

Exercise walk-through

The function of a metaphor ■ 8.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a conceit in the CED's terms
- state what conceits often compare
- state what multiple comparisons may do
- distinguish a conceit from an ordinary extended metaphor

Method — Definition

A conceit is a form of extended metaphor that often appears in poetry. Conceits develop complex comparisons that present images, concepts, and associations in surprising or paradoxical ways.

Method — What they compare

Often, conceits are used to make complex comparisons between the natural world and an individual.

Method — Multiple comparisons

Multiple comparisons, representations, or associations may combine to affect one another in complex ways. In a conceit the comparisons interact rather than merely accumulate.

Method — Against extended metaphor

5.5's extended metaphor persists and expands. A conceit adds **surprise or paradox**: the comparison is unlikely enough that the reader notices the act of comparing.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a conceit in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a form of extended metaphor developing complex comparisons **B1** that present images, concepts and associations in surprising or paradoxical ways **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what conceits often compare.

Solution 2.2

Method: What they compare

Worked steps

the natural world **B1** and an individual **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A conceit differs from an ordinary extended metaphor.

- (a) State the difference.
- (b) State what multiple comparisons may do.

Solution 2.3

Method: Definition

Worked steps

(a) a conceit adds surprise or paradox **B1**, so the comparison is unlikely enough that the reader notices the act of comparing **B1**. (b) they may combine to affect one another in complex ways **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Conceits present images and associations in

A surprising or paradoxical ways

B predictable ways

C alphabetical order

D silence

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A surprising or paradoxical ways



B predictable ways

C alphabetical order

D silence

Worked steps

A. surprising or paradoxical.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Conceits often compare an individual to

A the natural world

B another poem

C the reader

D the poet

Solution 3.2

Method: What they compare

A the natural world



B another poem

C the reader

D the poet

Worked steps

A. the natural world.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A poem compares two lovers to the legs of a compass for thirty lines.

- (a) Name the device.
- (b) Explain what makes it more than an extended metaphor.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) a conceit **B1**. (b) the comparison is unlikely rather than natural **B1**, so the reader attends to the ingenuity of the comparison as well as to what it transfers **B1**.