

7.13 Developing commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS sophisticated commentary 更高层次的评述

Objective

Build the skills to write **sophisticated commentary** 更高层次的评述.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three things sophisticated arguments may do. [3]

2.2 Explain what discussing an alternative interpretation achieves. [2]

2.3 Sophistication is not complication.

(a) Explain the difference. [2]

(b) State the force of “relevant” analogies. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Sophisticated arguments may explain an interpretation’s significance within [1]

- **A** a broader context
- **B** the title
- **C** the margin
- **D** a footnote

3.2 An analogy that needs its own explanation [1]

- **A** has cost more than it gave
- **B** is ideal
- **C** is required
- **D** replaces evidence

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

(a) State which move this is. [1]

(b) Explain what it shows about the writer. [2]

Solutions

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

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

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

3.1 A. a broader context.

3.2 A. it cost more than it gave.

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