

1.4 The function of a sequence of events

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

KEY WORDS sequence 序列 • character 人物 • plot 情节 • setting 背景

Objective

Build the skills to explain what a **sequence** 序列 does.

You must be able to:

- state what plot and exposition focus attention on
- name the four things they focus attention on
- distinguish 'what happens' from 'what the sequence does'
- answer a function question in the CED's terms

1 Worked examples

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

■ Focusing attention

Plot and the exposition that accompanies it focus readers' attention on the parts of the narrative that matter most to its development.

■ Four things

Characters, their relationships and their roles in the narrative, as well as setting and the relationship between characters and setting.

■ Function

A function question asks what the sequence **does** to a reader's attention, not what occurs in it. Summarising the events answers a different question.

■ The form of an answer

"By placing X before Y, the text makes the reader see..." — the sequence is the evidence and the effect on attention is the claim.

2 Practice

2.1 State what plot and exposition do for readers. [2]

2.2 Name four things they focus attention on. [2]

2.3 A function question is not a summary question.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) Give the form a function answer takes. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Plot and exposition focus attention on parts that matter most to the narrative's [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A development
B length
C publication
D genre

3.2 A function answer's claim is about [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A what happens
B the effect on a reader's attention
C the author's life
D the number of pages

3.3 A story reveals a character's crime only after showing his kindness.

(a) State what the order does. [1]

(b) Explain why reversing it would change the effect. [2]
