Essay topics to choose from:

**Question 1:**
Charlie Feehan demonstrates how important it is to work hard and have a positive attitude in order to achieve one’s goals. Discuss

or

**Question 2:**
Robert Newton’s novel Runner successfully recreated the hardships, joys and times of ordinary people making the most of their lives in 1919. Discuss.

or

**Question 3:**
Charlie hoped that Squizzy Taylor would be a new father figure for him, but he soon realised how wrong he was. Discuss.

**How to approach essay writing:**

1. Underline / highlight the key words of the question

You need to start by revising those themes.
Which question do you have the most ideas for? Choose this one to write on.

2. You need to structure your essay carefully. Consider the following outline:

Do you understand the question? Clarify anything related to the question that is unclear or you don’t understand.

Brainstorm the direction and content.
Revise your notes and list the main points
Make notes as you read through information
Mind-maps or prompts are a useful tool
Check that your essay answers the question before you submit it
Check punctuation, spelling and grammar
Ensure all quotes and paraphrasing are correctly presented
INTRODUCTION
Explain your three (or four extension) arguments or main points (this will be 6 (or more) sentences)

1st sentence - your answer to the essay question as such - this is called your argument or contention.
2nd sentence - furthers your opinion / contention
3rd sentence - your first argument that supports your opinion to the question
4th sentence - your second argument why
5th sentence - your third argument why
6th sentence - sums up what your belief is and what your essay will be about

How to write an introduction

Try to use the wording of the question in your first sentence.
For example, if you were decided to complete the question:
“Charlie Feehan demonstrates how important it is to work hard and have a positive attitude in order to achieve one’s goals. Discuss”

you could begin your response with
In the novel, Runner, by Robert Newton the main character Charlie Feehan highlights to the reader the importance of having a positive attitude, even through the hard times, in order to achieve one's goals.

(then, you might pick these 3 arguments...)
1. Father dies - hard times - Charlie is determined to get an income to support the family - leads him to work for Squizzy Taylor
2. Persists with running, which is his one main passion and skill and through hard work and determination he wins the Ballarat Mile - achieves his goal
3. Shows empathy and a caring nature to Alice, and even though she does not respond to him at first, as he continues to show an interest, he succeeds in winning her over.

Use clear transition or connecting words to help organise your ideas and to make it easier for your teacher to follow your arguments.
For example: Firstly, Secondly, In contrast to, In addition, As a result, etc.

Example Introduction:
In the novel, Runner, by Robert Newton the main character Charlie Feehan highlights to the reader the importance of having a positive attitude, even through the hard times, in order to achieve one's goals. Firstly, at the beginning of the novel we are introduced to the fact that Mr Feehan, Charlie’s father has passed away and the family are facing hard financial times, living in the slums of Richmond. To support his family, Charlie is determined to get a job which leads him to work for Squizzy Taylor. Secondly, Charlie shows persistence with his passion and skill of running and trains hard for the Ballarat Mile race, eventually winning. Finally, Charlie shows empathy and a caring nature towards his love interest Alice, and even though she does not respond to him at first, as he continues to show a positive attitude and doesn’t give up on her, in the end he succeeds in winning her over. The novel Runner by Robert Newton is an example of the importance of persisting through hard times and the ups and downs of life in order to achieve ones goals.
THE BODY PARAGRAPHS

Main body - You will have three or four paragraphs

Paragraph One
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your first argument - a topic sentence must refer back to the question & be an answer to it
2nd Sentence(s) - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
3rd, 4th, 5th sentence(s) - Explanation - supporting ideas about your argument answering the question
5th sentence - Linking/Closing Sentence - what your paragraph was about and how this links to the questions key words and the next paragraph

Paragraph Two
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your second argument - a topic sentence must refer back to the question & be an answer to it
2nd Sentence(s) - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
3rd, 4th, 5th sentence(s) - Explanation - supporting ideas about your argument answering the question
5th sentence - Linking/Closing Sentence - what your paragraph was about and how this links to the questions key words and the next paragraph

Paragraph Three
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your third argument - a topic sentence must refer back to the question & be an answer to it
2nd Sentence(s) - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
3rd, 4th, 5th sentence(s) - Explanation - supporting ideas about your argument answering the question
5th sentence - Linking/Closing Sentence - what your paragraph was about and how this links to the questions key words and the next paragraph

THE CONCLUSION
It:
1. links back to the introduction
2. summarises your key points
3. restates your main idea
4. should never contain any new information.
Question 1: Charlie Feehan demonstrates how important it is to work hard and have a positive attitude in order to achieve one’s goals. Discuss

Intro
T:
E:
E:
L:

Paragraph 1
T:
E:
E: This quotes shows ...
-
-
-
L:

Paragraph 2
T:
E:
E: This quote...
-
-
-
L:

Paragraph 3
T:
E:
E: This quote ....
-
-
-
L:

Conclusion
T:
E:
E:
L / Close:
Question 2:

Robert Newton’s novel *Runner* successfully recreated the hardships, joys and times of ordinary people making the most of their lives in 1919. Discuss.

**Intro**

E:

**Paragraph 1**

E: This quote shows ...
  -
  -
  -

**Paragraph 2**

E: This quote...
  -
  -
  -

**Paragraph 3**

E: This quote ....
  -
  -
  -

**Conclusion**

E:

L / Close:
Question 3:
Charlie hoped that Squizzy Taylor would be a new father figure for him, but he soon realised how wrong he was. Discuss.

Intro
T:
E:
E:
E:
L:

Paragraph 1
T:
E:
E: This quote shows ...
- 
- 
- 
L:

Paragraph 2
T:
E:
E: This quote...
- 
- 
- 
L:

Paragraph 3
T:
E:
E: This quote ....
- 
- 
- 
L:

Conclusion
T:
E:
E:
E:
L / Close