

Exercise walk-through

The function of point of view ■ 1.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what point of view contributes to a text
- distinguish first-person from third-person narrators
- state the range of third-person knowledge
- explain why point of view limits as well as enables

Method — The contribution

Point of view contributes to what narrators, characters or speakers can and cannot provide in a text, based on their level of involvement and intimacy with the details, events or characters. Can and cannot — the limit is part of the function.

Method — Two kinds

First-person narrators are involved in the narrative, and their relationship to the plot and other characters shapes their perspective. **Third-person narrators are outside observers.**

Method — The range

Third-person narrators' knowledge **may range from observational to all-knowing**, which shapes their perspective; the outside perspective **may not be affected by the events of the narrative**.

Method — Limits

Narrators may also be characters, and that role may influence their perspective. What a narrator cannot see is as analytically useful as what they can.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what point of view contributes and why the limit matters.

Solution 2.1

Method: The contribution

Worked steps

it contributes to what a narrator can and cannot provide **B1**, based on their level of involvement and intimacy with the details, events or characters **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Distinguish first-person from third-person narrators.

Solution 2.2

Method: Two kinds

Worked steps

first-person narrators are involved in the narrative **B1**; third-person narrators are outside observers **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Third-person knowledge varies.

- (a) State the range.
- (b) State why what a narrator cannot see is useful.

Solution 2.3

Method: The range

Worked steps

(a) from observational to all-knowing **B2**. (b) the gaps show what the text has chosen to withhold **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Third-person narrators are described as

A outside observers

B always involved

C always unreliable

D characters

Solution 3.1

A outside observers



B always involved

C always unreliable

D characters

Worked steps

A. outside observers.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The CED says point of view contributes to what a narrator can and

A cannot provide

B must invent

C should hide

D will forget

Solution 3.2

Method: The contribution

A cannot provide



B must invent

C should hide

D will forget

Worked steps

A. cannot provide.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A narrator reports a room she never entered.

- (a) State what this indicates about the point of view.
- (b) Explain what a reader learns from a narrator's limits.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) that it is not a limited first-person account **B1**. (b) a limit tells the reader what the text will not give them **B1**, which is itself a choice the analysis can discuss **B1**.