How does Williams present the conflict between old and new in Scene 2?

You will need to:

- look at how the characters of Stanley and Stella embody old and new
- discuss how the structure of the scene adds to the tension
- think about how the historical and social context infiltrates and has an effect on the scene.

Remember the assessment objectives are to evaluate:

- the play’s social, historical and cultural context
- effects of dramatic devices or structures
- layers of meaning in language, ideas and themes.

Helpful pointers:

- How does the three-part structure of the scene create tension for the audience?
- What is the purpose of the ‘blue piano’ and how does it relate to the theme of old and new?
- What is the purpose of Stanley’s hyperbolic and figurative language? How might the audience receive it?
- What is the significance of Stanley’s use of colloquialisms and slang?
- What is the significance of Blanche’s more educated language?
- How does the reference to the Napoleonic Code reflect this conflict? How might audience responses to this differ?
- How do the divisions between areas on stage reflect the divisions between characters and when they are crossed what effect does it have?
- Can you see the romance of the old south reflected anywhere in this scene? How is it portrayed?
- How does the idea of the American Dream fit in with conflict between old and new and where can you see a desire for success reflected in this scene?