

6.6 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS contrast and complexity 复杂性

Objective

Build the skills to explain **contrast and complexity** 复杂性.

You must be able to:

- state what contrasts often represent at this level
- name the three things they introduce
- state the CED's conclusion about complexity
- distinguish ambiguity from vagueness

1 Worked examples

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

■ What they represent

Contrasts often represent contradictions or inconsistencies that introduce nuance, ambiguity, or contradiction into a text.

■ Three introductions

Nuance — a finer distinction; **ambiguity** — more than one available reading; **contradiction** — two things that cannot both be so.

■ The conclusion

As a result, contrasts make texts more complex. The CED states complexity as an outcome, so a contrast is worth analysing precisely because of what it complicates.

■ Ambiguity and vagueness

Ambiguity is two definite readings; vagueness is no definite reading. A text is ambiguous when it supports both possibilities and vague when it supports neither.

2 Practice

2.1 State what contrasts often represent at this level. [2]

2.2 Define nuance, ambiguity and contradiction. [3]

2.3 Ambiguity is not vagueness.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) State the CED's conclusion about contrasts. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED says contrasts make texts more [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** complex
 - B** simple
 - C** brief
 - D** popular

3.2 A text that supports two definite readings is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** ambiguous
 - B** vague
 - C** contradictory
 - D** incoherent

3.3 A novel's ending supports two incompatible readings, both textually grounded.

(a) State which term applies. [1]

(b) Explain why this is a strength rather than a flaw. [2]
