3 **Now read this review of another book. The ideas are well-structured and linked with appropriate words.**

One book that would make an ideal gift is *The Woman in White*, written by Wilkie Collins and first published in 1860. It was a Victorian best-seller, which has lost none of its appeal for today's readers.

The Woman in White is an intriguing mystery which starts with a strange, unnerving encounter between Walter Hartright and a woman dressed from head to toe in white, who, he is later informed, has escaped from an asylum. Shortly afterwards, on taking a job about which he initially has reservations, the woman in white assumes significance in his life once more. In an attempt to solve the mystery of this woman, Walter collects a series of narratives from the people involved and these, together with his own, carry the story along.

The Woman in White is an extraordinary novel for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is a gripping account of events, full of mystery and unrelenting suspense, which keeps the reader engrossed until the very last page. Secondly, it is a novel in which a wide range of interesting and often amusing characters are introduced, most effectively when their personalities are revealed through their own words, as we read the narratives they have supplied to Walter.

In many respects this novel can be considered an exciting, well-written story and as such would make a suitable present for anyone who enjoys a good read, as well as fans of the mystery genre. *The Woman in White* is also an examination of life in the Victorian age, touching on subjects such as insanity, criminality and a woman's position in what was very much a man's world. Most importantly, though, it is a book which will absorb the reader in a way that few books can.

The Woman in White is an excellent novel which has certainly stood the test of time. I believe it would be an ideal gift for book lovers of all ages and from all backgrounds.

What does each of the paragraphs in the main body of the review deal with?

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____

2 **Underline the two words in each sentence that have a similar meaning and can be used to complete the sentence correctly.**

1 This is a **stirring** / **gripping** / **boring** novel, which the reader simply cannot put down.

2 There is a(n) **originality** / **predictability** / **freshness** to this novel that makes it a pleasant change.

3 The result is a **disciplined** / **chaotic** / **disorganised** stream of consciousness that leaves the reader reeling.

4 The events are actually quite **implausible** / **convincing** / **far-fetched** but this doesn't detract from the reader's enjoyment.

5 This is a brave **commendation** / **condemnation** / **denunciation** of a cruel regime.

3 **A** **Match the phrasal verbs to their meanings.**

1 make out ___

2 feel for ___

3 put down to ___

4 come out ___

5 come up to ___

A be published

B attribute to

C sympathise with

D understand

E reach; equal

B **Now use the correct form of the appropriate phrasal verb to complete these sentences.**

1 Unfortunately, this novel didn't _____ my expectations.

2 The novel's success can be _____ the author's unorthodox approach to the subject.

3 Only the most heartless of readers will fail to _____ the protagonist, even though he is also the villain of the novel.

4 I had difficulty _____ exactly what was happening most of the time.

5 When this book _____, there were long queues in bookshops around the country.

4 **Choose the correct answer.**

1 This story is ____ in the twenty-third century.
placed set

2 The author of this book has ____ great success in the past.
enjoyed amused

3 Jeffrey Archer is an ____ writer.
imaginative imaginable

4 *Nuclear Threat* has been at the ____ of the best-seller list all year.
peak top

5 It is a ____ written tale, which appeals to readers of all ages.
sensibly sensitively

6 The final ____ at the end of the book comes as quite a shock.
twist turn

4 How to organise your CPE writing task.

The plan below will help you write your review.

Introduction: name of novel and author

Paragraph 2: kind of book it is / the setting

Paragraph 3: the characters / plot

Paragraph 4: why it made an impression

Conclusion: sum up why it is such a good / important book to you; recommend it to others.

Useful Structures

The book is set in ...

The action takes place in ...

The main character(s) ... ,

The descriptions of ... are ...

What impressed me the most was ...

What readers will find most fascinating is ...

The most striking aspect of the book is ...

REMEMBER:

- Use the present tense to write about the plot.
- Do not go into too much detail about the plot and characters unless it is absolutely necessary.

Now write your review (page 249).