

Exercise walk-through

The function of personification ■ 5.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- define personification in the CED's terms
- state what personification does to the object
- explain why it is a type of comparison
- analyse which human trait is assigned

Method — Definition

Personification is a type of comparison that assigns a human trait or quality to a nonhuman object, entity, or idea, thus characterising that object, entity, or idea.

Method — Characterising

The CED's verb is **characterising**: personification does to an object what description does to a person. It gives it a nature.

Method — A comparison

Because it is a comparison, the two-subject analysis applies: the nonhuman thing is the main subject and the human quality is what is transferred to it.

Method — Which trait

The analysis is in the choice of trait. A sea that is *angry* is threatening; a sea that is *indifferent* is worse, because nothing can be appealed to.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define personification in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a type of comparison assigning a human trait or quality to a nonhuman object, entity or idea **B1**, thus characterising it **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the CED's verb for what it does and explain it.

Solution 2.2

Method: Characterising

Worked steps

characterising **B1**; it gives the object a nature, as description gives a person one **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The analysis lies in the trait chosen.

- (a) Explain why.
- (b) State why personification is a comparison.

Solution 2.3

Method: Definition

Worked steps

(a) different traits produce different natures **B1** — an angry sea threatens while an indifferent one cannot be appealed to **B1**. (b) a human quality is transferred to a nonhuman main subject **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Personification assigns a human trait to

A a nonhuman object, entity or idea

B another person

C the reader

D the author

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A a nonhuman object, entity or idea



B another person

C the reader

D the author

Worked steps

A. a nonhuman object, entity or idea.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The CED's verb for the effect on the object is

A characterising

B destroying

C naming

D counting

Solution 3.2

Method: Characterising

A characterising



B destroying

C naming

D counting

Worked steps

A. characterising.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A poem describes time as “patient”.

- (a) State what has been assigned.
- (b) Explain what this makes the reader feel about time.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) a human quality of patience **B1**. (b) time becomes something that waits deliberately **B1**, so it is not merely passing but expecting an outcome the speaker cannot avoid **B1**.