Okonkwo - first person narrative

For section B, you will be asked to produce a text of your own, based on your reading/analysis of the set texts you have studied. In order to make a successful transition from reading *Things Fall Apart* to producing a creative answer, it is essential you consider the narrative voice in a text. (The term *narrative voice* refers to the distinctive manner of expression that is characteristic of a particular a created literary character, which in this case will be Okonkwo.)

Ways in to the task

- What do we know about Okonkwo that will help us adopt his narrative voice? Discuss any ideas you have with your partner. Be ready to feed back at least three ideas.
- Read Chapter 5, ‘The Festival of the New Yam’, and build up a narrative style, or vocabulary bank to draw upon. You should consider particular words, or patterns of words that Okonkwo might use.

The task in detail

- The recasting question will specify an area of the text to concentrate on as well as the content of the task and what you need to recast into. Don’t lose easy marks: in the exam, it is important that you highlight key words in the question:

  *In Chapter 5 we are told about the preparation for the Feast of the New Yam and how Okonkwo ‘could never become as enthusiastic as most people’. Write a first person narrative from Okonkwo’s point of view in which he reflects on his feelings at this time.*

  *You should give careful consideration to your language choices and style, which should achieve a sense of Okonkwo’s voice and point of view.*

  [45 marks]

- Break down your planning into key content and language choices / style.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Language choices/ style</th>
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<td>Dynamic verbs</td>
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In the exam, to get the highest marks you need to:

**A01: Produce fluent, accurate, cohesive writing**
- Ensure expression is precise and wholly appropriate
- Achieve a high level of technical accuracy with rare errors
- Write in a stylish manner with well controlled expression

**A04: Respond confidently and creatively with originality and flair**
- Skilfully handle writing/interpretation and ensure it is completely fit for purpose
- Use sophisticated language
- Ensure content is entirely appropriate
- Develop a very engaging style with clear and convincing ideas of audience and purpose

**Focusing on a sample answer**

- Look at the beginning of this example answer.

> I paced backwards and forwards in the confines of my obi, snarling under my breath as the thin guise of tolerance rapidly crumbled and gave way, almost as though the earth was trembling beneath the poor foundation of a termite mound. It was wrong - unnatural, this lack of anything was beginning to test the very limits of my boredom. Outside, I could hear my wives ...

- Can you see where the sample answer hits success criteria from the assessment objectives listed above? Highlight examples and annotate what is good about the example, or where it might need development or improvement.

- You now need to continue the response on, or start again from the beginning. Either way, to gain success you must cover all areas of your plan.