prompt are...
   ⓐ characters, discuss ⓑ shaped, circumstances, choices ⓒ the, text, more
2. 'Discuss' requires you to...
   ⓐ weigh up both sides and reach a judgement ⓑ agree completely
   ⓒ summarise the plot
3. A nuanced contention would...
   ⓐ say 'yes' ⓑ avoid the prompt ⓒ partly agree and explain the balance

Plan your essay.

4. Write a nuanced contention for the prompt.

5. Topic sentence 1 (agree):

6. Topic sentence 2 (qualify):

7. Topic sentence 3 (deeper idea / authorial intent):

8. Write an introduction for the essay (context, contention, signposting).

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Choose the best answer.

1. b) shaped, circumstances, choices
2. a) weigh up both sides and reach a judgement
3. c) partly agree and explain the balance

Plan your essay.

4. While circumstances such as poverty and family shape characters' options, the text ultimately suggests that individual choices determine their fate.
5. Circumstances limit characters' options and can make some outcomes seem inevitable.
6. However, characters who make courageous choices are able to break free of their circumstances.
7. Ultimately, the author suggests that choice and circumstance are intertwined, which challenges simple judgements of characters.
8. Answers will vary. Example: Set in [context], [text] explores how [characters] respond to [circumstances]. While their circumstances undoubtedly shape their options, [author] suggests that their choices ultimately define who they become. Through [character A], [character B] and the text's resolution, [author] reveals...

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