

2.3 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS contrast 对比

Objective

Build the skills to explain **contrast** 对比 in a poem.

You must be able to:

- name the sources through which contrast can be introduced
- state what contrasts result from
- state the three ways a shift may be signalled
- explain why a contrast needs both terms named

1 Worked examples

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

■ Sources

Contrast can be introduced through **focus; tone; point of view; character, narrator or speaker perspective; dramatic situation or moment; settings or time; or imagery.**

■ What produces them

Contrasts are the result of shifts or juxtapositions or both. A shift is a change over time in the text; a juxtaposition is a placing side by side.

■ Signals

Shifts may be signalled by a word, a structural convention, or punctuation — and they **may emphasise contrasts between particular segments of a text.**

■ Both terms

A contrast is between two things. An answer naming only the second half — “the tone becomes bitter” — has not said what it is bitter *against*.

2 Practice

2.1 Name four sources through which contrast can be introduced. [2]

2.2 State what contrasts result from and define each. [2]

2.3 A shift may be signalled three ways.

(a) Name them. [3]

(b) State the error of naming only one term. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A juxtaposition is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** a change over time in the text
B a placing side by side
C a rhyme
D a metre

3.2 Shifts may be signalled by a word, punctuation or [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** a structural convention
B the title
C the poet's name
D the page number

3.3 A poem’s tone changes at the word “but”.

(a) State what the word is doing. [1]

(b) Explain what an analysis must name besides the change. [2]
