

Exercise walk-through

Developing a literary thesis statement ■ 7.12

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a thesis expresses and requires
- explain what changes under time pressure
- state what the CED does not require
- produce a usable thesis quickly

Method — The requirement

Unchanged: **an interpretation requiring defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning, explained through commentary.**

Method — Under pressure

The standard does not drop, but the drafting time does. A thesis written in two minutes must be arguable immediately; there is no time to discover what you think while writing.

Method — What is not required

A thesis need not list points, elements or evidence — which is a relief under time pressure, since the list form takes longer and earns nothing.

Method — Producing one fast

Read for one thing the text does repeatedly, then state what it achieves. “The story keeps X and Y apart, which makes Z look like...” is a thesis shape you can fill in from any passage.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a thesis expresses and requires.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

an interpretation of a literary text **B1** requiring defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning explained by commentary **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what changes under time pressure.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the standard does not drop but the drafting time does **B1**, so the thesis must be arguable immediately **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A thesis can be produced quickly.

- (a) State the method.
- (b) State why the list form is a poor choice under pressure.

Solution 2.3

Method: What is not required

Worked steps

- (a) find one thing the text does repeatedly **B1** and state what it achieves **B1**.
- (b) it takes longer to write and earns nothing **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Under timed conditions the thesis standard

A stays the same

B drops

C rises

D is waived

Solution 3.1

Method: Under pressure

A stays the same



B drops

C rises

D is waived

Worked steps

A. unchanged.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The list form of thesis is a poor choice because it

A takes longer and earns nothing

B is forbidden

C is too short

D cannot be defended

Solution 3.2

Method: What is not required

A takes longer and earns nothing



B is forbidden

C is too short

D cannot be defended

Worked steps

A. slower and unrewarded.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

You have two minutes to draft a thesis on an unseen passage.

- (a) State what to look for first.
- (b) Explain how to turn it into a claim.

Solution 3.3

Method: Producing one fast

Worked steps

(a) one thing the passage does repeatedly **B1**. (b) state what the repetition achieves for the reader **B1** in a sentence someone could disagree with **B1**.