

Exercise walk-through

The function of contrasts within a text ■ 4.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what the differences highlighted by a contrast do
- state what contrasts often represent
- explain why a contrast is an argument
- move from noticing a contrast to explaining it

Method — What differences do

The differences highlighted by a contrast emphasise the particular traits, aspects, or characteristics important for comparison of the things being contrasted. A contrast selects which differences matter.

Method — What they represent

Contrasts often represent conflicts in values related to character, narrator, or speaker perspectives on ideas represented by a text. The contrast is usually about values, not appearances.

Method — An argument

Two things differ in many ways. Setting them against each other proposes that one difference is the important one — which is a claim the text is making.

Method — From noticing to explaining

“The two brothers are contrasted” is a starting point. The analysis is: which difference is being emphasised, and what conflict of values does it represent?

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what the differences highlighted by a contrast do.

Solution 2.1

Method: What differences do

Worked steps

they emphasise the particular traits, aspects or characteristics **B1** important for comparison of the things being contrasted **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what contrasts often represent.

Solution 2.2

Method: What they represent

Worked steps

conflicts in values **B1** related to character, narrator or speaker perspectives on ideas in the text **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A contrast is an argument.

(a) Explain why.

(b) State the two questions an analysis must answer.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) two things differ in many ways **B1**, so setting them against each other proposes that one difference is the important one **B1**. (b) which difference is emphasised, and what conflict of values it represents **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A contrast emphasises the traits important for

A comparison of the things contrasted

B counting pages

C dating the text

D naming the author

Solution 3.1

Method: What differences do

A comparison of the things contrasted



B counting pages

C dating the text

D naming the author

Worked steps

A. comparison of the contrasted things.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Contrasts often represent conflicts in

A values

B spelling

C typography

D length

Solution 3.2

Method: What they represent

A values



B spelling

C typography

D length

Worked steps

A. values.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A story sets a generous character against a careful one.

- (a) State what difference is emphasised.
- (b) Explain the conflict of values it represents.

Solution 3.3

Method: From noticing to explaining

Worked steps

(a) how each treats what they have **B1**. (b) generosity values the claim of others on one's resources **B1**, while care values security and the obligation to provide for the future **B1**.