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Animal Farm

AQA GCSE English Literature



York Notes Rapid Revision

Animal Farm

AQA GCSE English Literature

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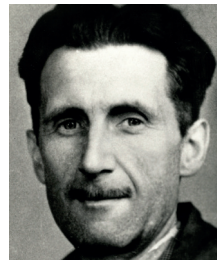
ANSWERS

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INTRODUCTION Who was George Orwell?

Three key things about George Orwell

1. He was born in 1903 in **India** and went to **Eton**.
2. Despite his relatively **privileged upbringing**, he championed the poor and downtrodden.
3. His most famous books are ***Animal Farm***, an allegory about Communism, and ***Nineteen Eighty-Four***, his vision of a grim future world.



Why did Orwell write *Animal Farm*?

- He wrote *Animal Farm* in 1945 to reflect the events leading to the **Russian Revolution** and the Stalinist era which followed.
- He wanted to show how people's hopes for a better life were ruined by Stalin's **brutal dictatorship**.
- When the book was published, the UK was an ally of Stalin's Soviet Union, and Orwell wanted to show why this was wrong.

What points does Orwell make in the novel?

- He shows how Napoleon, who **represents Stalin**, gradually takes complete control of the farm, helped by Squealer's propaganda.
- Because the animals are so easily fooled, he generates sympathy for them. The reader feels especially for Boxer, a representative of the **working class**.
- By the end, we see that nothing is any better for the animals – if anything, life has been worse under Napoleon's rule. Everything returns to the way it was in the beginning.

How was the novel received?

- At first, Orwell had trouble getting it published.
- After it was published, international relations changed and there was a '**Cold War**' with the Soviet Union. The novel then became a huge success.
- It was listed as 46th most popular novel in the BBC's 'Big Read' survey in 2003, and was on *Time* magazine's list of the 100 best modern English language novels.

INTRODUCTION Plot summary

Chapters 1 and 2

- Old Major holds a meeting to tell the animals about his dream of their lives free from slavery.
- He explains that mankind is the cause of all their problems. He sings the revolutionary song 'Beasts of England' to them.
- After Old Major's death, the pigs prepare and organise the other animals for the Rebellion.
- Jones is driven out, and the Seven Commandments are written on the barn.
- Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer become the leaders.



Chapters 3 and 4

- The harvest is gathered successfully.
- Snowball tries to educate the animals; Napoleon trains the puppies.
- Jones is beaten in the Battle of the Cowshed.
- Snowball and Boxer lead the animals to victory.



Chapters 5 and 6

- Napoleon drives Snowball from the farm and behaves like a tyrant.
- Sunday debates are abolished and the first commandment is broken.
- Napoleon, protected by his dogs, changes policy, including trading with other farms.
- Napoleon says Snowball's windmill will be built, but it falls down.



Chapters 7 and 8

- The animals work harder than ever and face starvation.
- Napoleon executes his opponents; the animals are terrified and confused.
- The windmill is rebuilt but then destroyed by Frederick.
- Boxer and Napoleon drive out the humans at the Battle of the Windmill.



Chapters 9 and 10

- The pigs lead a life of luxury and become human in their vices.
- When Boxer can no longer work he is sold for meat, and we empathise with his plight.
- The commandments become 'All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others'.
- Symbolically, Animal Farm reverts to the name Manor Farm.
- The action ends with the animals outside looking into the farmhouse as the pigs dine with the local human farmers.

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Chapters 1 and 2

Five key things about Chapters 1 and 2

These chapters establish the **characters** and set out key **themes** in the novel.

1. Before he dies, **Old Major** tells the other animals about **his dream** of a better life: although the novel is about animals, it is an **allegory** that deals with what happened in the **Russian Revolution** and its **aftermath**.
2. The animals are introduced. **The pigs**, the cleverest, prepare for the **Rebellion**.
3. **Napoleon**, **Snowball** and **Squealer** become the **leaders**.
4. When **Jones**, a lazy drunk, is driven out, the pigs present the **Seven Commandments**, based on what Old Major said. They are the principles by which the animals will live.
5. Snowball is the **obvious leader** but Napoleon **behaves suspiciously**. The reader suspects all might not be perfect in the future: are the pigs corrupt too? Orwell **foreshadows** what is to come.



What happens in Chapter 1?

- Old Major presents his **philosophy** of life to a **meeting** of the animals. He attacks mankind for exploiting them.
- He explains his dream of a **better future** and teaches the animals the words to 'Beasts of England'.
- Mr Jones's violent nature is demonstrated when he **fires his gun** to silence the animals in their meeting: he '**let fly a charge of number 6 shot**'.

What happens in Chapter 2?

- The pigs develop Animalism: the horses, Boxer and Clover, are its most loyal followers.
- Mr Jones is driven out, and the Seven Commandments, setting out the basis of Animalism, are painted on the barn and '**could be read thirty yards away**'. The pigs have learned the human skills of reading and writing.
- Snowball enthusiastically calls the animals to work harder for a brighter future. Napoleon takes charge of the milk.

Five key quotations

1. The basis of Animalism: **'All animals are equal.'** (Chapter 2)
2. Snowball has an attractive personality: **'Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive'** (Chapter 2)
3. Napoleon is different: **'Napoleon was a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar ... with a reputation for getting his own way.'** (Chapter 2)
4. The horses are devoted to the revolution: **'Their most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover.'** (Chapter 2)
5. The Seven Commandments become absolute law: **'an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after'** (Chapter 2)

Note it!

Notice how the Seven Commandments are altered as the novel progresses, so that life on the farm reverts to the way it was when Jones was in charge.

Exam focus

How can I write about foreshadowing in these chapters? AO1

You can focus on the characters and the themes of freedom and equality.

Because the novel begins with Old Major's dream, the reader realises his ideas will be central to what follows.

The opening of the novel is generally positive, and when he says, **'All animals are equal'** it seems that this philosophy of equality is what the animals will seek to follow – though when Napoleon appears to take charge of the milk, this foreshadows what happens later.

Topic sentence introduces point

Embeds appropriate quotation

Explains its importance

Develops the point further

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about how the pigs take charge from the beginning. Use one or two of the quotations from the list.

After Old Major dies, Snowball seems set to become leader as he has the most appealing personality

My progress

Needs more work

Getting there

Sorted!

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Chapters 3 and 4

Five key things about Chapters 3 and 4

In these chapters, **Animal Farm develops**. We see the differences between the animals, Snowball and Napoleon disagree in the debates, and the humans are defeated when they try to recapture the farm.

1. The animals are happy and work hard together to complete the **harvest**, though **the pigs** seem to have an **easier life** than the others.
2. We see the **importance of Boxer** to the farm's success.
3. The **differences** between the lead pigs are clearer: Snowball tries to **educate** all the animals; Napoleon says the young are **most important**.
4. The **humans** try to take back **control** of the farm but the animals **fight back**, and Snowball and Boxer lead them to victory.
5. **Boxer** becomes an even more **sympathetic** character because he is sorry for hurting the stable-lad.

What happens in Chapter 3?

- The first harvest is completed in record time: the animals work while the pigs '**directed and supervised the others**'.
- Snowball and Napoleon lead the Sunday debates but always disagree.
- Snowball sets up committees and tries to teach the animals to read and write.
- Napoleon takes the puppies away from their mothers to educate them himself.
- Squealer defends the pigs' actions when it is found they have taken the apples and milk. He says it is so that they can be healthy and run the farm better.



What happens in Chapter 4?

- The animals try to spread their revolutionary ideas across the countryside.
- Mr Jones, supported by men from Pinchfield and Foxwood farms, tries to retake the farm but ends up '**in ignominious retreat**'.
- Snowball, supported by Boxer, leads the animals to victory in the Battle of the Cowshed. They are both awarded a medal: '**Animal Hero, First Class**'.

Five key quotations

1. Boxer works hardest to get the harvest in: **'the entire work of the farm seemed to rest upon his mighty shoulders'** (Chapter 3)
2. Snowball and Napoleon almost always disagree: **'whatever suggestion either of them made, the other could be counted on to oppose it'** (Chapter 3)
3. Snowball makes the idea of Animalism easier for the less intelligent animals: **'Four legs good, two legs bad.'** (Chapter 3)
4. Boxer is upset when he thinks he has killed the stable-lad: **'I have no wish to take life, not even human life'** (Chapter 4)
5. Snowball is unsentimental: **'The only good human being is a dead one.'** (Chapter 4)

Note it!

Snowball and Napoleon are different in their tactics: notice how Snowball seems important to begin with, but as Napoleon takes control he changes how Snowball is viewed, even altering the animals' shared memories of what he achieved.

Exam focus

How can I write about the structure? AO2

You can show how the pigs gradually take more control.

As the story develops, we see how the pigs set up a kind of hierarchy. The other animals do the hard work while the pigs merely supervise and get more rewards, such as apples and milk. Snowball presents himself as leader by teaching the animals (for example, simplifying Animalism to 'Four legs good, two legs bad'), while Napoleon appears to work in the background, taking away the puppies from their mothers and supervising their education.

Topic sentence introduces the point

Point is explained further

Quotation effectively embedded

Relevant detail added

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about how Boxer is presented sympathetically, in contrast to the pigs. Use one or two of the quotations from the list.

Boxer fights bravely in the Battle of the Cowshed, but does not want to harm anyone and is distraught because

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Chapters 5 and 6

Five key things about Chapters 5 and 6

In Chapters 5 and 6, the mood darkens as Napoleon takes control and the aims of the revolution begin to fail.

1. **Snowball** is **driven from** the farm; **Napoleon** behaves like a **tyrant**.
2. Sunday debates are **abolished** and the first commandment is **broken**.
3. Napoleon, protected by his **dogs**, changes policy, including **trading** with other farms.
4. Napoleon adopts Snowball's plan to build a **windmill**. However, when it is **blown down**, he blames Snowball and condemns him to death.
5. The animals **work harder** and get **little food**: things are much as they used to be in Jones's time.



What happens in Chapter 5?

- Mollie is lured away from the farm with sugar by a human.
- Snowball and Napoleon continue to disagree, especially over the windmill.
- Napoleon's dogs attack Snowball, who flees for his life. Squealer labels him '**no better than a criminal**'.
- Napoleon abolishes Sunday debates as his first move in taking control.
- Squealer, in charge of **propaganda**, says Napoleon is making a great sacrifice by taking responsibility for everything.
- The windmill will be built – but Squealer now says it was Napoleon's idea.

What happens in Chapter 6?

- Life worsens: the animals work 60 hours a week. Boxer works hardest, now starting work '**three-quarters of an hour earlier**' than anyone else.
- The construction of the windmill has problems and the harvest is poorer.
- Napoleon says he will trade with neighbouring farms, and the pigs break a commandment by sleeping in beds. They change the wording on the barn.
- When a storm destroys the windmill, Napoleon claims it was sabotaged and says '**I pronounce the death sentence upon Snowball**'. The animals must continue to work hard to rebuild the windmill.

Five key quotations

1. Squealer convinces the animals to accept their lot: **'Surely, comrades, you do not want Jones back?'** (Chapter 5)
2. Boxer has a simple attitude to what is happening: **'I will work harder'** and shows unquestioning loyalty: **'Napoleon is always right'** (Chapter 6)
3. The work on the windmill is exhausting: **'it was a slow, laborious process'** (Chapter 6)
4. Life becomes as bad as it used to be: **'All that year the animals worked like slaves.'** (Chapter 6)
5. The fourth commandment is changed: **'No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets'** (Chapter 6)

Note it!

Notice how Squealer is always used by Napoleon to persuade the animals that all is well and that Napoleon is looking out for their best interests. The dogs provide the physical threat; Squealer offers what always seem to be convincing explanations.

Exam focus

How can I write about the changes at Animal Farm? AO1

You can show how Napoleon takes away the animals' freedoms and begins to change the course of the revolution.

Once Snowball has been driven out, Napoleon becomes like a dictator. He changes the animals' memories of events and even begins to alter the commandments: 'No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets.' Orwell expects the reader to understand the significance, although the animals accept the alteration since Squealer justifies it. Ironically, life becomes as grim as it was when Mr Jones was still in charge.

Topic sentence introduces the point

Point is explained further

Quotation effectively embedded

Point is developed

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about how even in such taxing times Boxer continues to do more than any other character to make Animal Farm a success. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Boxer ignores the hardships, doing all the pigs ask of him, and repeating his simple mantra

My progress

Needs more work ☐

Getting there ☐

Sorted! ☐

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Chapters 7 and 8

Five key things about Chapters 7 and 8

In Chapters 7 and 8, conditions for the animals deteriorate still further and Napoleon is outwitted by the humans.

1. The animals face **starvation**, working harder but eating less than in Jones's time.
2. There is a **rebellion** on the farm, which is violently crushed.
3. Just as occurred in **Russia**, the **aims of the revolution** have been **corrupted**. Napoleon now uses **terror** to maintain control.
4. Napoleon tries to **trade** with the humans but is outwitted. The windmill is **rebuilt** but then **destroyed** by Frederick.
5. The pigs continue to **change** the Seven Commandments.

What happens in Chapter 7?

- When Napoleon decides to sell the hens' eggs, the hens rebel, but they are starved into submission.
- Everything that goes wrong is blamed on Snowball, who Squealer says was always in league with Jones. The animals feel Snowball is 'menacing them'.
- Animals are executed after admitting they schemed with Snowball, whose reputation worsens as history is changed. This concerns Boxer.
- The singing of 'Beasts of England' is forbidden as the revolution is over.



What happens in Chapter 8?

- Two more commandments are changed so that it becomes acceptable to kill animals if there is a good cause (pigs, hens, a goose and a sheep are executed), and alcohol can be drunk, if not to excess.
- Napoleon becomes further isolated from the animals but is still praised for everything that goes well – he awards himself new honours.
- Napoleon tries to play Frederick and Pilkington off against each other, but is outwitted.
- The windmill is totally destroyed by Frederick's men. The animals drive them off in the Battle of the Windmill, but there is nothing at all left to show for their efforts: it is 'as though the windmill had never been'.

Five key quotations

1. Napoleon is talked about with great respect: **'our Leader, Comrade Napoleon'** (Chapter 8)
2. The reign of terror is maintained with violence: **'the dogs promptly tore their throats out'** (Chapter 7)
3. Sorrow has replaced hope: **'As Clover looked down the hillside her eyes filled with tears.'** (Chapter 7)
4. The sixth commandment is changed: **'No animal shall kill any other animal without cause.'** (Chapter 7)
5. The fifth commandment is changed: **'No animal shall drink alcohol to excess.'** (Chapter 8)

Note it!

Notice how important Squealer is to Napoleon – how he persuades the animals that all is well and Napoleon can do no wrong. Squealer seems always to be positive, but notice the **'ugly look'** he gives Boxer in Chapter 7 when Boxer contradicts him.

Exam focus

How can I write about the animals' lives worsening? AO1

You can explore the actions of Napoleon, which cause such terror and hardship.

Napoleon makes the lives of the animals a misery and their suffering is intended to make the reader empathise with them. They have less food because of his mismanagement and they have to work harder. When they have built the windmill for the second time, it is not defended and Frederick's men blow it up so it must be rebuilt again. Worst of all, his dogs bring a reign of terror: **'the dogs promptly tore their throats out.'**

Topic sentence introduces the point

Supporting detail to explain point

Development supported by quotation

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph to show how Napoleon also uses Squealer's propaganda to help cement his control. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Squealer skips around saying only positive things about Napoleon, so he is always referred to with respect as

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Chapters 9 and 10

Five key things about Chapters 9 and 10

In Chapters 9 and 10, life for most on Animal Farm is worse than it ever was. The pigs, meanwhile, become indistinguishable from humans.

1. The pigs have **complete control** – the other animals are simply **oppressed**.
2. The pigs lead a life of **luxury** and are **anthropomorphic** in their **vices**.
3. Old Major's hopes turn out to be mere dreams. The **revolution** has **failed**.
4. **Boxer** is sold for meat and we **empathise** over his dreadful end.
5. The pigs dine with the humans and Animal Farm is symbolically renamed **Manor Farm**.

What happens in Chapter 9?

- The animals are starving as rations have been reduced still further, though the pigs do not suffer.
- Boxer will not rest. Even with a damaged hoof, he '**refused to take even a day off work**'.
- The young pigs are kept separate from the other animals, and all pigs have to be treated with respect.
- Animal Farm is declared a Republic and Napoleon is President.
- Boxer can work no more and the slaughter-house man takes him away: the pigs buy whisky with the money they get for him.

What happens in Chapter 10?

- With the passing years, the younger animals do not understand Animalism or remember Snowball and Boxer.
- The windmill has been rebuilt and another is being constructed; the farm is richer but the animals have not benefited.
- The Seven Commandments are replaced by a single slogan, the ultimate **irony**: '**All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others**'.
- The pigs walk on their hind legs and live the life of humans. They carry whips.
- The pigs hold a banquet for neighbouring farmers: the other animals cannot distinguish between the faces of the humans and those of the pigs.



Five key quotations

1. Moses, who represents religion, returns with a fantasy of a wonderful eternity to come: **'Sugarcandy Mountain, that happy country where we poor animals shall rest for ever from our labours'** (Chapter 9)
2. Ironically, the animals still think they have a better life: **'And yet the animals never gave up hope.'** (Chapter 10)
3. The sheep's bleating supports the changes in the pigs: **'Four legs good, two legs better!'** (Chapter 10)
4. The commandments are replaced by one **oxymoron**: **'All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others'** (Chapter 10)
5. The animals see that pigs and humans are just the same: **'it was impossible to say which was which'** (Chapter 10)

Note it!

Benjamin, the cynic, is proved to have been correct. Notice how many details at the end demonstrate that the uprising has been a failure and Old Major's hopes were no more than dreams.

Exam focus

How can I write about the novel's effective conclusion?

AO2

You can explore how the revolution has turned full circle.

By the end of the novel, Napoleon is no better than Jones and the animals are exploited more than they ever were before. Napoleon is friends with the humans – indeed, he looks just like them – and Orwell proves that all hope brought by the revolution has died because there is no equality with the farm's final slogan: **'All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.'**

Topic sentence introduces the point

Point is developed

Explanation of quotation

Quotation effectively embedded

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph to show what Napoleon has become by the end of the novel. Use one of the quotations from the list.

By the end, Napoleon and the pigs have become just like the humans

My progress

Needs more work ☐

Getting there ☐

Sorted! ☐

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Form and structure

Three key things about form and structure

Animal Farm is written like a traditional story for **children**.

1. It has **anthropomorphic** characters and a **simple storyline**.
2. It is Orwell's **satire** on the **Russian Revolution** and an **allegory** of events in Russian history.
3. The **plot** is circular, showing no improvement is made – so Benjamin, the cynic, was right all along.

How is the satire presented?

- Animals represent historical figures or stereotypes. For example, Napoleon's character is based on Stalin and Boxer represents the ordinary people.
- Symbols are used to simplify the story, so the farm is Russia and the Battle of the Windmill represents the German invasion of Russia.
- **Ironic** humour highlights what goes wrong for the animals, for example when the pigs develop each of the faults for which the humans were criticised.



What use is made of the simple storyline?

- The simple farmyard setting makes the brutality of the pigs' regime more unexpected and disturbing.
- In stories for children, good usually triumphs over evil. In *Animal Farm*, the opposite happens.
- By using simple characters and a naïve tone, Orwell is able to make complex political points effectively.

How does the story develop?

- The pigs gradually take complete control, as shown by the altering of the Seven Commandments.
- Following a positive start after the revolution, life becomes increasingly hard for the animals and more luxurious for the pigs.
- By the end, Napoleon has become just as oppressive as Jones. He carries a whip and, **symbolically**, the pigs have grown to look exactly like the humans.

Five key quotations

1. *Animal Farm* is different from a traditional children's story: **'the dogs had tasted blood, and ... appeared to go quite mad'** (Chapter 7)
2. There is a circular nature to what happens: **'the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer'** (Chapter 10)
3. The oppression is as bad as in Jones's time: **'The pigs ... all carried whips in their trotters'** (Chapter 10)
4. Considering the ending, what Old Major said was ironic: **'all the evil ... springs from the tyranny of human beings'** (Chapter 1)
5. The animals see that pigs and humans are just the same, as Pilkington explains: **'Between pigs and human beings there were not ... any clash of interests whatever.'** (Chapter 10)

Note it!

Notice how Squealer can twist reality so that the animals accept conditions that become worse and worse for them, and how he justifies the improvements for the pigs.

Exam focus

How can I explore Orwell's use of satire? AO2

You can write about how Orwell exposes how the animals are fooled by the pigs.

As occurred in the Russian Revolution, the animals – who represent the Russian people – think they can achieve a better standard of living. However, by the end we see that **'the farm had grown richer without making the animals any richer'**. This is because they are easily deceived and **Squealer can convince them of whatever the state (in this case the pigs) wishes.**

Topic sentence introduces the point

Link shows the satire

Quotation effectively embedded

Development of the point being made

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph to show how the circular plot leaves the animals treated as badly as ever they were. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Old Major's speech is ironic, because by the end of the novel the oppression is as bad as in Jones's time

My progress

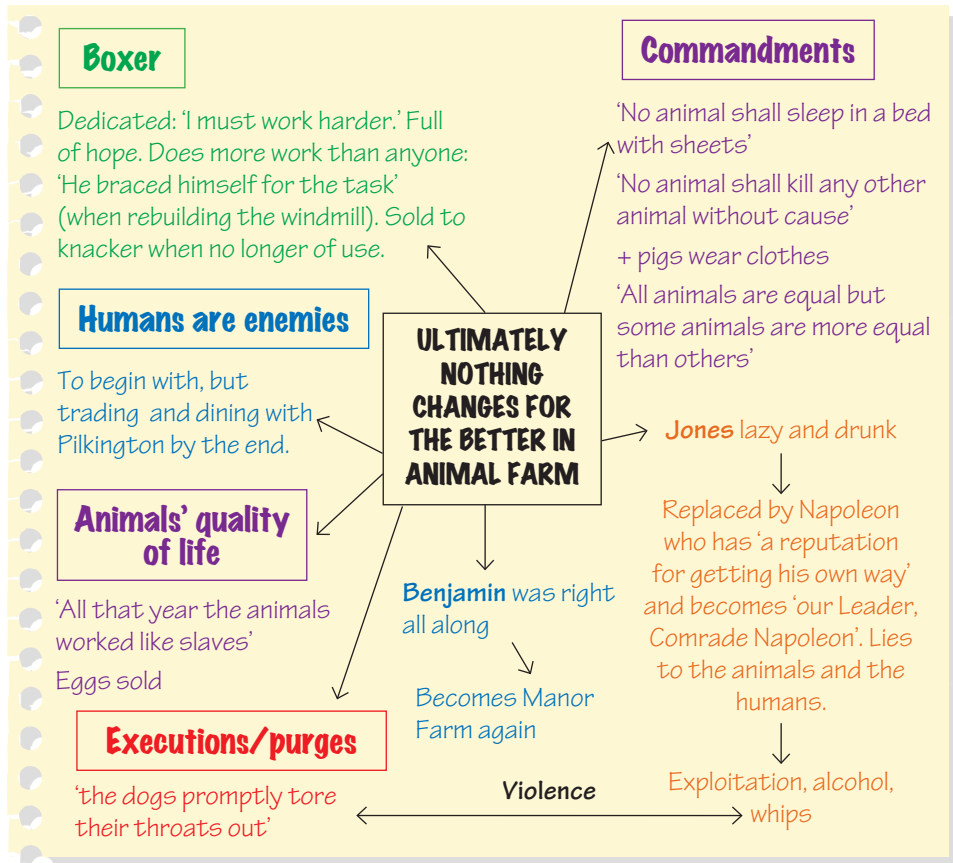
Needs more work ☐

Getting there ☐

Sorted! ☐

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Quick revision

1. Look at this ideas map about how nothing changes for the better in *Animal Farm*. Is there anything else you could add?



2. Create your own ideas map for another aspect of the plot.

Quick quiz

Answer these quick questions about plot and structure.

1. Who are the leaders of the pigs?
2. Who leads the Sunday debates?
3. What do the pigs decide 'would form an unalterable law'?
4. Who were the most 'faithful disciples' of the revolution?

5. Which men try to take back the farm?
6. What does Squealer say regularly to suggest that life could be worse?
7. What is the first thing Napoleon does when he takes control?
8. According to Squealer, who is 'no better than a criminal'?
9. Who gets up earliest for work in the morning?
10. Who is blamed for the destruction of the first windmill?
11. What happens when Napoleon decides to sell the hens' eggs?
12. Why does Squealer 'cast a very ugly look at Boxer'?
13. Who destroys the second windmill?
14. How do the pigs celebrate victory in the Battle of the Windmill?
15. Boxer manages to continue to work despite what injury?
16. Who is the first pig seen walking on his hind legs?
17. What do the pigs do with the money they get for Boxer?
18. What is the name of the happy land that Moses says exists?
19. In what ways are the pigs anthropomorphic?
20. In what way is the plot of *Animal Farm* circular?

Power paragraphs

Write **a paragraph** in response to **each of these questions**. For each, try to **use one quotation** you have learned from this section.

1. How does Orwell use the changing of the Seven Commandments to convey his message that nothing ever seems to improve on the farm?
2. Napoleon invites the neighbouring farmers to dine at the end: in what ways is he like them?

Exam practice

Re-read the final paragraph of *Animal Farm* from 'Twelve voices were shouting in anger ...' to '... it was impossible to say which was which'. Why is it important in the novel as a whole?

Write **two paragraphs** explaining your ideas.

You should comment on:

- what happens in the paragraph at the end of the novel
- why this is important after what has happened in the story.

SETTING AND CONTEXT

Communism and totalitarianism

Five key things about Communism and totalitarianism

1. Russian **Communism** grew from the teachings of Karl Marx (represented by Old Major), who wanted a better system than **capitalism**.
2. In the new **Soviet Union**, after the **Russian Revolution of 1917**, all property, wealth and work were meant to be divided **equally** between all the people.
3. This Communism was established by **Lenin** and **Trotsky**, but after Lenin's death **Stalin** took over and Trotsky fled.
4. Stalin then corrupted Communism, developing a **totalitarian** state in which an all-powerful **dictator** imposes their absolute will.
5. In such a state, the dictator, surrounded by a ruling elite, uses **violence** and **propaganda** to control the working class, or **proletariat**.



How does Animal Farm mirror Communist ideals?

- Animalism is a simplified form of Communism. It replaces the corrupt capitalism of Animal Farm which exploited the animals.
- The Seven Commandments set out the rules that make everyone equal.
- After the revolution, at first life on the farm improves.
- Snowball sets out grand improvements, to benefit all in the future: '**the animals would only need to work three days a week**'.

In what ways does Animal Farm become a dictatorial state?

- Napoleon corrupts Old Major's dream of equality, imposing an authoritarian regime. He uses lies, propaganda and terror to maintain his position.
- The pigs – the elite – have the best of everything and carry whips: they live in the house and eat and drink well while the other animals starve.
- The use of 'comrade' – implying equality – is banned, and the representations of Animalism are removed from the flag.
- Napoleon proudly explains to his neighbours how the animals are exploited.
- Animal Farm is as corrupt as neighbouring farms. The pigs feast while the hungry animals watch through the window.

Five key quotations

1. Old Major sums up Animalism (Communism): **'All animals are equal.'** (Chapter 1)
2. He believes in a fairer system: **'Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own.'** (Chapter 1)
3. The revolution is totally undermined: **'the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer'** (Chapter 10)
4. Napoleon's dictatorial state is brutal: **'the air was heavy with the smell of blood'** (Chapter 7)
5. Pilkington applauds the new state for its unfairness: **'the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the country'** (Chapter 10)

Note it!

Totalitarianism – a form of absolute rule – is also closely connected to fascism, as practised by leaders like Hitler and Mussolini. Consider any parallels drawn with Napoleon and these two dictators by Orwell.

Exam focus

How can I apply ideas about Communism to the characters?

AO2

You can write about how Orwell uses characters like Old Major and Napoleon to represent key political ideas.

Describing his dream, Old Major sets out a vision of a fairer future, just as Karl Marx explained his hopes and communist ideals. When Old Major says 'All animals are equal', he is establishing a philosophy of hope.

However, Orwell goes on to show how Napoleon corrupts Animalism and turns the farm into a dictatorial state.

Topic sentence introduces the point

Embedded quotation extends the idea

Further development of the idea

Now you try!

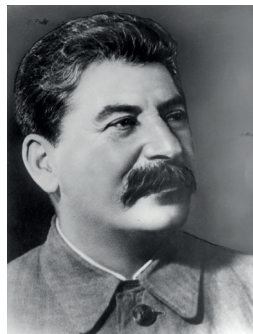
Finish this paragraph to show how Napoleon makes the farm a totalitarian state. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Under Napoleon's authoritarian leadership, the animals are treated cruelly and oppressively, so that the very air of the farm is

SETTING AND CONTEXT The Russian Revolution

Five key things about the Russian Revolution

1. After the Russian Revolution in **1917**, when the **ruling Tsar** was driven out, a Communist state was formed.
2. The state was based on equality and the teachings of **Karl Marx**, and was led by **Trotsky** and **Lenin**.
3. When Lenin died, **Stalin** seized control of what had become the Soviet Union.
4. Stalin's policies brought **starvation**. He was a **tyrant** who took complete control, **purging** his enemies: from 1934 to 1937, seven million of his people disappeared.
5. The Soviet Union was an **ally** of the **USA** and **Great Britain** during the Second World War, but then the Cold War began and it became isolated again.



How does the story of *Animal Farm* work as a satire?

- Orwell devised *Animal Farm* as 'a **satire** on the Russian Revolution' through which he could portray how all dictators work.
- He wanted to show the Russian Revolution as corrupt and socialism as a force for good.
- Writing the story in a simple form meant that its message could be easily understood by all.

What are the connections to key figures of the revolution?

- Old Major is like Karl Marx – and Animalism is like Communism.
- Snowball is partly like Lenin, the first leader of the Soviet Union, and partly like Trotsky, who led the army to victory in the civil war.
- Napoleon, the cruel leader who becomes increasingly repressive, is like Stalin.
- Pilkington represents Churchill while Frederick represents Hitler – Stalin had dealings with both in the 1930s and 1940s.
- Boxer represents the working class or proletariat, Mr Jones is the Tsar, Squealer is the **propaganda** machine, Moses is the Russian Orthodox Church, the dogs are the secret police and Clover is one of the loyal followers.

Five key quotations

1. Like the Russian people, the animals are optimistic about change to begin with: **'it was truly their own food'** (Chapter 3)
2. The animals initially gain freedom after the revolution: **'All the animals capered with joy when they saw the whips going up in flames.'** (Chapter 2)
3. Napoleon (Stalin) has dealings with both Pilkington (Churchill) and Frederick (Hitler): **'By seeming to be friendly with Pilkington he had forced Frederick to raise his price'** (Chapter 8)
4. Equality is eroded, so 'All animals are equal' changes: **'All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others'** (Chapter 10)
5. By the end, the pigs are just like humans: **'it was impossible to say which was which'** (Chapter 10)

Note it!

Notice how religion (represented by Moses) has no role on Animal Farm until later, when life is grim, and it is allowed back to give hope, or the fantasy, of something better after death.

Exam focus

How can I link the Russian Revolution to the novel? AO3

When writing about characters or themes, the Russian Revolution can underpin your ideas.

When Jones is driven out, the animals think they have a wonderful future ahead of them, but as with the Russian Revolution the initial idealism is destroyed. Napoleon and the pigs corrupt Old Major's dream of equality, so that by the end when they dine with the humans **'it was impossible to say which was which'**. The new regime has become just like the old regime of Mr Jones.

Topic sentence makes reference to content

Successfully embedded quotation

Effective summary

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about how the animals feel when they drive out Mr Jones. Use one of the quotations from the list.

When Jones is driven out, the animals think their lives will be better and, indeed, at first

My progress

Needs more work ☐

Getting there ☐

Sorted! ☐

SETTING AND CONTEXT The farm

Three key things about the farm

1. All the **action** is set on the farm, part of Orwell's 'simple approach'.
2. The farm represents **Russia**, which later became the **Soviet Union**.
3. It becomes **Animal Farm** after the revolution, but reverts to its original name of **Manor Farm** when Napoleon is in charge at the end.



How realistic is the farm?

- Although the animals are **anthropomorphic** – like humans – activities on the farm are quite normal: the animals are fed, cows are milked and crops are grown.
- There are recognisable animal traits: for example, pigs are intelligent, and dogs can be trained and are aggressive.
- The sheep are passive and easily controlled, so when they learn their maxim ('**Four legs good, two legs bad**') they bleat it '**for hours on end, never growing tired of it**'.

What are the most important places on the farm?

- The farmhouse is set apart: it is initially where Jones lives and later where the pigs establish themselves. The animals '**were frightened to go inside**'.
- The barn is where Old Major tells of his dream, where meetings are held and where Napoleon first unleashes his dogs. The Seven Commandments are painted on its end wall.
- Battles take place near the cowshed and then the windmill, which represents the dream of a better life, though the generation of wind power just makes money for the pigs.

Three quotations about the farm

1. Old Major's view of farm life: **'The life of an animal is misery and slavery'** (Chapter 1)
2. Even when the purges begin, the animals remain positive about their land: **'it was their own farm, every inch of it their own property'** (Chapter 7)
3. By the end: **'the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the country'** (Chapter 10)

Quick quiz

1. Who ruled Russia before the revolution?
2. What did Karl Marx think Communism was better than?
3. What is the equivalent of Communism on the farm?
4. Which character represents Stalin?
5. What was Russia renamed after the revolution?
6. Where are the Seven Commandments painted?
7. What did Trotsky do in the Russian Revolution?
8. Which quotation shows what Old Major thinks about the animals' life before the revolution?
9. Where do the two battles take place on the farm?
10. Which quotation shows that there is no equality at the end of the novel?

Power paragraphs

Write **two paragraphs** explaining the animals' feelings about the farm:

a) immediately after the revolution and b) at the end, when the pigs are in total control.

