

4.7 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS contrast emphasises 对比强调什么

Objective

Build the skills to explain what a **contrast emphasises** 对比强调什么.

You must be able to:

- state what the differences highlighted by a contrast do
- state what contrasts often represent
- explain why a contrast is an argument
- move from noticing a contrast to explaining it

1 Worked examples

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

■ What differences do

The differences highlighted by a contrast emphasise the particular traits, aspects, or characteristics important for comparison of the things being contrasted. A contrast selects which differences matter.

■ What they represent

Contrasts often represent conflicts in values related to character, narrator, or speaker perspectives on ideas represented by a text. The contrast is usually about values, not appearances.

■ An argument

Two things differ in many ways. Setting them against each other proposes that one difference is the important one — which is a claim the text is making.

■ From noticing to explaining

“The two brothers are contrasted” is a starting point. The analysis is: which difference is being emphasised, and what conflict of values does it represent?

2 Practice

2.1 State what the differences highlighted by a contrast do. [2]

2.2 State what contrasts often represent. [2]

2.3 A contrast is an argument.

(a) Explain why. [2]

(b) State the two questions an analysis must answer. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A contrast emphasises the traits important for [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** comparison of the things contrasted
 - B** counting pages
 - C** dating the text
 - D** naming the author

3.2 Contrasts often represent conflicts in [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** values
 - B** spelling
 - C** typography
 - D** length

3.3 A story sets a generous character against a careful one.

(a) State what difference is emphasised. [1]

(b) Explain the conflict of values it represents. [2]
