Essay Title - Hyde

- Antithesis of Jekyll (Theme: Setting/Reputation)
- Physicality (Theme: Appearance vs Reality)
- Evil effect on other people
- Temptation (Theme: Repression & Desire)

Paragraph 1 – Setting/Reputation – Dishonourable antithesis of Jekyll

OVERALL – Reader given an impression of Hyde as dishonourable, seemingly the opposite of Jekyll’s character of a reputable member of society. This is shown in the contrasting descriptions of their houses.

- HYDE (House) ‘certain sinister block...thrust forward its gable on the street’
  - Sibilance – allusions to snake/secrecy
  - Personification of building suggests inhabitant is dangerous/unpredictable
  - Contrast to: Jekyll (House) ‘a square of ancient handsome houses’
- HYDE (House) ‘showed no window’ ‘neither bell nor knocker’
  - Symbolism of the window
    - You can’t look in – ideas of secrecy and hidden truths
    - You can’t look out – Hyde is detached from society, lacking human empathy
  - No visitors wanted or expected – hostile nature of Hyde
  - Secrecy – dual frontage of house shows Hyde and crimes are distanced from Jekyll
  - Contrast to: Jekyll (House) ‘a great air of wealth and comfort’
- 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
  - Jekyll’s double frontage on his house allows him to keep his reputable exterior while Hyde still thrives.

Paragraph 2 – Appearance vs Reality

OVERALL – Only character where his appearance matches his persona

- HYDE ‘pale and dwarfish’ and has ‘an impression of deformity’
  - Colour imagery - ‘pale’ - connotes illness – maybe of the mind?
  - ‘impression’ - polysemy. Is he impersonating deformity to match his deformed morality? Do people subconsciously form an opinion of his physicality due to his violent nature – assumption that he is like an animal/the devil?
  - CONTEXT – Victorian ideas of physiognomy
    - Jekyll’s unblemished reputation is symbolised by his face being unmarked, showing him as the good, respectable side to his character
- HYDE ‘troglodytic’ ‘ape-like fury’
  - Animalistic imagery – violent
  - CONTEXT – Darwin’s ‘Theory of Evolution’ – Hyde seen as devolved

READER RESPONSE: – Is he seen as more moral in some respects as he is honest with himself and society? Subverts the idea that Jekyll is the good/moral counterpart.

Paragraph 3 – Evil effect on other people

OVERALL – Hyde appears to corrupt the inner good of all those he meets. They are unable to explain why or how he makes them feel such hatred towards him.

- ‘I saw that Sawbones turn sick and white with desire to kill him’
  - Hyde brings out the worst in people, no matter their status
  - Ironic that a doctor turns ‘sick’ – Hyde corrupts everything
  - ‘desire’ – Does Hyde symbolise Jekyll’s unrepressed desire, and therefore influence others to do the same?
  - CONTEXT -
- ‘I can’t describe him. And it’s not want of memory; for I declare I can see him this moment’
  - We can sense evil but not define it – invites reader to conjure up an evil image for themselves