

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Stalin Takes Power 1924–1929

17. Narrative analysis II – analysis

In the Writing Development exercise #13 on The Civil War, we looked at how to write a narrative, viz.:

- Plan out the sequence of events/developments you intend to describe, in their best logical order.
- Use that list to 'tell the story', using the most appropriate conjunctions of time and sequence such as: 'First', 'Next', 'After', 'Before', 'Later', 'Initially', 'At last', 'Also', 'In addition', 'Meanwhile', 'Simultaneously', 'Furthermore'.
- Provide some relevant information about each event/development.

This, however, will not produce a GCSE-level 'narrative analysis'. To do that, you need also to:

- Explain the importance/significance in the developing story of each event/development; why was it a key event in the narrative?
- Provide 'proving evidence' (as you learned in exercise #12) which establishes that point.

Let's say you have to write the essay: "Write a narrative account of Stalin's Rise to Power, 1924-29."

Consider the following table, which lists the sequence of events:

1. Use the webpage to fill the gaps, so as to complete the following essay plan:

Conjunction	Event/development	Explain the importance/significance	Proving information
The first	Stalin was made General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922.	It put Stalin in control of the day-to-day working of both the Party and the government. Stalin also used it to get his supporters into important positions.	Secretary Stalin told Trotsky the wrong date for Lenin's funeral, so he missed it – this made him more unpopular
Next,	Trotsky was Unpopular
.....	He formed the 'Troika' with Zinoviev and Kamenev	This gave him the support he needed to cover up Lenin's Will.
.....
Finally,

** Have you noticed that your ideas for the 'Explain the importance/significance' column are, in effect, explanations of: 'How did this help Stalin take power'

2. Now plan out a similar essay grid so as to write a narrative account analysing the Causes of the New Economic Policy, 1920-21.