

## General Vision and Viewpoint

### Possible Subheadings - General

**Relationships** – constructive and nurturing or destructive and damaging

**Characters** – how well we relate to them / how sympathetically or otherwise they are portrayed colours our general vision and viewpoint

**Fulfilment** - characters' ability to achieve it.

**Hope** - the level of it displayed in the text

**Opening or closing scenes** - how positive or negative they are

**Key moments** which convey the general vision and viewpoint (happy, shocking, pessimistic, hopeful etc.)

**Author's approach** – how the author's approach: tragic, comic, serious can affect our vision and viewpoint.

**Style** - ways in which dialogue, language, imagery and film techniques can convey the general vision and viewpoint

**Setting/Society** - the impact each has on the general vision and viewpoint

### 2014 Question1

1. (a) "The extent to which a reader can relate an aspect of a text to his or her experience of life, helps to shape an understanding of the general vision and viewpoint of that text." Discuss this view in relation to your study of one text on your comparative course. (30)
- (b) With reference to the text you referred to in 1. (a) above and at least one other text from your comparative course, compare how two other aspects of the texts (excluding the aspect discussed in 1. (a) above) influenced your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint of those texts. (40)



## Approaching the Question

- ✓ Choose one aspect of life from the list of subheadings above.
- ✓ Remember, you don't have to relate to the way it is presented in the text.
- ✓ The key words are '*the extent to which* a reader can relate'.
- ✓ Think of synonyms of 'relate to' and be ready to use them in your essay: understand, empathise with, comprehend, stand in that person's shoes, identify with, imagine, feel for, sympathise etc.
- ✓ Don't talk about your own life! Just show you can relate to the common or universal experience of relationships or achieving fulfilment or whatever aspect it is you choose to write about.

**NB!**

Remember to think carefully about all three texts and look at part (b) of this question before you begin planning your answer. You have to use a different aspect of the text for (b) and the remaining two texts must be easily compared in the light of this aspect, so choose carefully! Maybe relationships would be an ideal aspect for part (b), in which case you should choose a different aspect for (a). Note also that (b) does NOT require you to relate your chosen aspect to your own experience of life. This may colour your choice.



## 2014 Question 2



2. “Significant events in texts and the impact they have on readers often help to clarify the general vision and viewpoint of those texts.”

With reference to three texts on your comparative course, compare the ways in which at least one significant event in each text, and its impact on you, helped to clarify the general vision and viewpoint of these texts.  
(70)

### Approaching the Question

- ✓ This question requires you to focus on key moments that you have prepared.
- ✓ Think about the V&V of each of your texts.
- ✓ Now choose two or three key moments from the text which highlight that V&V. Think beginning, middle and ending for ease of structuring an answer.
- ✓ Make sure your moments are easily comparable. You can achieve this by choosing them from the subheadings given at the start of this set of notes. You might choose to approach the question this way:
  - 1) **Opening of each text** – positive or negative?
  - 2) **Relationships** – key moment which shows how constructive or destructive they are?
  - 3) **Ending of the text** – what feelings of optimism / pessimism are we left with? Did character/s achieve fulfilment or fail to do so? Shattered dreams or joyful success?



## 2012 Question 1

1. "The general vision and viewpoint of a text can be shaped by the reader's attitude to a central character." Compare the extent to which your attitude to a central character helped shape your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint of at least two texts on your comparative course. (70)

### Approaching the Question

You can still use the subheadings as a starting point for this question.

- 1) **How well we relate to the character** / how sympathetically or otherwise they are portrayed colours our general vision and viewpoint
- 2) **Relationships** – do we see the relationships this character has with others as constructive or destructive and does this shape our general vision and viewpoint?
- 3) **Author's approach** – how the author's approach to what happens the central character is portrayed - tragic, comic, serious – and how this can affect our vision and viewpoint.
- 4) **Key moments** – how the character fares / is treated / behaves in these can shape our general vision and viewpoint.
- 5) **Fulfilment** – character's ability to achieve it and his or her fate: how this affects our general vision and viewpoint.

**NB!**

You don't have to use all of these subheadings, of course.  
You should be fine with three or four.



## 2012 Question 2

“Various aspects of texts can provoke a range of emotional responses in readers which aid the construction of the general vision and viewpoint.”

(a) With reference to one text on your comparative course, what aspects of the text shaped your emotional response and helped you to construct the general vision and viewpoint of that text? (30)

### Approaching the Question

Once again, go through the subheadings and in the case of each, be prepared to discuss emotions and how this shapes our general vision and viewpoint. (You should be seeing a pattern emerge by now in the approach to the questions!)

- 1) **Relationships** – constructive and nurturing or destructive and damaging – how do we respond to them? Are we shocked, amused, hopeful etc.? Do we feel pessimism or optimism when we study these relationships?
- 2) **Characters** – how well we relate to them / how sympathetically or otherwise they are portrayed colours our general vision and viewpoint.
- 3) **Fulfilment** – characters’ ability to achieve it. Do we feel hopelessness or joy or satisfaction on seeing the characters’ fate?
- 4) **Hope** - the level of it displayed in the text. This is an emotion in itself.
- 5) **Opening or closing scenes** - how positive or negative they are. What emotions do they evoke? How does this shape our general vision and viewpoint?
- 6) **Key moments** which convey the general vision and viewpoint (happy, shocking, pessimistic, hopeful etc.)

- 7) **Author's approach** – how the author's approach: tragic, comic, serious can affect our vision and viewpoint. Even seemingly sad events can be described in an amusing way which can take from the sadness and make our vision and viewpoint more positive. Look at what the author chooses to focus on in key moments / descriptions.
- 8) **Style** - ways in which dialogue, language, imagery and film techniques can convey the general vision and viewpoint. For example, does uplifting music lift our mood?
- 9) **Setting/Society** - the impact each has on the general vision and viewpoint. Does the character live in a world which is so poor and so depressing tht we feel pessimism when we read/see it?

**NB!**

Once again, a quick reminder that you don't have to use all of these subheadings, of course. You should be fine with three or four.

Be ready to discuss *how* the general vision and viewpoint is presented. In each of your key moments, look and see if there are cinematic techniques, symbols, music etc. that evoke an emotional response in you.



### 2010 Question 1

1. “The general vision and viewpoint of a text can be determined by the success or failure of a central character in his/her efforts to achieve fulfilment.”

In the light of the above statement, compare the general vision and viewpoint in at least two texts you have studied in your comparative course. (70)



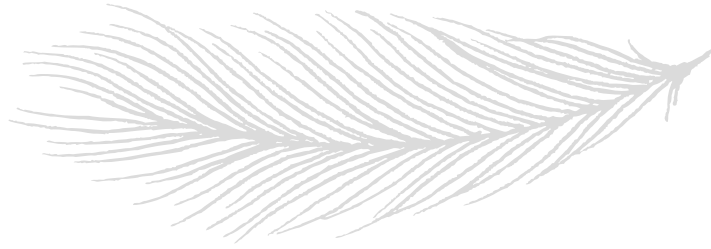
Even if the question says ‘at least two texts’ you should definitely discuss *all three*.

### Approaching the Question

Once again, go through the subheadings.

- 1) **Relationships** – are they constructive or destructive in the character’s life and do they help or hinder him or her effort to achieve fulfilment?
- 2) **Key moments** – are there pivotal events in the character’s life in which we see that he or she is succeeding / failing in achieving fulfilment?
- 3) **Author’s approach** – how is the character’s fate presented? Is it in a tragic, comic, serious or affectionate way?
- 4) **Style** – Does music, symbolism, imagery, camera angles etc. make it seem as if the character is happy or has failed to achieve fulfilment?
- 5) **Ending** – What is our final impression of the character’s fate?





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