

Exercise walk-through

The relationship between character and setting ■ 4.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the CED's claim about environment and character
- explain the difference between a chosen and an imposed environment
- explain what a character's response to a place reveals
- avoid treating setting as decoration

Method — The claim

The environment a character inhabits provides information about that character. The setting is evidence about the person in it.

Method — Chosen and imposed

A room a character has arranged tells you about their taste and priorities; a room they cannot leave tells you about their constraints. The same detail means different things depending on which it is.

Method — Response

How a character behaves in a place — at home, uneasy, defiant — is a second layer of evidence beyond the place itself.

Method — Not decoration

If setting provides information about character, then a description skipped in reading is evidence discarded. The passages students skim are often the ones carrying the character.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the CED's claim about environment and character.

Solution 2.1

Method: The claim

Worked steps

the environment a character inhabits **B1** provides information about that character **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Distinguish a chosen environment from an imposed one.

Solution 2.2

Method: Chosen and imposed

Worked steps

a chosen environment shows taste and priorities **B1**; an imposed one shows constraints **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Setting is not decoration.

- (a) State what a skipped description costs a reader.
- (b) State the second layer of evidence beyond the place itself.

Solution 2.3

Method: Response

Worked steps

(a) evidence about the character **B1**, often carried in exactly the passages readers skim **B1**. (b) how the character behaves in the place **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The environment a character inhabits provides

- A** information about that character
- B** the page count
- C** the genre
- D** the author's opinion

Solution 3.1

Method: The claim

A information about that character



B the page count

C the genre

D the author's opinion

Worked steps

A. information about the character.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A room a character cannot leave tells the reader about their

A constraints

B taste

C age

D occupation

Solution 3.2

Method: Chosen and imposed

A constraints



B taste

C age

D occupation

Worked steps

A. constraints.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A character has filled a bare room with borrowed books.

- (a) State what this reveals.
- (b) Explain how the chosen-versus-imposed distinction applies.

Solution 3.3

Method: Chosen and imposed

Worked steps

(a) a priority the character acts on despite limited means **B1**. (b) the room is imposed and shows constraint **B1**, while the books are chosen and show what the character does with that constraint **B1**.