

8.2 The function of contrasts within a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS paradox 悖论 • situational or verbal irony 情境反讽与言语反讽
• irony and paradox 反讽与悖论

Objective

Build the skills to explain **irony and paradox** 反讽与悖论.

You must be able to:

- state what juxtaposition may create
- define situational and verbal irony
- define paradox in the CED's terms
- distinguish paradox from contradiction

1 Worked examples

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

■ Antithesis

Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate an antithesis — a direct opposition set up by placing two things side by side.

■ Irony

Situational or verbal irony is created when events or statements in a text are inconsistent with either the expectations readers bring to a text or the expectations established by the text itself. Two possible sources of the expectation.

■ Paradox

Paradox occurs when seemingly contradictory elements are juxtaposed, but the contradiction — which may or may not be reconciled — can reveal a hidden or unexpected idea.

■ Paradox and contradiction

The CED writes **seemingly** contradictory, and adds that the contradiction may or may not be reconciled. A paradox is worth analysing because something is revealed by holding the two together, whether or not they resolve.

2 Practice

2.1 Define situational or verbal irony in the CED’s terms. [2]

2.2 Define paradox and state what it can reveal. [2]

2.3 Expectations come from two sources.

(a) Name them. [2]

(b) State what “seemingly” contributes to the definition of paradox. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Juxtaposition may create or demonstrate [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** an antithesis
 - B** a rhyme
 - C** a stanza
 - D** a narrator

3.2 The CED says a paradox’s contradiction [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** may or may not be reconciled
 - B** must be reconciled
 - C** can never be reconciled
 - D** is always an error

3.3 A poem calls silence “the loudest answer”.

(a) Name the device. [1]

(b) Explain what holding the two terms together reveals. [2]
