Year 12 English Language Summer Work

Tasks:

1) You have been asked by *The Times* to write an opinion piece for their online blog debating the following statement:
   Women make better stay at home parents than men.
   In order to complete these effectively you need to:
   a. Look at some opinion pieces from broadsheet newspapers and make sure you embed aspects in your original piece.
   b. Think closely about your audience and purpose.
   c. Think closely about your language choices. (800 words)

2) Write a commentary on your online blog, explaining the language choices and how they helped to meet the purpose and your target audience. (300 words)

3) Read and analyse (annotate) the opening of ‘Oliver Twist’ and ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ by Charles Dickens.
   ‘Oliver Twist’.
   Although I am not disposed to maintain that the being born in a workhouse, is in itself the most fortunate and enviable circumstance that can possibly befall a human being, I do mean to say that in this particular instance, it was the best thing for Oliver Twist that could by possibility have occurred. The fact is, that there was considerable difficulty in inducing Oliver to take upon himself the office of respiration, - a troublesome practice, but one which custom has rendered necessary to our easy existence; and for some time he lay gasping on a little flock mattress, rather unequally poised between this world and the next: the balance being decidedly in favour of the latter. Now, if, during this brief period, Oliver had been surrounded by careful grandmothers, anxious aunts, experienced nurses, and doctors of profound wisdom, he would most inevitably and indubitably have been killed in no time. There being nobody by, however, but a pauper old woman, who was rendered rather misty by an unwonted allowance of beer; and a parish surgeon who did such matters by contract; Oliver and Nature fought out the point between them. The result was, that, after a few struggles, Oliver breathed, sneezed, and proceeded to advertise to the inmates of the workhouse the fact of a new burden having been imposed upon the parish, by setting up as loud a cry as could reasonably have been expected from a male infant who had not been possessed of that very useful appendage, a voice, for a much longer space of time than three minutes and a quarter.

   ‘A Tale of Two Cities’.
   It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way-- in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.
4) Write the opening of your own Nineteenth Century Novel. In your response try to ensure the following:
   a. Sentence structure and vocabulary are similar to the examples given.
   b. That you focus on either character and/or setting to inspire the reader’s interests.
   c. Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar closely. (500 words)

5) Write a commentary on Nineteenth Century Novel, explaining the language choices and how they helped to meet the purpose and your target audience. (300 words)