**STRUCTURE FOR SECTION B OF PAPER 2 (AMERICAN LIT)**

**AO3: Context 50%**

**AO4: Comparison 25%**

**AO1: Understanding / fluently written & structured essay 12.5%**

**AO5: Other readers 12.5%**

My recommended structure for that response is as follows:

* **Intro (5 mins):** Make your standpoint. E.g. for a question about morality: *Whilst Mark Twain celebrates Huck’s rejection of society’s morals in ‘The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’, ‘The Great Gatsby’ presents a society that is beyond moral redemption.*
* **Main body of essay (1 hour):** Start with context (**AO4**) or other readings (**AO5**) so that you can show “development”/ “exploration” of those AOs (this is required for a C grade or above). Ping-pong **(AO4)** between the two novels. *See model below for how to do that.*
* **Conclusion (5 mins):** Come to a conclusion about the statement and don’t be afraid to veer off in a different direction from your introduction, if you did so in the main body of your essay. For example, you might state the following in your conclusion: *Although it’s clear that there is some celebration of moral goodness in both novels, ultimately both Twain and Fitzgerald paint a bleak picture of morality in their respective societies.* Compare this to the introduction example above*.*

**Model paragraph hitting AO3, AO4, AO1, AO5**

Contrary to **McMechan’s assertion** **that it is Daisy who ultimately “destroy[s]”** Gatsby, it is perhaps his character’s desperation not to be seen as **“just some nobody”** that is his hamartia. **Unlike Huck Finn,** Gatsby embraces the **materialistic lifestyle that characterised the 1920s** and associates with **“selfish”** people who **“don’t care”**. **In contrast to Gatsby,** Huck sees through all the **“talky-talk”** around the dinner table and, like Nick, with whom arguably he has more in common, wants to **“light out for the Territory”** in order to escape being **“sivilize[d]”**; **the “west” was** **often romanticised in American Literature as being morally superior to the more ‘civilised’ east**. This theme of civilisation is evident **in both novels** with Fitzgerald and Twain criticising their respective societies, **which alienate the texts’ protagonists**. Nick suggests that Gatsby experiences a **“faint doubt”** about achieving his dream **whilst** Huck admits to his **“conscience”** being **“pinched”** about whether or not he was doing the **“right”** thing in helping a slave to escape, which, **before the Civil War would have contravened the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793**.