

# 1.6 The function of point of view

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 12 marks

**KEY WORDS** observational to all-knowing 全知 • point of view 叙述视点 • character 人物  
• perspective 视角 • plot 情节

## Objective

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Build the skills to explain the **function of point of view** 视角的作用.

**You must be able to:**

- state what point of view contributes to a text
- distinguish first-person from third-person narrators
- state the range of third-person knowledge
- explain why point of view limits as well as enables

## 1 Worked examples

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

### ■ The contribution

**Point of view contributes to what narrators, characters or speakers can and cannot provide in a text, based on their level of involvement and intimacy with the details, events or characters. Can and cannot — the limit is part of the function.**

### ■ Two kinds

**First-person narrators are involved in the narrative**, and their relationship to the plot and other characters shapes their perspective. **Third-person narrators are outside observers.**

### ■ The range

Third-person narrators' knowledge **may range from observational to all-knowing**, which shapes their perspective; the outside perspective **may not be affected by the events of the narrative.**

### ■ Limits

Narrators may also be characters, and that role may influence their perspective. What a narrator cannot see is as analytically useful as what they can.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State what point of view contributes and why the limit matters. [2]

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**2.2** Distinguish first-person from third-person narrators. [2]

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**2.3** Third-person knowledge varies.

(a) State the range. [2]

(b) State why what a narrator cannot see is useful. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Third-person narrators are described as [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** outside observers
  - B** always involved
  - C** always unreliable
  - D** characters

**3.2** The CED says point of view contributes to what a narrator can and [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** cannot provide
  - B** must invent
  - C** should hide
  - D** will forget

**3.3** A narrator reports a room she never entered.

(a) State what this indicates about the point of view. [1]

(b) Explain what a reader learns from a narrator's limits. [2]

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