

7.6 The function of a sequence of events

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

KEY WORDS pacing 节奏

Objective

Build the skills to explain **what pacing does** 节奏的作用.

You must be able to:

- state the three things pacing works through
- explain how the order of revelation produces emotion
- explain why significance matters to pacing
- answer a pacing question in the CED's terms

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three factors

Pacing may evoke an emotional reaction **by the order in which information is revealed; the relationships between the information, when it is provided, and other parts of the narrative; and the significance of the revealed information to other parts of the narrative.**

■ Order and emotion

The same fact produces different feelings depending on when it arrives. Learned early it is dread; learned late it is shock; learned after the character acts it is regret.

■ Significance

A revelation's effect depends on how much of the narrative it changes. A fact that recasts everything already read is more powerful late than early, because there is more for it to recast.

■ Answering

Name what is revealed, name when, and state what the timing makes the reader feel — and why the same information at another point would not.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three things pacing works through. [3]

2.2 Explain how the order of revelation produces emotion. [2]

2.3 Significance matters to timing.

(a) Explain why a recasting fact works better late. [2]

(b) State the form of a pacing answer. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A fact learned after a character has acted on ignorance of it produces [1]

- **A** regret
- **B** dread
- **C** relief
- **D** boredom

3.2 Pacing may evoke an emotional reaction by the order in which [1]

- **A** information is revealed
- **B** pages are numbered
- **C** chapters are titled
- **D** the book is printed

3.3 A story withholds a character's illness until the final page.

(a) State the effect. [1]

(b) Explain what the same information on page one would have produced. [2]

Solutions

2.1 the order in which information is revealed; the relationships between the information, when it is provided, and other parts of the narrative; the significance of the revealed information to other parts of the narrative.

2.2 the same fact produces different feelings depending on when it arrives — dread early, shock late, regret after the character has acted.

2.3 (a) its effect depends on how much of the narrative it changes, and late there is more already read for it to recast. (b) name what is revealed, when, and what the timing makes the reader feel.

3.1 A. regret.

3.2 A. information revealed.

3.3 (a) it recasts everything already read. (b) dread rather than shock, and the reader would have read the whole story looking for signs of it.