

1.3 How plot orders events

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS plot 情节 • dramatic situation 戏剧情境 • character 人物 • setting 背景

Objective

Build the skills to explain **plot** 情节 as ordered events.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s definition of plot
- explain what ‘each event building on the others’ claims
- define the dramatic situation
- explain why plot is not the same as the story’s incidents

1 Worked examples

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

■ Definition

Plot is the sequence of events in a narrative; events throughout a narrative are connected, with each event building on the others, often with a cause-and-effect relationship.

■ Building

Events are not merely consecutive. “Building on the others” claims a dependence: a later event means what it means because of an earlier one.

■ Dramatic situation

It includes the setting and action of the plot and how that narrative develops to place characters in conflict(s), and often involves the rising or falling fortunes of a main character or set of characters.

■ Plot and incidents

A list of incidents is not a plot. The plot is the incidents plus their connection, which is what makes the sequence mean something.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s definition of plot. [2]

2.2 Explain what “each event building on the others” claims. [2]

2.3 Define the dramatic situation.

(a) State what it includes. [2]

(b) State what it often involves. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The relationship between events is often [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** cause-and-effect
B alphabetical
C random
D metrical

3.2 A list of incidents is not a plot because it lacks [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** their connection
B characters
C a setting
D dialogue

3.3 A second event would be meaningless without the first.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) Explain why order carries meaning. [2]
