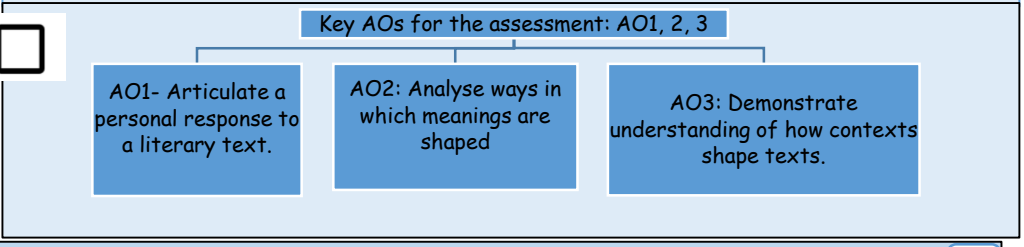


1. Explanation of prior learning/ links:
Identity- external and internal influences, which affect our sense of identity e.g. family, work, natural environment, community pressures. This unit extends that reflection.

2. Summary of unit:
In this unit, pupils will read and explore 'Frankenstein', linking their understanding of plot to character and themes. They will develop essay writing skills and will reflect on the novel's contemporary relevance.

Key question	Reflection
Is this a feminist text?	Yes- it criticises toxic male ambition, which leads to self-alienation and a harmful pursuit of a goal. Female characters are idealised, weak, and submissive and die as a result. The novel criticises both gender extremes, which leads to ubiquitous death and suffering. VF also destroys the female creature as he understands that he will be unable to control her. As a male, he feels threatened by her agency.
How does lack of compassion lead to prejudice and stereotyping?	Prejudice turns the innocent creature into a vengeful creature. The creature is rejected by society and is judged solely on his appearance. Lack of compassion leads to him taking deadly revenge. Justine dies as a result of class prejudice and prejudice against women means that Elizabeth's words of defence fall on deaf ears. Also, the De Lacey's are victims and, ironically, are themselves prejudiced. Irish mob condemns Victor for Henry's death because he is 'outsider'.
What consequences do we face when we don't take responsibility for our actions?	We cause suffering to ourselves and to those who rely on us for support and nurturing (the creature bemoans the lack of a parental/ 'father' figure'.
What genre does 'Frankenstein' belong to?	Gothic, Romanticism, science-fiction, tragedy
Are people born evil/ what makes people become evil?	Mary Shelley's creature is not innately evil, but becomes harmful after being rejected by his creator and by society. Prejudice leads to isolation, hatred and revenge.
What are the consequences of humans playing God and defying nature?	Terrible consequences (loss, grief, paranoia, obsession, fight to the death) as VF is punished for disturbing the natural order.
What are the Gothic and Romantic characteristics of this text?	Gothic- strange places, death and darkness, passive female characters, doubt and uncertainty, power and restraint, intense weather, extreme emotions, horror and terror, the Gothic Sublime; Romantic- strong emotions, power of imagination, individual alone against society; power of nature; injustice, wild landscapes, the Sublime.
Why is the full title 'Frankenstein: or the modern Prometheus'?	Two myths are associated with Prometheus: he angered the Gods by stealing their fire and giving it to man; he also moulded the first man out of clay. Both relate to VF who creates human life unnaturally and who seeks illicit knowledge. Prometheus, like VF, is punished for his actions.
How does MS view the young, male, overly ambitious artist type and how does this link to her own life?	MS is critical of self-destructive, overly ambitious males who put work and art before their personal, domestic obligations. Comparisons have been drawn between the zealously driven VF and PBS (fascination with science and dedication to 'art')
Is this a conservative or progressive text?	Conservative- 'order' is established at the end of the novel: dangers have been eliminated and the moral has been learnt. 'Progressive'- MS is highly critical of patriarchal structures and of societal injustice. Is the creature really defeated?
What are the novel's key themes?	Excessive ambition, destructive knowledge, societal prejudice, the monstrous and the human, alienation and isolation, family and domestic affairs.

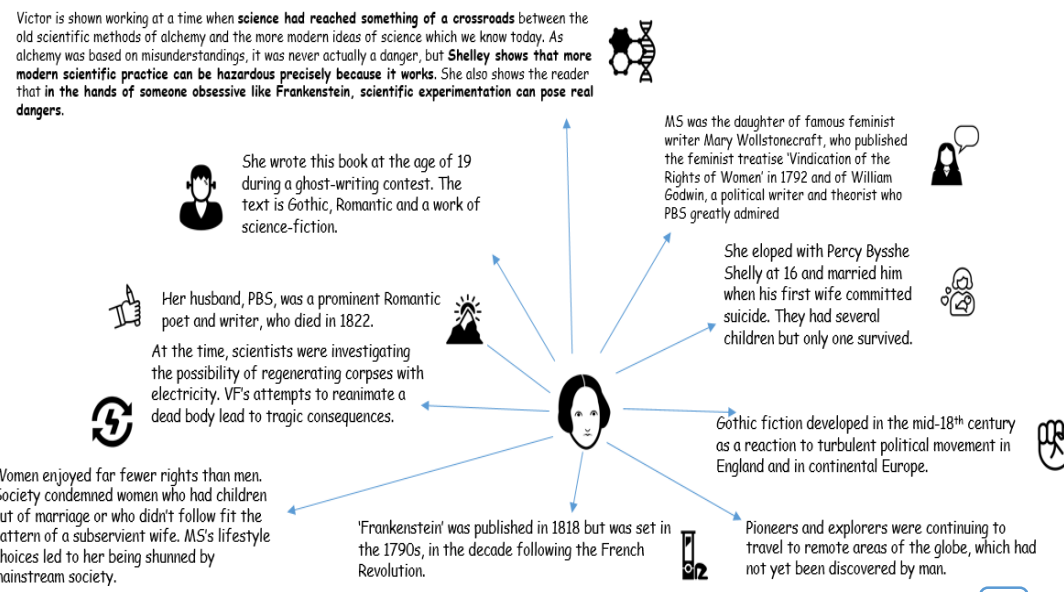


4. Question structure:
"Using this extract as a starting point, explore how Shelley presents the theme of/ the character of..."/ how far does Shelley present 'x' as 'y'.

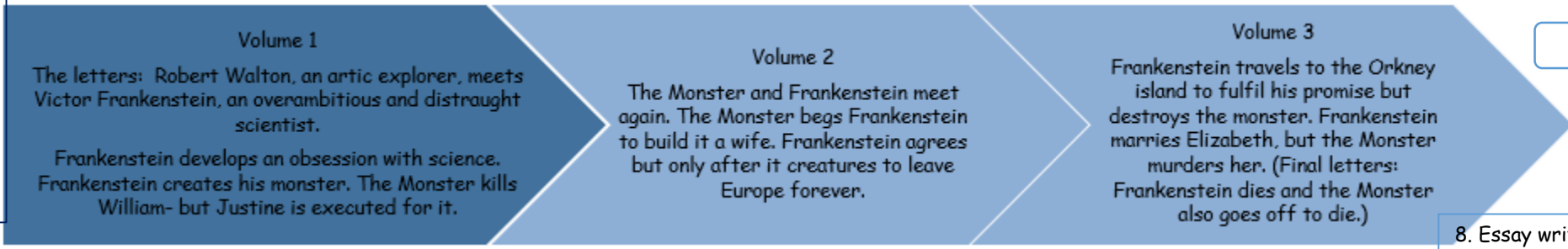
5. Mary Shelley's life and historical and literary context

Key quotes	Link to theme(s)	Who says it
Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay To mould me Man?	Destructive knowledge/ monstrous and the human	Epigraph- from Paradise Lost- link to the Creature and innocence
What may not be expected in a country of eternal light?	Ambition and knowledge	Walton
I will pioneer a new way, explore unknown powers, and unfold to the world the deepest mysteries of creation.	Ambition and creation.	Victor
I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on.	Prejudice/ monstrous and the human	The creature
I was cursed by some devil and carried about with me my eternal hell	Alienation/ excessive ambition/ monstrous and human	Victor
Again do I vow vengeance; again do I devote thee, miserable fiend, to torture and death.	The monstrous and the human	Victor (dehumanisation)
Remember that I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel	Alienation/ excessive ambition/ monstrous and human	The creature

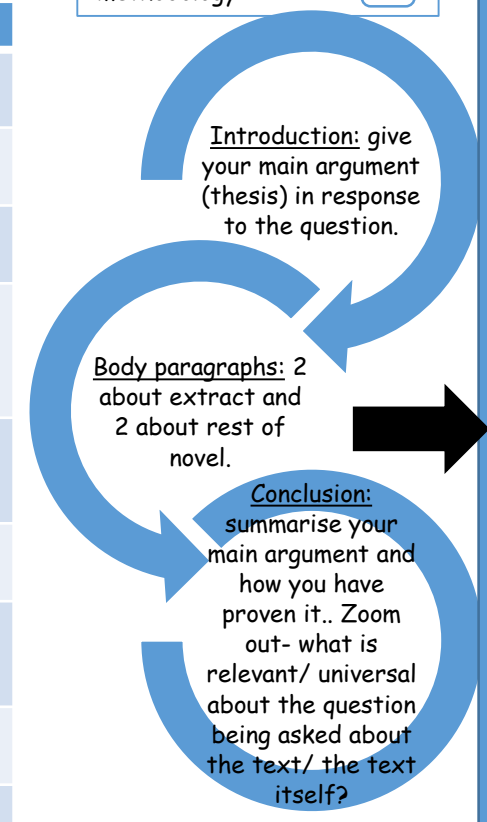
Tick the box when you can retrieve the information in the box from memory.



6. The plot: a very brief summary



8. Essay writing methodology



Body paragraphs:

What
What happens that is linked to the q. in the extract?
What is the writer trying to convey?

How ?
Where is the evidence?
How does the writer use language, structure and form to convey these ideas?
How could this be interpreted in different ways?
How do we feel as a result?

Why?
Why has the writer chosen to present the character in this way?
Why do they want to share this message?
What is the writer's purpose/ intention?

If you know this, you will make progress; you will be successful.

7. Term	Definition
The Gothic	A family of texts/ stories with overlapping characteristics and motifs such as: strange places; clashing time periods; the uncanny; power and constraint; terror vs horror; a world of doubt. Mid-18 th century to present day.
Romanticism	movement 1790s-1850s, associated in English literature with poetry. Characteristics: interest in the common man and childhood; strong senses, emotions and feelings; awe of nature; celebration of the individual; importance of imagination.
Motif	a repeated idea, which takes on a symbolic meaning and which helps to illuminate dominant ideas and themes: passive women, windows, moons, light and fire, doppelganger, journeys.
Doppelganger	a 'lookalike' in literature e.g VF and the creature. In lit., a doppelganger often takes the form of an evil twin/ wicked side of someone with a split personality. Similarities grow between the creature and the monster. Also, VF and Walton. Cf. foil- an opposite (HC and VF).
Frame narrative	a story within a story- We hear Victor Frankenstein's story through Walton's letters; we hear the Monster's story through Victor Frankenstein's story through Walton's letters. Effect is destabilising and means the reader cannot accept one version of events.
The uncanny	the unfamiliar familiar- 'the mark of the return of the repressed'
Id, ego, superego	in Freudian psychology: Id- desire/ instincts; ego- reality; superego (conscience)- morality (sense of right and wrong). Normally, ego mediates between superego and id, which means you can function healthily in society.
Pathetic fallacy	when the external, natural world reflects the character's moods and emotions.
Intertextuality	conscious references/ quotations from other novels/ poems/ plays within the novel e.g 'Paradise Lost', The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and the Bible.
The sublime	Feeling of awe and grandeur but also intimation and fear when contemplating a natural scene.
Ubiquitous	Prevalent, widespread
Transgression	An act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offence.