

7.5 How plot orders events

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 18 marks

KEY WORDS pacing 节奏

Objective

Build the skills to explain **pacing** 节奏.

You must be able to:

- define pacing in the CED's terms
- name four factors that contribute to pace
- explain how syntax affects pace
- distinguish pace from length

1 Worked examples

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

■ Definition

Pacing is the manipulation of time in a text. Manipulation — the writer decides how much text a given amount of story time occupies.

■ Factors

Arrangement of details, frequency of events, narrative structures, syntax, the tempo or speed at which events occur, or shifts in tense and chronology.

■ Syntax

Short sentences read fast and long ones read slow, so a paragraph of clipped clauses accelerates a scene regardless of what happens in it. Pace is partly a property of the prose.

■ Pace and length

A slow passage is not a long one. Ten pages covering a decade move fast; two pages covering a minute move slowly. Pace is the ratio of text to time.

2 Practice

2.1 Define pacing in the CED's terms. [2]

2.2 Name four factors that contribute to pace. [2]

2.3 Pace is not length.

(a) Explain the difference. [2]

(b) State how syntax affects pace. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Pacing is the manipulation of [1]

A	B
C	D

A time in a text

B page size

C the reader's age

D genre

3.2 Two pages covering one minute move [1]

A	B
C	D

A slowly

B quickly

C at average pace

D backwards

3.3 A scene is written in short clipped sentences.

- (a) State the effect on pace. [1]
- (b) Explain why this holds regardless of the events. [2]

3.4 Full free-response task. A novel devotes ninety pages to a single dinner and four pages to the twenty years that follow it. The dinner is narrated minute by minute; the twenty years are summarised in a list of things that “happened, as such things do”.

Write an essay that analyses how the novel's pacing shapes its meaning.

Marked on the AP 6-point rubric: **Row A — Thesis (1), Row B — Evidence and Commentary (4), Row C — Sophistication (1).**

[6]
