Essay Title – How is duality presented in Jekyll and Hyde?

● Setting – Jekyll’s House
● Appearance and Reality – Interpolated Narratives
● Good and Evil – Jekyll & Hyde
● Obsession with Reputation – Utterson

Paragraph 1 – Setting – Jekyll’s House
OVERALL – Setting reflects the duality within Jekyll’s character. Hyperbolic descriptions give the impression that he is overcompensating for his immoral actions that could tarnish reputation as a ‘well-made... man’

● ‘Large low-roofed’, ‘costly cabinets’
● Alliterative phrases
● Desire to show off reputable persona
● CONTEXT – symbolism of house reflects attitudes of most Victorian gentlemen
● Expected to have strong morals but there was a rise in number of ‘gin palaces’ and Opium dens
● ‘Air of wealth and comfort’ – Jekyll’s desired appearance
● ‘Certain sinister block’ – represents the side Victorian men would want to hide
● Sibilance – evil, secrecy, snakes
● CONTEXT – Genesis creation story – Jekyll is unable to resist the temptation of his evil
● Fact that this evil is actually the veneer of the building suggests that his has been unsuccessful in resisting temptation
● Reflective of Jekyll’s confession in final chapter
● ‘My imperious desire to carry my head high’ – Alliterative phrase emphasises the importance of reputation and dignity
● ‘desire to...wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public’ – Jekyll would ‘wear’ a socially respectable persona – associations of costume. He is acting a part as Jekyll, but his true character is Hyde.

READER RESPONSE – Shock at Stevenson’s admission of the presence of the duality in society

Paragraph 2 – Appearance and Reality – Interpolated Narratives (FORM AND STRUCTURE)
OVERALL – Multiple points of view accentuate the contrast between appearance and reality.

● Reader initially exposed to the outward appearance of characters by the cold, detached narrator who appears to make no judgments. Simply says it as it is without bias.
● As the novella continues, the epistolary nature of the narrative is shown the true character of Jekyll.
● Evidently involved narrative shows a lot about him.
● Chapter name ‘Full Statement of the Case’ implies it will be a confession, yet he seems to deflect the blame.
● ‘primitive duality of man’ – accepts his duplicitous nature as no fault of his own
● Narrative contradicts the fact that they are the same person – effort made to show their differences
● End of the final chapter, Jekyll changes to a more detached narrator
● Switches from referring to Hyde as ‘I’ to ‘he’ – distinct difference between Jekyll and Hyde
● First person -> Third person pronouns
● Shows a realisation of what he has done – an awareness of the difference between his appearance and reality
● CONTEXT – Characteristic of Gothic genre – often use multiple narratives and letters/documents to tell the story
● Allows author to keep parts of the story hidden

READER RESPONSE – Loss of respect and empathy for Jekyll – Up until this point we have seen him as moral but once we know the reality it is clear that he always had evil intentions

Paragraph 3 – Good and Evil – Characterisation of Jekyll and Hyde
OVERALL – Stevenson uses the same character to reflect the good and evil in a person, giving them different names, appearances and personas, which conform to the id and superego of Freud’s model of psyche (CONTEXT).

● Jekyll ‘A large, well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps’
● Compound adjectives reflect how Jekyll is a composite of two parts – his good (‘well’ and ‘smooth’) and his evil side which he has ‘made’
● ‘Slyish cast’ also implies he is more than just his reputable exterior