Question 2

Carefully read the following two passages on London fog. In a well-structured essay, compare the two selections with regard to purpose and style. Consider such elements as diction, figurative language, organization, syntax, and manipulation of language.

London was the first great city in history to be fuelled by coal. The combination of ever greater quantities of coal being burned by an expanding population, and London's naturally misty situation in a marshy river valley, meant London was plagued by regular fogs from Stuart times on. The worst lasted from November 1879 to March 1880 without a break.

In 1936–7, 322 tons of solid matter per square mile was deposited on Archbishop's Park, Lambeth, which meant nearly 30,000 tons of matter a year was deposited on London from smoky atmosphere. At the same time central London received 18 per cent less sunshine than the inner suburbs. In 1934 there was fog from 10 November to 1 December, and deaths from respiratory diseases tripled. The fog of 1952 was estimated to have caused 4000 deaths. The Clean Air Act was passed in 1956, and the last great London fog was in 1962.

Fog everywhere. Fog up the river, where it flows among green rails and meadows; fog down the river, where it rolls defiled among tiers of shipping and waterside pollutions of a great (and dirty) city. Fog on the Essex marshes, on the heights, fog creeping into the caboose of coal barges. Fog lying out on the yards, and hovering in the rigging of great ships; fog drooping on the gunwales of barges and small boats. Fog in the eyes and throats of ancient Greenwich pensioners, wheezing by the fire-side of their wards; fog in the stem and bowl of the afternoon pipe of the wraithful skipper, down in his close cabin; fog cruelly pinching the toes and fingers of his shivering little 'prentice boy on deck. Chance people on the bridge peeping over the parapets into a nether sky of fog, with fog all round them, as if they were up in a balloon, and hanging in the misty clouds.

(Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, 1852–53)