

Exercise walk-through

Developing commentary ■ 7.13

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the three things sophisticated arguments may do
- explain what discussing an alternative interpretation achieves
- explain what a relevant analogy achieves
- distinguish sophistication from complication

Method — Three moves

More sophisticated literary arguments may explain the significance or relevance of an interpretation within a broader context, discuss alternative interpretations of a text, or use relevant analogies to help an audience better understand an interpretation.

Method — Alternatives

Naming a rival reading and saying why yours accounts for more of the text shows you have tested your claim rather than merely asserted it.

Method — Analogies

An analogy makes an unfamiliar interpretation graspable. The CED says **relevant** — an analogy that needs its own explanation has cost more than it gave.

Method — Not complication

Sophistication is not longer sentences or more terms. All three moves make the argument clearer to a reader, which is the opposite of complication.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

State the three things sophisticated arguments may do.

Solution 2.1

Method: Three moves

Worked steps

explain significance or relevance within a broader context **B1**; discuss alternative interpretations **B1**; use relevant analogies **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what discussing an alternative interpretation achieves.

Solution 2.2

Method: Three moves

Worked steps

it shows the claim has been tested against a rival **B1** rather than merely asserted **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Sophistication is not complication.

- (a) Explain the difference.
- (b) State the force of “relevant” analogies.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) all three moves make the argument clearer to a reader **B1**, while complication makes it harder to follow **B1**. (b) an analogy must aid understanding rather than require its own explanation **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Sophisticated arguments may explain an interpretation's significance within

A a broader context

B the title

C the margin

D a footnote

Solution 3.1

Method: Three moves

A a broader context



B the title

C the margin

D a footnote

Worked steps

A. a broader context.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

An analogy that needs its own explanation

A has cost more than it gave

B is ideal

C is required

D replaces evidence

Solution 3.2

Method: Analogies

A has cost more than it gave



B is ideal

C is required

D replaces evidence

Worked steps

A. it cost more than it gave.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

An essay names a rival reading and explains why its own accounts for more.

- (a) State which move this is.
- (b) Explain what it shows about the writer.

Solution 3.3

Method: Alternatives

Worked steps

(a) discussing an alternative interpretation **B1**. (b) that the writer has read against their own claim **B1** and holds it because it explains more of the text, not because it occurred to them first **B1**.