

8.8 Developing commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 19 marks**

KEY WORDS sophisticated poetry commentary 高层次评述

Objective

Build the skills to write **sophisticated poetry commentary** 高层次评述.

You must be able to:

- state the three sophisticated moves
- explain what 'broader context' means for a poem
- explain why alternative readings are especially apt in poetry
- avoid claiming sophistication without doing the work

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three moves

Explain the significance or relevance of an interpretation within a broader context, discuss alternative interpretations, or use relevant analogies.

■ Broader context

For a poem this usually means what the interpretation shows about how the poem works, or about a problem the poem shares with others — not biography or period background dropped in for its own sake.

■ Alternative readings

8.3 established that ambiguity allows different readings. Poetry therefore supplies alternatives constantly, and acknowledging one is often the most natural sophistication move available.

■ Not a claim

Writing “this is significant because it reflects the human condition” claims significance without establishing it. The move must actually connect the reading to something outside it.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three sophisticated moves. [3]

2.2 Explain what “broader context” usually means for a poem. [2]

2.3 Sophistication must be done, not claimed.

(a) State the failure mode. [2]

(b) State why alternatives are especially apt in poetry. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Claiming an interpretation “reflects the human condition” [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A claims significance without establishing it
B is a strong move
C is required
D is an analogy

3.2 Alternatives are especially available in poetry because of [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A ambiguity
B rhyme
C brevity
D metre

3.3 An essay ends by naming a rival reading and saying why its own explains more.

- State which move this is. [1]
- Explain why it belongs at the end. [2]

3.4 Full free-response task. A poem addresses a photograph of the speaker's grandmother as a young woman. The first twelve lines describe the photograph in the present tense. The last four switch to the past tense and address the grandmother directly, using her first name — a name the speaker says she has never spoken aloud.

Write an essay that argues an interpretation of the poem, developing a **sophisticated** line of reasoning.

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

[6]