

Exercise walk-through

Word choice, comparisons, and syntax ■ 6.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- use a pattern of diction as evidence about attitude
- explain what an extended comparison commits a writer to
- describe a syntactic pattern across a paragraph, not one sentence
- avoid device-spotting without argument

Method — A pattern, not one word

One loaded word may be chance; a run of them is evidence. Where a writer repeatedly chooses terms from one field — medical, legal, military — that pattern says something about how they want the subject understood.

Method — Extended comparison

An analogy carried through several sentences commits the writer to its structure. If a policy is a “treatment”, then the public are “patients” and the government “the doctor” — and that hierarchy comes with it, whether intended or not.

Method — Syntax across a paragraph

Describe the pattern: three short declaratives, then a long qualifying sentence. That shape is analysable; one inverted clause on its own usually is not.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State why a pattern of diction is stronger evidence than a single word.

Solution 2.1

Method: A pattern, not one word

Worked steps

one word may be chance **B1**; a run of terms from one field is a choice and therefore evidence **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what an extended comparison commits a writer to.

Solution 2.2

Method: Extended comparison

Worked steps

to the structure of the comparison **B1**, including the roles it assigns to everyone involved **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph uses “diagnosis”, “symptom” and “remedy” for a social problem.

- (a) Name the field of the diction.
- (b) State what it invites the reader to assume.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) medical **B1**. (b) that the problem has a technical cause and an expert remedy, rather than being a matter of contested values **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Describing a policy as a “treatment” positions the public as

- A** doctors
- B** patients
- C** observers
- D** legislators

Solution 3.1

Method: Extended comparison

A doctors

B patients



C observers

D legislators

Worked steps

B. the metaphor's structure assigns the passive role to the public.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Device-spotting becomes analysis when it is linked to

- A** sentence length
- B** the writer's purpose and its effect on the reader
- C** the date
- D** the number of devices

Solution 3.2

- A sentence length
- B the writer's purpose and its effect on the reader** 
- C the date
- D the number of devices

Worked steps

- B.** effect on the reader, tied to purpose, is what makes it analysis.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage uses three short declarative sentences and then one long qualifying sentence.

- (a) Describe the pattern.
- (b) Explain its likely effect.

Solution 3.3

Method: Syntax across a paragraph

Worked steps

- (a) short declaratives establishing points, then a long sentence qualifying them **B1**.
- (b) the short sentences read as settled fact **B1**, so the qualification arrives as a reasonable adjustment rather than a retreat **B1**.