

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

- an interpretation of a literary text requiring defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning explained by commentary

2.2

- the writer knows the chosen text well, so the risk is writing what they know rather than what the prompt asked

2.3

(a)

- ask whether the thesis could stand unchanged under a different prompt

(b)

- the prompt's own terms, redescribed as a claim about this text

3.1 A

- the novel

3.2 A

- what you know about the novel

3.3

(a)

- it may be a good claim about the wrong question

(b)

- rewrite it so the prompt's terms appear as part of the claim, keeping the interpretation but pointing it at what was asked

3.4

- *Row A — Thesis (1)*. A **literary argument** thesis: interpretive, defensible, and about the work's meaning rather than its plot. **Earns it:** "The play makes the promise binding precisely because it was foolish — keeping it is the only thing that remains of the person who made it, and the work asks whether that is loyalty or vanity." **Does not:** "In this novel, the character keeps a promise and it goes badly, which shows that promises can be harmful." *Row B — Evidence and Commentary (0–4)*. Evidence must be **specific to the work** — a named scene, a decision, a line — not a plot summary, and commentary must connect each piece to the interpretation. Four points requires a line of reasoning that develops: what the promise cost when made, what it costs when kept, and what the work does with the gap between them. A frequent cap at 3 is an essay whose evidence is accurate and abundant but whose

commentary restates the thesis after each example instead of advancing it. *Row C — Sophistication (1)*. Earned by placing the interpretation in a **broader context** the work supports — a moral tradition, a social expectation, a competing value — or by holding a genuine tension rather than resolving it early. A concluding paragraph that suddenly generalises about “human nature” does not earn the point