

Exercise walk-through

The function of contrasts within a text ■ 8.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what juxtaposition may create
- define situational and verbal irony
- define paradox in the CED's terms
- distinguish paradox from contradiction

Method — Antithesis

Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate an antithesis — a direct opposition set up by placing two things side by side.

Method — Irony

Situational or verbal irony is created when events or statements in a text are inconsistent with either the expectations readers bring to a text or the expectations established by the text itself. Two possible sources of the expectation.

Method — Paradox

Paradox occurs when seemingly contradictory elements are juxtaposed, but the contradiction — which may or may not be reconciled — can reveal a hidden or unexpected idea.

Method — Paradox and contradiction

The CED writes **seemingly** contradictory, and adds that the contradiction may or may not be reconciled. A paradox is worth analysing because something is revealed by holding the two together, whether or not they resolve.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define situational or verbal irony in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.1

Method: Irony

Worked steps

events or statements inconsistent with expectations **B1** that readers bring to the text or that the text itself establishes **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define paradox and state what it can reveal.

Solution 2.2

Method: Paradox

Worked steps

seemingly contradictory elements juxtaposed **B1**, which can reveal a hidden or unexpected idea **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Expectations come from two sources.

- (a) Name them.
- (b) State what “seemingly” contributes to the definition of paradox.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) expectations readers bring to a text **B1**; expectations established by the text itself **B1**. (b) it marks the contradiction as apparent, so the two terms may both hold **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate

A an antithesis

B a rhyme

C a stanza

D a narrator

Solution 3.1

Method: Antithesis

A an antithesis



B a rhyme

C a stanza

D a narrator

Worked steps

A. an antithesis.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The CED says a paradox's contradiction

A may or may not be reconciled

B must be reconciled

C can never be reconciled

D is always an error

Solution 3.2

A may or may not be reconciled



B must be reconciled

C can never be reconciled

D is always an error

Worked steps

A. may or may not.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A poem calls silence “the loudest answer”.

- (a) Name the device.
- (b) Explain what holding the two terms together reveals.

Solution 3.3

Method: Paradox and contradiction

Worked steps

(a) paradox **B1**. (b) silence and loudness cannot both be literal **B1**, and holding them together reveals that a refusal to speak can communicate more forcefully than speech **B1**.