

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

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- 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]
