

# 6.5 Word choice, comparisons, and syntax

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 11 marks**

## Objective

Build the skills to analyse **stylistic choice** as evidence about purpose.

**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

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ **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.

■ **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.

■ **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.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** State why a pattern of diction is stronger evidence than a single word. [2]

**2.2** Explain what an extended comparison commits a writer to. [2]

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

(a) Name the field of the diction. [1]

(b) State what it invites the reader to assume. [1]

## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** Describing a policy as a “treatment” positions the public as [1]

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

**3.2** Device-spotting becomes analysis when it is linked to [1]

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

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

(a) Describe the pattern. [1]

(b) Explain its likely effect. [2]

## Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

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