**Using context in the overview**

Once candidates have selected their material for their response, they then need to construct their argument ensuring they address the relevant AOs. If we move to Section B of Component 2, those AOs are AO1, 2 and 3. One way to initially address context (AO3) is by providing an overview at the very start of the essay, rather than beginning with discussion of selected episodes. This provides a springboard into the essay, and serves as a reminder to candidates that they should address context right from the start of their response, and then throughout.

The following openings are taken from responses this year. Which is most effective? Why? How could context be addressed more effectively?

***In Cold Blood*—Justice system**

“*In the non-fiction novel In Cold Blood by Truman Capote, the American justice system is presented in a majorly negative light, with many ironically unjust characteristics.*”

“*Contextually speaking the American Justice System in 1959 shows a clear contrast to that of modern day. That being said despite aversions to capital punishment it still exists today.”*

***In Cold Blood*—Friendship**

“*In In Cold Blood, Capote can be seen to present the attitude towards friendship to be close and important for good health and happiness through the relationship between Nancy and Susan. This can be shown by the line ‘No other friend of Nancy’s would have presumed to make such a suggestion’ which conveys that Nancy and Susan are close friends and rely on each other for help and support, which could lead to them being happier and therefore healthier.”*

***Once in a House on Fire*—Sisters**

“*Perhaps the strongest bonds created in Ashworth’s autobiography, Once in a House on Fire, are those between the sisters. Frequently left with no-one else to depend upon, the sisters face the brutality of life in 1970s England as a unit. Through the traumas of domestic physical violence and financial insecurity, Ashworth’s novel presents a world of hope for the future, one which might not have been possible save for the relationships she established with her sisters.”*