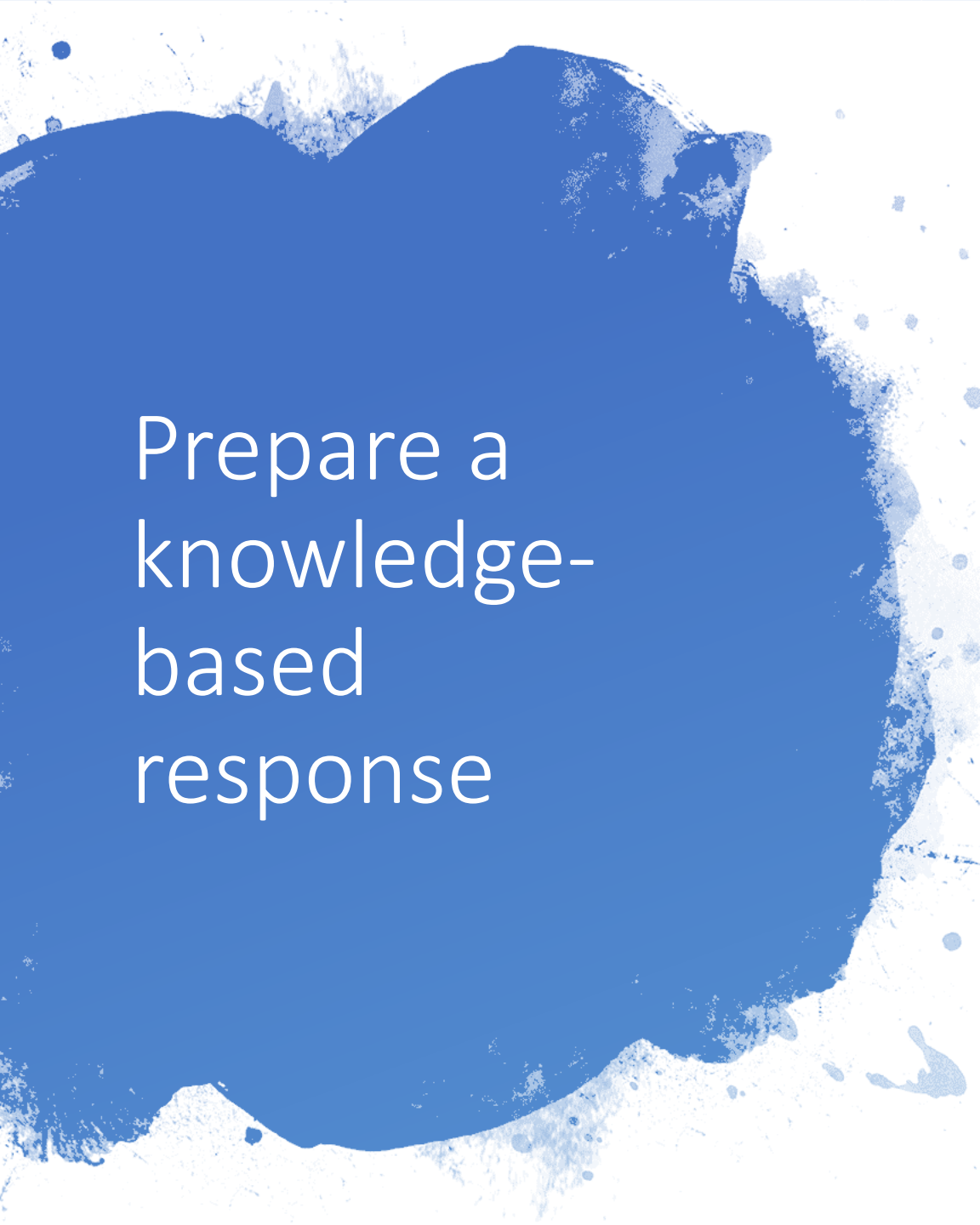




Kip McGrathTM EDUCATIONCENTRES

ENGLISH COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Facebook LIVE Drop-in Clinic
THURSDAY 1PM



Prepare a knowledge- based response

- To respond to these type of question you may not always refer directly back to the text as they may only be loosely related to the topic. e.g **The text mentions one composer. Name three other famous composers.**
- You will need to give the answer based on what you already know about the topic. It helps to try and think of topics or events that have happened to you.
- Like the example given, don't fall for the thought you don't know any composer and skip the question. Think of where and when you've heard of composers. Maybe on radio or a school music project.

Logic

- Knowledge based questions can also take the form of logic questions. e.g

The text article states that the piano is part of the percussion family. Explain why it can be classed as percussion and not a string instrument.

The answer needs to be clear why the instruments fits in the percussion and not the string family.

Check the unfamiliar words, ask yourself related questions like what is a percussion instrument or string instrument. What does a piano have in common with this.

Questions asking for personal opinion.

- These sort of questions could ask you to predict, evaluate or continue the story from where the writer stopped. They could ask you to support your comments with evidence from the text. You can do this by taking direct quotes from the text or by paraphrasing the text.
- Always use the text as the springboard for your ideas and opinions. You need to write about a paragraph or more to answer these question as they carry more marks

Prediction

- When they ask you a question like **What will happen next?** You first need to find clues that relate to the story line. Are there any characters? What type of writing style is the text? What is happening? When? Where? Why? Have you read anything like it before? What does it remind you of? What is the main purpose of the writing?
- Once you have all these clues, look again at the text you were given and the last paragraph. Then think about what might happen next. Think of 2 ideas one with happy ending and the other a sad ending and choose which one you want to go for.

CONTINUATION

- This is similar to prediction. **WRITE THE NEXT STAGE IN THE STORY. CONTINUE THE PASSAGE IN THE SAME STYLE AND WRITE NO MORE THAN 150 WORDS.**
- You must try to write in the style of the author.
- Your answer must continue straight from where the writer left off.
- As always use a broad vocabulary and show good spelling and your grammar knowledge.
- You must keep within the word limit.

CONTINUATION CONTD



Here is a **TEMPO** strategy to help you structure your thoughts and develop your answer.



Title- from the text title can you think of how the story might go and how it could end



Environment- how does the setting affect the storyline.



Mood – what is the mood and how does it change.
Happy –sad, Excited – anxious.



Plot – What is the outline and aim of the story? E.g



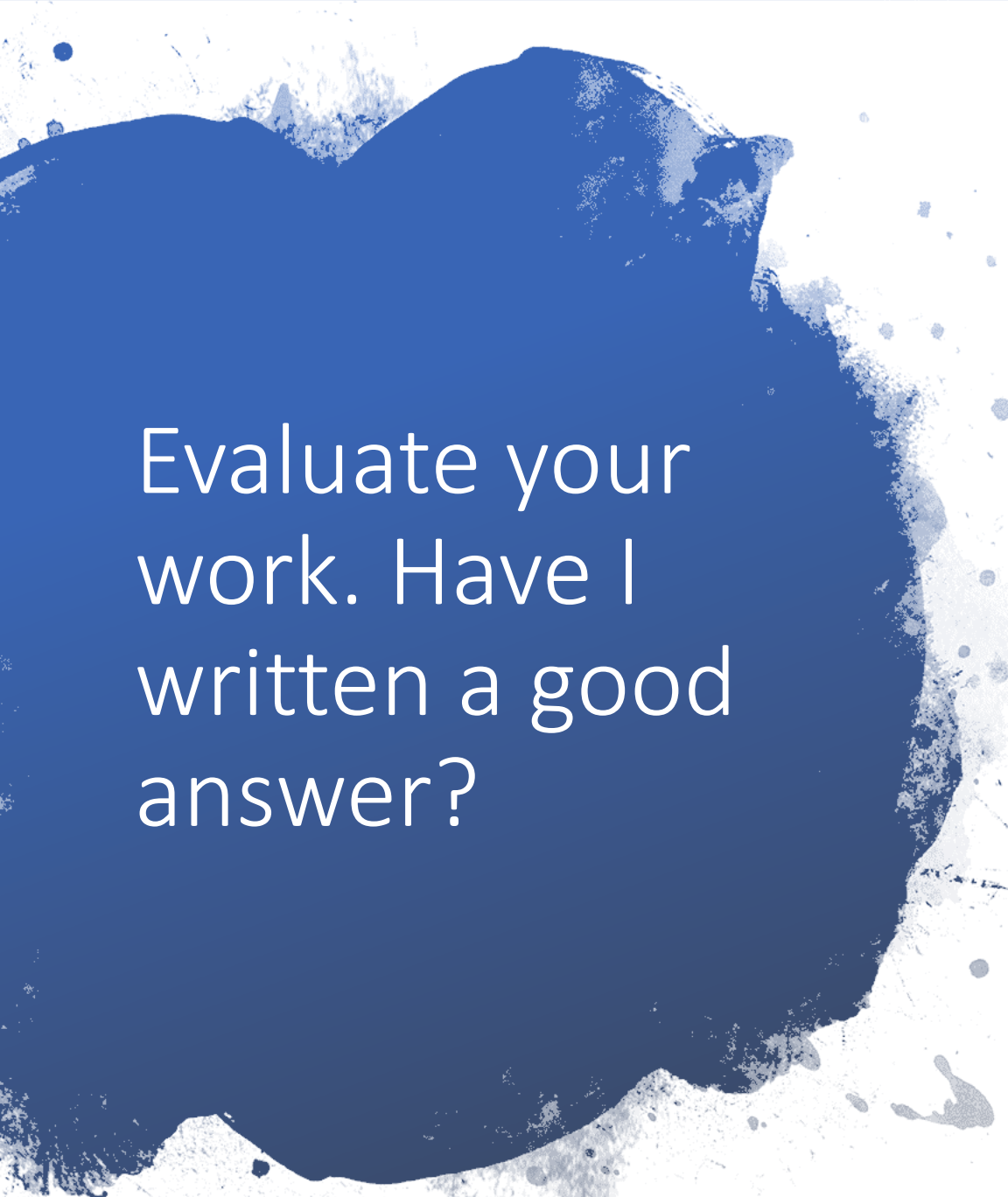
Opportunities – How could the storyline continue or change

Evaluation questions

- These questions take one or more themes from the text and ask you to discuss or give you opinion. Here is an example

‘All children should be encouraged to perform in public.’ Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

The key word here is ‘explain’. You need to include relevant facts and your opinion. Refer to the text as well as your knowledge where useful. Discuss both sides of the issue or argument clearly, the pros and the cons. Try and explain each point concisely and avoid repetition. Draw your own conclusion after presenting the facts.



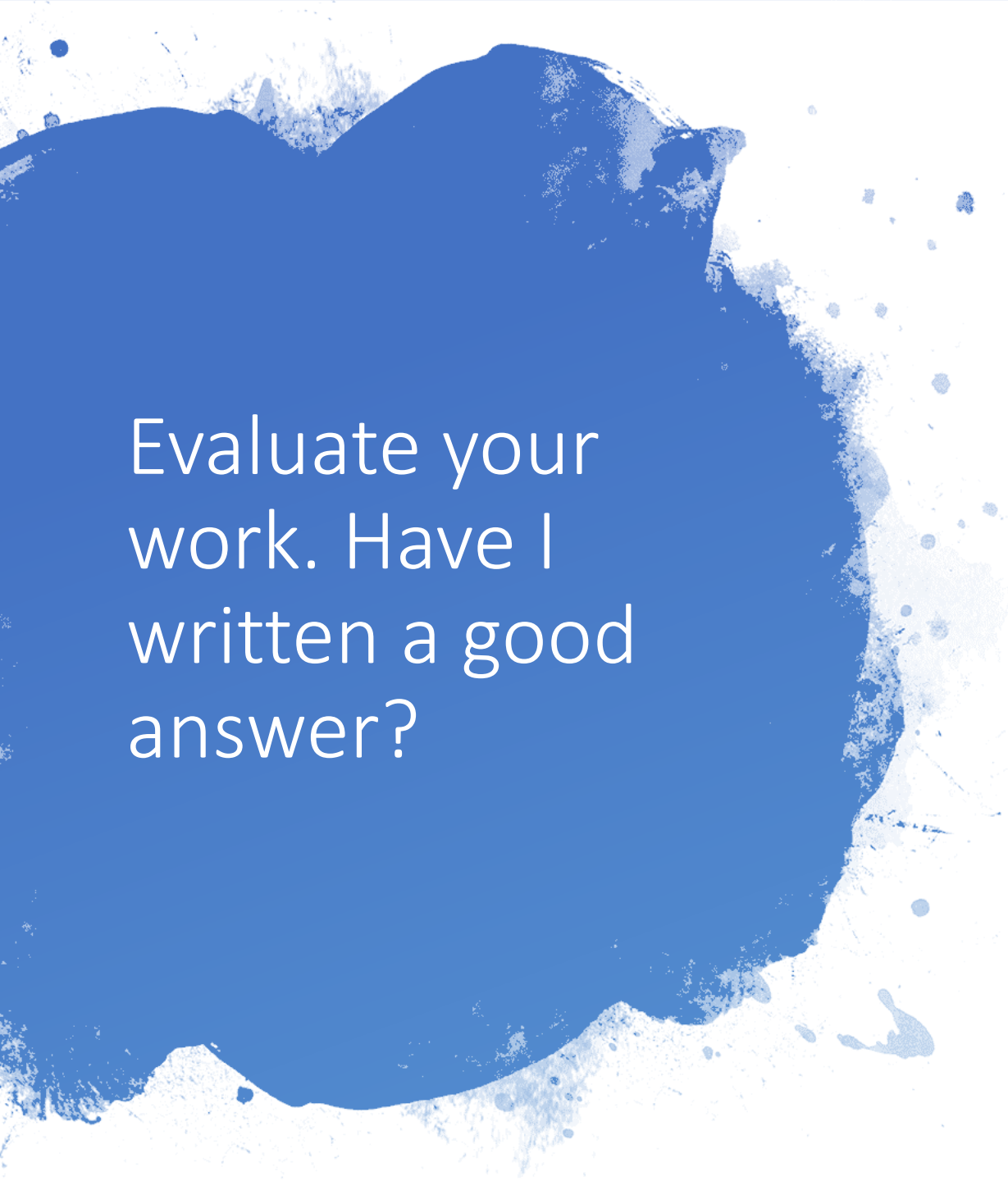
Evaluate your
work. Have I
written a good
answer?

- Here's a mantra to help to check your work.

Before you write, use your **HEART**

While you write, use your **FINGERS**

After you write, use your **BRAIN**



Evaluate your work. Have I written a good answer?

Highlight the keywords and annotate the text.

Earn maximum marks by focusing on the tasks.

Actively read the text- think about your 10 key questions

Read through the questions more than once

Try to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words

SUMMARY

Fit your answers to the marks per question.

Identify where you can get more mark and spend time on those.

Notes, diagrams and plans help you structure your response

Grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Errors can be easily dealt with just put a neat line over it.

Remember the questions been asked. Don't tell a story when you are asked to discuss.

Simple, precise answers. No waffling and repetitions



SUMMARY

Be ruthless- if you think your answer is not good enough for you then it won't be for the person marking your work

Remember to attempt every question. No blank pages always have a go.

Assess your answer. Does it answer the questions asked.

Identify the incorrect spellings, grammar and punctuation.

Never be scared to make changes.