4.5 Recognizing methods of development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 17 marks**

KEY WORDS satire • irony • proposal • exaggeration • tone • target

Objective

Build the skills to recognize how a writer develops a **proposal** or a **satire**, including cause and effect and **irony**.

You must be able to:

- identify cause and effect and proposal structures
- recognize irony and satire
- explain why a writer uses an outrageous proposal

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Proposal structure

step	content
problem	what is wrong
causes	why it happens
proposal	what should be done
benefits	the good effects
objections answered	why critics are wrong

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■ Satire

Satire uses humor, exaggeration and **irony** to attack a real problem. In **verbal irony** the writer means the opposite of what the words say. A reader must notice the gap between the calm tone and the shocking content.

clue	example
a calm, reasonable voice	"I humbly propose..."
a monstrous idea	eating children
real targets	landlords, politicians, cruelty to the poor

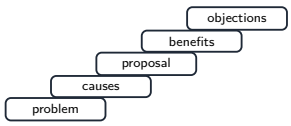
■ Worked example

Task: explain the method in Swift's *A Modest Proposal* (1729).

Answer: Swift copies the cause-and-effect structure of a serious economic plan, but the plan is to sell poor children as food. The calm structure makes the cruelty of real policies toward the Irish poor visible: readers are shocked by the proposal, then see that the real treatment of the poor is little better.

2 Practice

2.1 Identify two steps in a proposal structure. [2]



2.2 Explain what verbal irony is, using an example. [3]



2.3 Explain why a satirist might use a calm, serious tone for an outrageous idea. [3]



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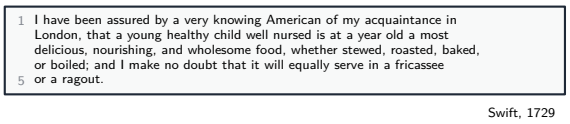
3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Read the passage.

> "I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee or a ragout."

Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal*, 1729

(a) Identify the source of authority the speaker cites. [1]



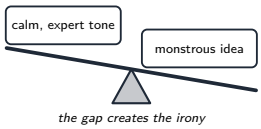
(b) Explain the effect of the list "stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled". [1]

(c) Explain what Swift is really attacking. [1]

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3.2 Use the Swift passage in Question 3.1. Ireland in 1729 suffered famine, and many Irish families were very poor under English rule.

Write one paragraph that analyzes how Swift uses irony in this passage to make his readers see the cruelty of real policies toward the poor. Begin with a thesis sentence. [6]



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