

4.5 The relationship between character and setting

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS character from environment 环境

Objective

Build the skills to read **character from environment** 环境.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's claim about environment and character
- explain the difference between a chosen and an imposed environment
- explain what a character's response to a place reveals
- avoid treating setting as decoration

1 Worked examples

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

■ The claim

The environment a character inhabits provides information about that character. The setting is evidence about the person in it.

■ Chosen and imposed

A room a character has arranged tells you about their taste and priorities; a room they cannot leave tells you about their constraints. The same detail means different things depending on which it is.

■ Response

How a character behaves in a place — at home, uneasy, defiant — is a second layer of evidence beyond the place itself.

■ Not decoration

If setting provides information about character, then a description skipped in reading is evidence discarded. The passages students skim are often the ones carrying the character.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED's claim about environment and character. [2]

2.2 Distinguish a chosen environment from an imposed one. [2]

2.3 Setting is not decoration.

(a) State what a skipped description costs a reader. [2]

(b) State the second layer of evidence beyond the place itself. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The environment a character inhabits provides [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** information about that character
B the page count
C the genre
D the author's opinion

3.2 A room a character cannot leave tells the reader about their [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** constraints
B taste
C age
D occupation

3.3 A character has filled a bare room with borrowed books.

(a) State what this reveals. [1]

(b) Explain how the chosen-versus-imposed distinction applies. [2]
