**Language Paper 1 – Question 4: Evaluation– structured guidance**

***In this extract from A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens, Defarge, the leader of a group of French peasants during the French Revolution, leads a crowd to attack the Bastille.***

With a roar that sounded as if all the breath in France had been shaped into the detested word, the living sea rose, wave on wave, depth on depth, and overflowed the city to that point. Alarm-bells ringing, drums beating, the sea raging and thundering on its new beach, the attack begun.

Deep ditches, double drawbridge, massive stone walls, eight great towers, cannon, muskets, fire and smoke. Through the fire and through the smoke - in the fire and in the smoke, for the sea cast him up against a cannon, and on the instant he became a cannonier - Defarge of the wineshop worked like a manful soldier, two fierce hours.

**Question 4 – evaluation**

In this extract there is an attempt to show an attack. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

Tips to Answer Question 4

S - successfully  
P - purposefully  
E - effectively  
C - cleverly  
S – skilfully

1. Focus on ‘how well’ not ‘how’
2. Use evaluative language – opinion, judgement
3. Focus on MCSITE

**Aim for 3 points focused on the following areas:**

**Mood:** How well does the mood of the extract help show the question topic?  
**Characters:** How well do the characters in the extract help show the question topic?  
**Setting:** How well does the setting add to the question topic idea?  
**Ideas/Themes:** What ideas in the extract link to the question topic? Evaluate how they help us understand the question topic?  
**Events:** What events are taking place in the extract? How does these add to the question topic?

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| **MCSITE** | **Quotes** | **Evaluation – how do these help create the idea of ATTACK?** |
| Mood | “roar”, “Alarm-bells ringing, drums beating” | Throughout the extract the writer successfully shows the idea of attack by using sounds to create mood “roar” and “alarm-bells ringing, drums beating”. Here the writer draws the reader into the action of the attack by recreating the noises of the battle as if it was taking place in real time. |
| Character | Defarge of the wineshop worked like a manful soldier, two fierce hours” |  |
| Setting | “Deep ditches, double drawbridge, massive stone walls, eight great towers” |  |
| Ideas / Themes | “all the breath in France” |  |
| Events | “the attack begun”, “cannon, muskets, fire and smoke” |  |