

# Style Question

2007 LC Exam

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# General overview of style questions

- Based on the five language genres: information, argument, persuasion, narrative, aesthetic
- Will usually be a mix of these

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# Phrasing

- You may be asked if the piece is informative, engaging, skilfully written, perceptively observed, inspiring, realistic, beautiful, accessible, entertaining, rich in language and imagery, effective autobiographical writing, effective speech writing etc.
- The most important thing is to have an idea of the language genre or genres used and then to identify the features of that genre

# Effect

- Never, ever point out a feature of the language used in the text without saying what that feature does in the context of the text. (The same rule applies to your literary essays, of course.) For example, you might say that the use of rhetorical questions provokes you to think about the topic under discussion and draws you into the debate. If the piece is narrative, you might say that the anecdotes engaged you.

- Identify language genre – point out features of that genre in the text – use a verb to describe the effect each feature had on you, the reader.
- Here are some verbs you may wish to use: Clarifies, excites, provokes, interests, fascinates, angers, proves, shows, emphasises, personalises...

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- Ask yourself what is the purpose of this piece.
- It is trying to make a point about the cinema: that it can have a profound effect on us.
- Therefore, the author is likely to use features of the language of persuasion and the language of argument.
- Think about the features of those language genres and other examples you studied. What elements of the writing style did you pick out in those other examples?



- Interesting and informative examples given with enough detail to allow us to easily understand the points being made. These references range from the more obscure 'Bicycle Thieves' to more popular movies we would be more likely to know.
- Effect of this is to **movies can have on our lives** make us laugh or to provoke more profound contemplation of societal ills

- Personal approach  
reader. First person and use of anecdotes  
**tone conversational and engaging**  
on to the inclusive 'we' in the fifth paragraph when  
talking about how humour is something 'that's in us  
all'. Etc.



- Enthusiasm for the subject is clear in the lively tone and the vivid descriptions. This is **the writer carries us along with him** journey through the world of cinema. Etc.

- Piece is well structured. There is a clear sequencing of the thoughts and a definite and thought-provoking conclusion. Clarity of structure **allows the message to be easily understood**  
**makes us sympathetic to the writer's viewpoint.**