How to tackle the text in the exam

Comment on as many of the following as you can find:

- Descriptive Writing.
- Use of more than one modifier to describe something, e.g. "crushed red carcasses".
- Alliteration.
- Compounds, e.g. "map-breathed ancestors".
- Capitalisation of nouns other than pronouns, e.g. "A Twin Revolution with a Puff."
- Running words together to make new words, e.g. “The singing stopped for a ‘Whatisit? Whathappened?’ and for a flurrywhirring and a sariflapping.”
- Third person narrative and yet we still see things through eyes of characters; especially Rahel. How is this achieved?
- The constant repetition of words and themes.
- Personification, e.g. “The old house on the hill wore its gabled roof pulled over its ears like a low hat.”
- Similes and metaphors.
- Indian words interspersed with English.
- Brand names.

Questions to answer in your analysis:

1) How does the language here compare to that in the rest of the novel?
2) What images of repression do we see?
3) What images of family relationships do we see?
4) Remember to comment on the theme that is mentioned in the question, but also ask yourself what other themes you can find.
5) How does the writing help us to identify with the characters?

Top Tip

Imagine that the examiner has never read this novel and is completely clueless. Tell them everything. Make it obvious. Be explicit!!