Compare the episodes in which Candy’s dog and Lennie die. How has Steinbeck made these events effective for the reader?

Consider some of the following points and make notes as part of your planning:

- The importance of friendship for itinerant workers in America at this time.
- The ways that the relationship between each pair (Candy’s dog and Lennie, and Lennie and George) is described.
- The ways in which Candy’s dog is reliant on Candy and Lennie is reliant on George.
- How each feels about the other.
- How each (Lennie and the dog) die. Look carefully at the passages leading up to and describing the killings.
- Why Candy doesn’t kill his dog himself and how he feels about it.
- Why George decides to kill Lennie himself and the effect it has on him.
- The parallels in the structure and language (description/ tension/ etc.) of each scene and why you think Steinbeck writes in this manner.
- How the dog’s death prepares the reader for Lennie’s death.
- Other deaths in the novel.
- How the reader responds to each death.
- How Steinbeck wanted us to respond and why.

Top tips:

- Avoid re-telling the story.
- Use brief quotations and embed them in your writing.
- Remember to comment on each quotation and use the PEE structure.