

Planning a Larkin essay – basics to get you off the ground!

Planning is vital when you get in to the exam. If you don't know where you are going you don't know where you will end up. You will also feel much more confident writing your essay if you have sketched out a plan in front of you before you start.

We are going to attempt a detailed plan (more detailed than you would have time to do in the exam).

1. Which 2 poems?
2. What is the unifying theme that you are going to discuss?

Intro – this will be saying which poems you are going to discuss and which of Larkin's central concerns you are going to talk about.

3. First point

Always start with what the poems are about.

What is the first idea you are going to set your essay off with?

Are you going to summarise both the poems?

4. Where are you going to go next?

What is your next point to develop your arguments?

5. Now sketch out the other main points making detailed reference to your text.

You don't need to put in quotes straight away, you might want to go back and put them in. Or your preferred way of working might be to make a point and find a quote as you develop the structure of your plan.

Conclusion

You need to write a few lines here explaining how you will tie up this essay and also what is your final thinking on the issues.