Discuss the opening of *Children of Men*

Organising Your Answer

* Introduce the film/director/genre etc
* Discuss you first impressions
* Outline briefly what you are going to talk about (ie: what helped you form that opinion)

What do we learn about him? Alcoholism? Reasons for his habit – personal opinions

Swan Song after the bomb – Black screen then opening title – comment on impact

MAJOR POINTS or

SUPPORTING DETAILS

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Techniques: How is the story told? Comment on – camera, ‘swan song’ etc.

Introduction of the main character

Setting – Past, present future? How do we know? What evidence is there?

DETAILS or EXAMPLES

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How do we know it’s the future? Opening news report

Unfazed/not bothered about his surroundings. Pushes through the crowd for coffee.

Black screen – news report voice over. What is the impact?

London – the contrast between the hi tech advertising and rickshaws

Clothing/facial expression/body language.

Cameras: Long continuous shots, what is the effect on the audience?

Is it very different to present day? Compare/contrast, cars, buildings, etc

CONCLUDING SENTENCE/POINTS

* First impressions – how did you feel about the opening?
* Why do you think the director introduced the film this way using those techniques?
* How does the opening set up the rest of the story? Ambiguous/unambiguous? What do you think the central theme is?