

2010 Examination – 30 / 40 Split

Question

‘Aspects of narrative contribute to your response to a text.’

(a) With reference to one of your chosen text, identify at least two aspects of narrative and discuss how those aspects contribute to your response to the text.’

(b) With reference to two other texts compare how aspects of narrative contributed to your response to those texts.

In answer to question (b) you may use the aspects of narrative discussed in (a) above or any other aspects of narrative.

Marking Scheme

Expect candidates to focus their answers on at least two narrative aspects/features of one text and to address clearly their influence on the reader’s response.

Possible areas of discussion:

- creation of setting allows reader to enter into world of text
- effective presentation of characters adds to our enjoyment/interest
- narrative perspective, structure, use of flashback, etc. engage the reader
- dialogue, soliloquy, body language, etc. create emotional intensity
- imagery, symbolism, descriptive detail intensify appreciation
- music, camerawork, props, etc. heighten the drama/tension/suspense Etc.

Code C for each focused/developed comparison.

Note:

This is a fairly straightforward, easy question. The aspects of literary genre you choose are up to you, as is the way in which you responded to each one.

You can discuss several different responses. In other words, you can say that Aspect X drew you into the world of the text and Aspect Y helped you to make the character/s memorable for you.

You may wish to consider approaching the answer in some sort of chronological order: discussing the setting, the structure, the point of view, the characters etc.

Planning the 30 mark answer:

- Name the text
- Answer the question directly
- Outline the direction your answer will take
- Write a brief conclusion saying that it is clear that what you said in your introduction is true.

Notes for 40 mark answer using 'How Many Miles to Babylon?':

- Structure is intriguing. How did Alec end up in this situation?
- Point of view – first person narrative allows us to engage with Alec and see events from his perspective. We share his thoughts and dreams and because we see the world as he describes it, we sympathise with him. As he is not omniscient, we are left with unanswered questions just as he is. We wonder if Alicia is telling the truth about his parentage, for example.
- Social realism shows us the effect of the political and social background on the characters lives. We are interested to see the way in which the characters' lives are restricted by their social class, for example. Once Alec and Jerry go to war, the realistic descriptions of the horror of life in the trenches shock and disgust us, but also deepen our sympathy for the young men suffering such misery and hardship.
- Dialogue helps to create memorable characters and creates emotional intensity.
- Imagery and symbolism - Intensify our emotional response - Swans reinforce our appreciation of the friendship between Jerry and Alec. Killing of swans is another reminder of the horror of war and is ominous. We worry for Alec and Jerry.