

7.12 Developing a literary thesis statement

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS timed conditions 限时

Objective

Build the skills to write a thesis under **timed conditions** 限时.

You must be able to:

- state what a thesis expresses and requires
- explain what changes under time pressure
- state what the CED does not require
- produce a usable thesis quickly

1 Worked examples

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

■ The requirement

Unchanged: **an interpretation requiring defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning, explained through commentary.**

■ Under pressure

The standard does not drop, but the drafting time does. A thesis written in two minutes must be arguable immediately; there is no time to discover what you think while writing.

■ What is not required

A thesis need not list points, elements or evidence — which is a relief under time pressure, since the list form takes longer and earns nothing.

■ Producing one fast

Read for one thing the text does repeatedly, then state what it achieves. “The story keeps X and Y apart, which makes Z look like...” is a thesis shape you can fill in from any passage.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a thesis expresses and requires. [2]

2.2 Explain what changes under time pressure. [2]

2.3 A thesis can be produced quickly.

(a) State the method. [2]

(b) State why the list form is a poor choice under pressure. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Under timed conditions the thesis standard [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** stays the same
B drops
C rises
D is waived

3.2 The list form of thesis is a poor choice because it [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** takes longer and earns nothing
B is forbidden
C is too short
D cannot be defended

3.3 You have two minutes to draft a thesis on an unseen passage.

(a) State what to look for first. [1]

(b) Explain how to turn it into a claim. [2]
