

Character cards

Asterisks indicate the size and complexity of each part: the more asterisks, the bigger the part.

Narrator 1 (N1) *

You and Narrators 2, 3 and 4 understand how to tackle AQA essay questions. You point out exam tactics designed to get candidates the most marks.

Narrator 2 (N1) *

You and Narrators 1, 3 and 4 understand how to tackle AQA essay questions. You point out exam tactics designed to get candidates the most marks.

Narrator 3 (N3) *

You and Narrators 1, 2 and 4 understand how to tackle AQA essay questions. You point out exam tactics designed to get candidates the most marks.

Narrator 4 (N4) *

You and Narrators 1, 2, and 3 understand how to tackle AQA essay questions. You point out exam tactics designed to get candidates the most marks.

Character cards

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Thomas Sowden***

You live and work in Bray's Yard, just off the 1842 Street, in Leeds.

You are a night soil collector. You dig out the human dung that clogs up the communal toilets, (which you call 'privies'), used by you and your neighbours.

Only rich people have sinks and toilets inside their houses.

You were once married and had four children, who all died before the age of five. Your wife died of complications after the birth of your youngest daughter.

You are 42 years old.

Costume: filthy trousers, shirt, jacket and scruffy hat

Props: a ruler

John Oddy ***

You live and work in Bray's Yard, just off the 1842 Street, in Leeds. You are a Slaughterhouse Boy, working for Mr Sowerby, the Butcher. It is a disgusting, stinking job and you hate it.

You hold the sheep and pigs as he cuts their throats in the slaughterhouse yard. You collect the blood to make black pudding. You cut out the liver and kidneys, to sell in Sowerby's Butchers shop.

You wash out the intestines to make sausage skins. You scrape meat from the bones, add them to flour and sawdust and stuff the mixture into skins, to make sausages.

You live with your uncle because your mother is dead and your father is in the lunatic asylum. You drink heavily, usually in the Black Dog tavern.

You are 17 years old.

Costume: filthy trousers, shirt, jacket and scruffy hat

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Reverend Henry Holdforth**

You live in the vicarage, near St Saviour's Church in Leeds. You take your Christian duty very seriously. You regularly visit the poor and the sick who live in Bray's Yard and the 1842 Street.

You are disgusted by the conditions in which these people live and you campaign to improve public health in the area. You complained to Leeds Waterworks Company because they took so long to supply clean water to the yards and alleyways off Kirkgate and Briggate.

You want landlords to upgrade the filthy privies in Bray's Yard. You are sure that they overflow into the pipes that supply drinking water to the pump at the end of Bray's Yard.

You come from a wealthy middle class family and you are university educated.

You are 51 years old.

Costume: smart jacket, trousers, clean shirt and cravat

Props: Bible

Alice Finch**

You are the daughter of Mr and Mrs Finch the bookseller, whose bookshop is at the end of Bray's Yard.

The shop was once surrounded by fields, but then Mr Marshall opened a flax mill, other industrialists followed, and they all built tenement houses for the factory workers to rent.

The area has become overcrowded and unhealthy. Your parents are planning to move house to the village of Headingley where the air is fresh. They believe people get ill when they smell the poisonous miasmas that infect the area around the 1842 Street.

You are well educated. You are very interested in medical matters and if you had been born a boy, you would have trained to be a doctor. It is unheard of for a girl to train in medicine in 1842.

You are 11 years old.

Costume: smart dress, jacket, shawl and bonnet

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Mary Holmes****

You live in Bray's Yard with your seven year old daughter, Margaret. You work at home as a dressmaker, but the pay is very poor.

Your husband died in a factory accident in 1836, and you struggle to survive without his wage.

You rent a room from Mr and Mrs Finch, the booksellers and often go without food in order to pay your rent.

You are a clever young woman, but you have little education. You had to leave school at the age of eleven.

You and Margaret attend St Saviour's Church every Sunday without fail. It comforts you to know that God loves you and sees your sufferings.

Costume: blouse and long skirt, darned and patched

Mrs Ingham ***

You are an enterprising woman. You have turned your tiny home into a business: you rent out rooms to factory workers. Each room is subdivided by curtains, so you rent out each corner and make more money.

You earn extra money by running a crèche for the children of workers who cannot afford to stay at home to care for them.

You look after nine-month-old Martha O'Bryan. She coughs a lot, so you dose her with 'Holbeck Tincture' to make her sleep. This lets you get on with your work in peace.

You have very little education, but you are quick witted and you learn a lot by listening to other people's conversations.

You are 73 years old.

Costume: tatty blouse and long skirt, shawl

James Wilson**

You were brought up in the workhouse, like Oliver Twist. Mrs Finch, the bookseller's wife picked you out to be a servant for her husband, who runs a bookshop in Bray's Yard.

You run errands, deliver books, clean and tidy and do whatever Mr and Mrs Finch or Alice Finch tell you to do.

You have no family. You sleep in a corner of Mrs Ingham's Lodging House. Sometimes you can afford to buy a hot meal from Mrs Ingham.

You are 11 years old.

Costume: filthy trousers, shirt, jacket and scruffy hat

Mrs O'Flaherty ***

You are a recent immigrant from Ireland. You followed your husband and brothers who came to England to seek a better life in the factory towns. You landed first in Liverpool, then made your way to Leeds, where your brothers are working as navvies on the railway.

There is a lot of prejudice against Irish people – you are often spat at and ridiculed in the street - so you were lucky that Marshall was so desperate for workers that he hired you and your husband to work in his flax mill.

Most landlords won't rent to Irish people, but you managed to rent a room which you, your husband and three brothers share.

You are 17 years old.

Costume: blouse and long skirt, darned and patched

Character cards

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Mr Sowerby**

You live and work in Bray's Yard, just off the 1842 Street, in Leeds. You own Sowerby's Butcher's shop and the slaughterhouse.

You and your employee, John Oddy, buy sheep and pigs at the market, cut their throats in the slaughterhouse yard and joint the carcasses for your rich customers.

For your poor customers, you collect the blood to make black pudding and cut out the liver and kidneys. You wash out the intestines to make sausage skins. You scrape meat from the bones, add them to flour and sawdust and stuff the mixture into skins, to make cheap sausages.

You are 41 years old.

Costume: trousers, shirt, jacket

Mrs Sowerby ***

You live in Bray's Yard, just off the 1842 Street, in Leeds. You work in your husband's Butcher's shop, Sowerby's Butchers. Mr Sowerby and his employee, John Oddy, cut the throats of sheep and pigs and joint the carcasses for your rich customers.

For your poor customers, you collect the blood to make black pudding and cut out the liver and kidneys. You wash out the intestines to make sausage skins. You scrape meat from the bones, add them to flour and sawdust and stuff the mixture into skins, to make cheap sausages.

You also make meat pies packed with potato, turnip and little bits of gristly meat and gravy.

You are 35 years old.

Costume: long shirt, high necked blouse, apron

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Mr Beecham**

You are the owner of the chemist's shop round the corner from Bray's Yard in Leeds. You inherited the shop from your father. You stock some patent remedies, but others you mix from chemicals and other ingredients which you keep in the storeroom.

Poor people cannot afford to see the doctor, so they come to you when they, or their children, are ill. You diagnose their problems and prescribe medicines. You have no medical training.

Your shop was once surrounded by fields, but then Mr Marshall opened a flax mill, other industrialists followed, and they all built tenement houses for the factory workers to rent, so the area has become overcrowded and unhealthy. You live in the village of Headingley, where the air is fresh.

You are 31 years old.

Costume: smart jacket, trousers, clean shirt and cravat

Mrs Beecham ***

You are married to Mr Beecham, who owns and runs the chemist's shop round the corner from Bray's Yard in Leeds. You live in the village of Headingley, where you run the house and supervise your servants: a cook and a maid.

Your husband inherited the chemist's shop from his father. He stocks patent remedies, but other treatments he mixes from chemicals and other ingredients which he keeps in the storeroom.

Poor people cannot afford to see the doctor, so they come to him when they, or their children,, are ill. He diagnoses their problems and prescribes medicines. He has no medical training.

You are 29 years old.

Costume: beautiful blouse and long skirt

Mr Bolder*

Some people call you a 'quack doctor', but you see yourself as a cross between a travelling salesman and a businessman. You travel around the fairs and markets in the Yorkshire area and sell a patent medicine which you and your wife have mixed and bottled yourselves.

Your best seller is a 'cure-all tonic' – you claim that two spoonfuls will cure cholera, which is sweeping the country and terrifying everyone. The tonic is a mixture of turpentine, soap and ginger, none of which can cure infections or illnesses. Nevertheless, you sell bottles by the dozen.

You hope to make as much money as James Morison who sold a million boxes of his Vegetable Universal Medicine pills and became immensely rich.

You are 45 years old.

Costume: colourful jacket, trousers, shirt and cravat

Mrs Bolder ***

Some people call your husband a 'quack doctor', but you see him as a businessman. He travels around the fairs and markets in the Yorkshire area and sells a patent medicine which you mix and bottle at home.

Your best seller is a 'cure-all tonic' made of turpentine, soap and ginger, none of which can cure infections or illnesses. Nevertheless, you sell bottles by the dozen, because Mr Bolder tells customers that two spoonfuls will cure cholera, a disease which is sweeping the country and terrifying everyone.

You hope to become as rich as James Morison, who sold a million boxes of his Vegetable Universal Medicine pills.

You are 40 years old.

Costume: long shirt, high necked blouse, apron

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Mr Watson*

You moved to Leeds from the village of Headingley to seek a better life in the newly built factories.

You got a job in Mr Marshall's flax mill. You worked hard, often twelve hours a day, and got promoted to the position of overseer.

You are in charge of a section of the factory and it is your job to ensure maximum productivity. Unfortunately for you, Mr Marshall employs many women and children, who need to be kept in order. You are not afraid to administer a beating to workers who damage the product, or fall asleep on the job. You are harshest of all to the Irish immigrants. You don't think they should be allowed to come to England and take all our jobs.

You are 34 years old.

Costume: trousers, shirt, jacket and hat

Mrs Watson **

You are married to Mr Watson, the overseer at Marshall's flax mill. He is in charge of a section of the factory and it is his job to ensure maximum productivity.

Unfortunately, Mr Marshall employs many women and children, who need to be kept in order. Mr Watson is not afraid to administer a beating to workers who damage the product or fall asleep on the job. He is harshest of all to the Irish immigrants. Neither of you believe they should be allowed to come to England and take all our jobs.

You are both proud that your husband earns enough money for you to stay at home as a housewife. You look down on the women in Bray's Yard who still work in the factories. You look up to Mrs Finch and Mrs Beecham, who have servants to do their housework.

You are 26 years old.

Costume: long shirt, high necked blouse, apron

Character cards

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Mrs Finch**

You are the wife of Mr Finch the bookseller, whose bookshop is at the end of Bray's Yard.

The shop was once surrounded by fields, but then Mr Marshall opened a flax mill, other industrialists followed, and they all built tenement houses for the factory workers to rent, so the area has become overcrowded and unhealthy.

You worry about the health of your only daughter, Alice.

You believe people get ill when they smell the poisonous miasmas that infect the area around the 1842 Street. You are planning to move house to the village of Headingley where the air is fresh.

You are well educated and well read. You love and value the books your husband sells.

You are 36 years old.

Costume: smart dress, jacket, shawl and bonnet

Mr Finch *

You are the owner of Finch's, the bookshop at the end of Bray's Yard.

The shop was once surrounded by fields, but then Mr Marshall opened a flax mill, other industrialists followed, and they all built tenement houses for the factory workers to rent, so the area has become overcrowded and unhealthy.

You worry about the health of your only daughter, Alice.

You believe people get ill when they smell the poisonous miasmas that infect the area around the 1842 Street. You are planning to move house to the village of Headingley where the air is fresh.

You are well educated and well read. You love and value the books you sell.

You are 56 years old.

Costume: smart jacket, trousers, clean shirt and cravat

Character cards

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Mrs York**

You and your husband run the Black Dog pub in Bray's Yard in Leeds.

Your customers are the millworkers who work in Marshall's flax mill and the factories round about. They live, crammed into tenement houses, in overcrowded and unhealthy conditions.

A lot of them drink in the pub to have a warm place to spend the evening. A lot drink as an escape from their miserable lives.

You are 38 years old.

Costume: long skirt and blouse

Mr York **

You are the publican of the Black Dog pub in Bray's Yard in Leeds.

Your customers are the millworkers who work in Marshall's flax mill and the factories round about. They live, crammed into tenement houses in overcrowded and unhealthy conditions.

A lot of them come to the pub to have a warm place to spend the evening. A lot drink as an escape from their miserable lives.

You are 38 years old.

Costume: jacket, trousers, open necked shirt

Character cards

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Mrs O'Bryan****

You are an enterprising woman. You persuaded your husband to leave Ireland to seek a better life in the factory towns of England. You landed first in Liverpool, then made your way to Leeds, where Mr Marshall was hiring workers for his flax mill.

There is a lot of prejudice against Irish people – you are often spat at and ridiculed in the street, so you were lucky that Marshall was so desperate for workers that he hired you and your husband to work in the mill.

Most landlords won't let to Irish people, but you managed to rent a corner of a room in Mrs Ingham's Lodging House.

There is no contraception, so you were pregnant when you arrived in Leeds. You gave birth to Martha and went back to the factory three days later, because you only get paid when you work. You leave Martha with Mrs Ingham, who charges to take care of her. You are highly intelligent, but you have a very poor education. You are interested in medical matters and if you had been born rich, and a boy, you would have trained to be a doctor. It is unheard of for a girl to train in medicine in 1842.

You are 20 years old.

Costume: blouse and long skirt, darned and patched

Mr O'Bryan **

You are an Irish immigrant. Your wife persuaded you to leave Ireland to seek a better life in the factory towns of England. You landed first in Liverpool, then made your way to Leeds, where Mr Marshall was hiring workers for his flax mill.

There is a lot of prejudice against Irish people – you are often spat at and ridiculed in the street - so you were lucky that Marshall was so desperate for workers that he hired you both to work in the mill.

Most landlords won't let to Irish people, but you managed to rent a corner of a room in Mrs Ingham's Lodging House.

There is no contraception, so your wife was pregnant when you arrived in Leeds. She gave birth to Martha and went back to the factory three days later, because she only gets paid when she works. You leave Martha with Mrs Ingham, who charges to take care of her.

You are 20 years old.

Costume: filthy trousers, shirt, jacket and scruffy hat

Character cards

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Albert Tatlock**

You live with your parents and seven brothers and sisters in a tenement in Bray's Yard, just off the 1842 Street, in Leeds.

You are a night soil collector. You dig out the human dung that clogs up the communal toilets, (which you call 'privies'), used by you and your neighbours.

Only rich people have sinks and toilets inside their houses.

You are 13 years old.

Costume: filthy trousers, shirt, jacket and scruffy hat

PowerPoint Operator

(N.B. this is a non-speaking part)

You are in charge of the PowerPoint slides. You make sure that the background to each scene matches the action on stage.

The script tells you when to change slides with instructions in brackets:

(PPO selects PowerPoint Slide 2)

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Director***

You are in charge of the production. You instruct the actors where to move and how to behave.

Your lines are written in grey, like this:

Director: (Enter Mary Holmes, a character from Thackray Museum's 1842 Street. She stands to the left of the whiteboard. She reads the essay question)

Stage Manager***

You are in charge of the production. You instruct the actors where to move and how to behave.

Your lines are written in grey, like this:

Stage Manager: (Enter Narrators. They stand at an angle, to the right of the whiteboard.)