

Exercise walk-through

How plot orders events ■ 1.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the CED's definition of plot
- explain what 'each event building on the others' claims
- define the dramatic situation
- explain why plot is not the same as the story's incidents

Method — Definition

Plot is the sequence of events in a narrative; events throughout a narrative are connected, with each event building on the others, often with a cause-and-effect relationship.

Method — Building

Events are not merely consecutive. “Building on the others” claims a dependence: a later event means what it means because of an earlier one.

Method — Dramatic situation

It includes the setting and action of the plot and how that narrative develops to place characters in conflict(s), and often involves the rising or falling fortunes of a main character or set of characters.

Method — Plot and incidents

A list of incidents is not a plot. The plot is the incidents plus their connection, which is what makes the sequence mean something.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the CED's definition of plot.

Solution 2.1

Method: Definition

Worked steps

the sequence of events in a narrative **B1**, connected, with each building on the others, often causally **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what “each event building on the others” claims.

Solution 2.2

Method: Building

Worked steps

that events depend on one another **B1**, so a later event means what it means because of an earlier one **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Define the dramatic situation.

- (a) State what it includes.
- (b) State what it often involves.

Solution 2.3

Method: Dramatic situation

Worked steps

(a) the setting and action of the plot, and how the narrative develops to place characters in conflict **B2**. (b) the rising or falling fortunes of a main character or set of characters **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The relationship between events is often

A cause-and-effect

B alphabetical

C random

D metrical

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A cause-and-effect



B alphabetical

C random

D metrical

Worked steps

A. the CED's own phrase.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A list of incidents is not a plot because it lacks

A their connection

B characters

C a setting

D dialogue

Solution 3.2

Method: Plot and incidents

A their connection



B characters

C a setting

D dialogue

Worked steps

A. connection is what makes it a plot.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A second event would be meaningless without the first.

- (a) State what this shows.
- (b) Explain why order carries meaning.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) that the events are connected rather than consecutive **B1**. (b) the same incidents in a different order would mean something else **B1**, so the arrangement is part of what the text says **B1**.