

Exercise walk-through

How plot orders events ■ 7.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- define pacing in the CED's terms
- name four factors that contribute to pace
- explain how syntax affects pace
- distinguish pace from length

Method — Definition

Pacing is the manipulation of time in a text. Manipulation — the writer decides how much text a given amount of story time occupies.

Method — Factors

Arrangement of details, frequency of events, narrative structures, syntax, the tempo or speed at which events occur, or shifts in tense and chronology.

Method — Syntax

Short sentences read fast and long ones read slow, so a paragraph of clipped clauses accelerates a scene regardless of what happens in it. Pace is partly a property of the prose.

Method — Pace and length

A slow passage is not a long one. Ten pages covering a decade move fast; two pages covering a minute move slowly. Pace is the ratio of text to time.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define pacing in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

the manipulation of time in a text **B1**, so the writer decides how much text a given amount of story time occupies **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name four factors that contribute to pace.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

any four of: arrangement of details; frequency of events; narrative structures; syntax; tempo or speed of events; shifts in tense and chronology **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Pace is not length.

- (a) Explain the difference.
- (b) State how syntax affects pace.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) pace is the ratio of text to story time **B1**, so a long passage covering years is fast and a short one covering a minute is slow **B1**. (b) short sentences read fast and long ones read slow **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Pacing is the manipulation of

A time in a text

B page size

C the reader's age

D genre

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A time in a text



B page size

C the reader's age

D genre

Worked steps

A. time.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Two pages covering one minute move

- A** slowly
- B** quickly
- C** at average pace
- D** backwards

Solution 3.2

Method: Pace and length

A slowly



B quickly

C at average pace

D backwards

Worked steps

A. slowly.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A scene is written in short clipped sentences.

- (a) State the effect on pace.
- (b) Explain why this holds regardless of the events.

Solution 3.3

Method: Syntax

Worked steps

(a) it accelerates **B1**. (b) syntax is a property of the prose rather than of the events **B1**, so the reading speed changes even where the story time does not **B1**.