Sample essay question answer and plan

Sample Question: How is Medea characterized by Jason.

Topic sentence: (contains the main idea of the paragraph or the point you are going to make):

Jason greatly underestimates Medea’s character because he thinks she is simply an overly emotional and jealous woman. His greatest mistake lies in thinking Medea is merely hysterical and possessive.

First supporting sentence: (discuss first point of topic sentence “overly emotional”)

Jason constantly accuses Medea of being too “upset.”

Support: (at least 2 or 3 sentences containing quotes and examples.)
He says to her: “You are incapable of controlling your bitter temper” (578). He tries to make it seem as if she is overreacting to the situation and that she is the one in the wrong. He has the nerve to state: “You might have lived in this land and kept your home. / As it is you are going to be exiled for your loose speaking” (439-440). He conveniently forgets all she did for him in the past. Medea cries: “I killed, and so gave you the safety of the light. / And I myself betrayed my father and my home/ . . . and took away your fear” (470-475). He foolishly thinks that he is the one being abused by her “mouthing tempest” and “bitter tongue” (513).

Second supporting sentence: (discuss second point of topic sentence “jealous”)

Perhaps the most infuriating idea Jason has is that she is simply a jealous woman.

Support (at least 2 or 3 sentences containing quotes and examples.)
He honestly believes that the problem lies in her “empty bed.” He says: “But you women have got into such a state of mind/ That if your life at night is good, you think you have/ Everything” (557-559). Jason is incapable of understanding the depth of Medea’s love for him. He says she is jealous because she thinks he got tired of her bed and “felt the need for a new bride” (544). He further insults her by saying “It is natural/ For a woman to be wild with her husband when he/ Goes in for secret love” (885-887). Medea’s capacity for feeling and emotion are beyond his comprehension.

Conclusion: (sums up topic sentence)

Jason is a self-centered and arrogant man who views not only Medea, but also all women, as objects to be used and discarded. He feels that women are nothing more than jealous and irrational creatures. His pride and vanity lead to disastrous results.

Jason greatly underestimates Medea’s character because he thinks she is simply an overly emotional and jealous woman. His failure to “see” Medea’s strength and the extent to which she loves him proves to be his undoing.

Jason constantly accuses Medea of being too “upset.” He says to her: “You are incapable of controlling your bitter temper” (578). He tries to make it seem as if she is overreacting to the situation and that she is the one in the wrong. He has the nerve to state: “You might have lived in this land and kept your home. / As it is you are going to be exiled for your loose speaking” (439-440). He conveniently forgets all she did for him in the past. Medea cries: “I killed, and so gave you the safety of the light. / And I myself betrayed my father and my home/ . . . and took away your fear” (470-475). He foolishly thinks that he is the one being abused by her “mouthing tempest” and “bitter tongue” (513).

Perhaps the most infuriating idea Jason has is that she is simply a jealous woman. He honestly believes that the problem lies in her “empty bed.” He says: “But you women have got into such a state of mind/ That if your life at night is good, you think you have/ Everything” (557-559). Jason is incapable of understanding the depth of Medea’s love for him. He says she is jealous because she thinks he got tired of her bed and “felt the need for a new bride” (544). He further insults her by saying “It is natural/ For a woman to be wild with her husband when he/ Goes in for secret love” (885-887). Medea’s capacity for feeling and emotion are beyond his comprehension.
Jason is a self-centered and arrogant man who views not only Medea, but also all women, as objects to be used and discarded. He feels that women are nothing more than jealous and irrational creatures.