

Exercise walk-through

The function of a sequence of events ■ 1.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what plot and exposition focus attention on
- name the four things they focus attention on
- distinguish 'what happens' from 'what the sequence does'
- answer a function question in the CED's terms

Method — Focusing attention

Plot and the exposition that accompanies it focus readers' attention on the parts of the narrative that matter most to its development.

Method — Four things

Characters, their relationships and their roles in the narrative, as well as setting and the relationship between characters and setting.

Method — Function

A function question asks what the sequence **does** to a reader's attention, not what occurs in it. Summarising the events answers a different question.

Method — The form of an answer

“By placing X before Y, the text makes the reader see...” — the sequence is the evidence and the effect on attention is the claim.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what plot and exposition do for readers.

Solution 2.1

Method: Focusing attention

Worked steps

they focus readers' attention **B1** on the parts of the narrative that matter most to its development **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name four things they focus attention on.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

characters; their relationships; their roles; setting and the relationship between characters and setting **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A function question is not a summary question.

- (a) State the difference.
- (b) Give the form a function answer takes.

Solution 2.3

Method: Function

Worked steps

(a) a summary reports what occurs **B1**; a function answer states what the sequence does to a reader's attention **B1**. (b) "by placing X before Y, the text makes the reader see..." **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Plot and exposition focus attention on parts that matter most to the narrative's

A development

B length

C publication

D genre

Solution 3.1

Method: Focusing attention

A development



B length

C publication

D genre

Worked steps

A. development.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A function answer's claim is about

- A** what happens
- B** the effect on a reader's attention
- C** the author's life
- D** the number of pages

Solution 3.2

- A what happens
- B the effect on a reader's attention** 
- C the author's life
- D the number of pages

Worked steps

- B. the effect on attention.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A story reveals a character's crime only after showing his kindness.

- (a) State what the order does.
- (b) Explain why reversing it would change the effect.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

- (a) it makes the reader judge the crime against an established impression **B1**.
- (b) the crime would then colour the kindness rather than the reverse **B1**, so the reader's sympathy would form differently **B1**.