

2.3 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **contrast** 对比 in a poem.

You must be able to:

- name the sources through which contrast can be introduced
- state what contrasts result from
- state the three ways a shift may be signalled
- explain why a contrast needs both terms named

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Sources

Contrast can be introduced through **focus; tone; point of view; character, narrator or speaker perspective; dramatic situation or moment; settings or time; or imagery.**

■ What produces them

Contrasts are the result of shifts or juxtapositions or both. A shift is a change over time in the text; a juxtaposition is a placing side by side.

■ Signals

Shifts may be signalled by a word, a structural convention, or punctuation—and they may emphasise contrasts between particular segments of a text.

■ Both terms

A contrast is between two things. An answer naming only the second half —“the tone becomes bitter” —has not said what it is bitter *against*.

2 Practice

2.1 Name four sources through which contrast can be introduced.

[2]

2.2 State what contrasts result from and define each. [2]

2.3 A shift may be signalled three ways.

(a) Name them. [3]

(b) State the error of naming only one term. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A juxtaposition is [1]

- **A** a change over time in the text
 - **B** a placing side by side
 - **C** a rhyme
 - **D** a metre
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3.2 Shifts may be signalled by a word, punctuation or [1]

- **A** a structural convention
 - **B** the title
 - **C** the poet's name
 - **D** the page number
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3.3 A poem's tone changes at the word "but".

(a) State what the word is doing. [1]

(b) Explain what an analysis must name besides the change. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.3 The function of contrasts within a text** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Poetry I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 any four of: focus; tone; point of view; character, narrator or speaker perspective; dramatic situation or moment; settings or time; imagery.

2.2 shifts or juxtapositions or both; a shift is a change over time in the text and a juxtaposition is a placing side by side.

2.3 (a) a word; a structural convention; punctuation. (b) a contrast is between two things, so naming one leaves the contrast unstated.

3.1 B. side by side.

3.2 A. a structural convention.

3.3 (a) signalling a shift. (b) what the tone was before the shift, since the contrast is between the two states.