“Bleak House” is a novel by Charles Dickens

Starting from the title the intelligent reader can already understand that the novel is focused on a house, the adjective used to describe it is “bleak” so we can imagine that is abandoned.

The structure is pretty simple, most of the text is dedicated to the narration of facts, as this is the first chapter the narrator may want to use this as an introduction.

The chapter starts with the description of London in autumn, the weather is the typical British one: cold, wet and foggy. The atmosphere generated by this accurate description is quite melancholic.

The characterization of the city is both real and symbolic, London used to be like this: foggy, cold and wet, but this also represent a psychological condition for its inhabitants who are mentally lost and depressed.

Considering the narrative techniques of this first chapter, Dickens provides long description of places and characters, this slow down the rhythm of the text.

In conclusion, with this chapter Dickens want to underline the social condition in London: people used to be confused and poor because of the law abuse put in place by some citizens.