**Structuring your Essay Response:**

**S.P.E.E.D**

**Signpost:**

**At the beginning of each paragraph you need to clearly signpost to the reader which part of the text you are referring to.**

E.G: In Act 1 Scene 2 of Macbeth the witches appearance…

At the beginning of Carter’s first short story…

**Point:**

**Address the question clearly in your point. Set up your argument from the beginning in a concise way.**

E.g: Carter clearly includes images and language of an adult nature, abandoning many of the childish aspects of a traditional fairytale.

**Evidence:**

**You must include a quote from the text to demonstrate and support your ideas. For your exam, you will need to have these memorised as it is a closed book exam. Try to embed your quote for a more sophisticated expression.**

E.g: Carter uses violent imagery as the narrator describes her husband as a “cobra-headed funeral lily”.

Not: The quote to show this is “cobra-headed funeral lily”

**Explanation:**

**Here you need to explain your quote clearly and how it supports your argument. You need to include language and structural analysis in your answer. Try to link to any Gothic elements.**

E.g: The language used by Carter conveys the violence and dominance of the Marquis. The red colour clearly connotes…

**Discussion:**

**Here you need to expand on your argument and refer back to the question clearly. What is your final interpretation of your point?**

**Modelled Example:**

‘The Bloody Chamber’ begins with the first story of the same name and undeniably includes nightmarish and adult imagery. This may be different from the traditional childhood fairy tales a reader may expect. However, when examining the base text ‘Bluebeard’ by Charles Perrault, it is clear that gruesome, violent and sexual imagery exists there too. What Carter does is address issues such as feminism and social norms through the “stuff of nightmares”.

Carter’s use of violent imagery is used at the beginning when the narrator describes her husband as a “cobra-headed funeral lily”. The symbolism of the lily is important as it represents how closely sex, marriage and death are linked in Carter’s eyes.

Furthermore, the “cobra head” portrays the Marquis as a predator, making the narrator a vulnerable victim to his power and violence.

Initially, this may seem like Carter has transformed traditional fairy tales by including more explicit, nightmarish adult content. However, the original fairy tale describes Bluebeard as “adding to their disgust and aversion” the mystery behind his missing wives. This would have been used as a moral warning to young girls, whereas Carter uses the violent imagery to criticise the social position of men.

**Sentence starters:**

The author employs tis image to…

Carter clearly shows her message through the image/language used…

The explicit use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conveys…

The symbolism of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is important because…

Carter leads the reader to understand…

Carter clearly employs the Gothic element of…

The adjective “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” demonstrates/conveys/portrays….

The verb/metaphor/simile/image/symbol “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” conveys…

Key Critical Vocab for The Bloody Chamber:

Convey

Portray

Feminist

Feminism

Passive

Subordinate

Submissive

Patriarchy

Fairytale

Transform

Re-work

Challenge

Conventions

Archetype/archetypal

Traditional