**Suspense and tension**

The Gothic creates feelings of gloom, mystery, and suspense and tends to the dramatic and the sensational, like incest, diabolism, necrophilia, and nameless terrors. It crosses boundaries, daylight and the dark, life and death, consciousness and unconsciousness. Sometimes covertly, sometimes explicitly, it presents transgression, taboos, and fears–fears of violation, of imprisonment, of social chaos, and of emotional collapse.

Created through:

* Description
* Supernatural happenings
* Mystery – information withheld – gaps in the narrative so the reader is forced to engage and imagine and fill with their own (more horrifying?) ideas.
* Gothic elements e.g. imprisonment, blood, violence, decay
* Narrative structure and perspective
* Atmosphere of mystery and fear
* Creation of tension between characters – unpredictable actions
* Terror and horror
* Setting
* Imagery
* Palimpsestic structure (framing) - narratives within narratives

Find examples of 4/5 of the elements above which create suspense and tension.

For two write paragraphs meeting each AO.

Then complete either:

Section B past question: “Gothic writing lacks tension and suspense because the end is always inevitable.”

**To what extent do you agree that gothic writing does lack tension and suspense?**

(40 marks)

Or turn it into a Section A question:

Wuthering Heights lacks tension and suspense because the end is inevitable. To what extent do you agree that Wuthering Heights does lack tension and suspense?