25 Compare two texts without merging their claims

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS cross-text comparison • inference • evidence • interpretation

Objective

- Identify each author's claim and degree of certainty separately
- Explain agreement, disagreement or qualification on the same issue
- Predict one author's response using their stated reasoning

Original public practice; marks below are classroom self-check points, not official criteria.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

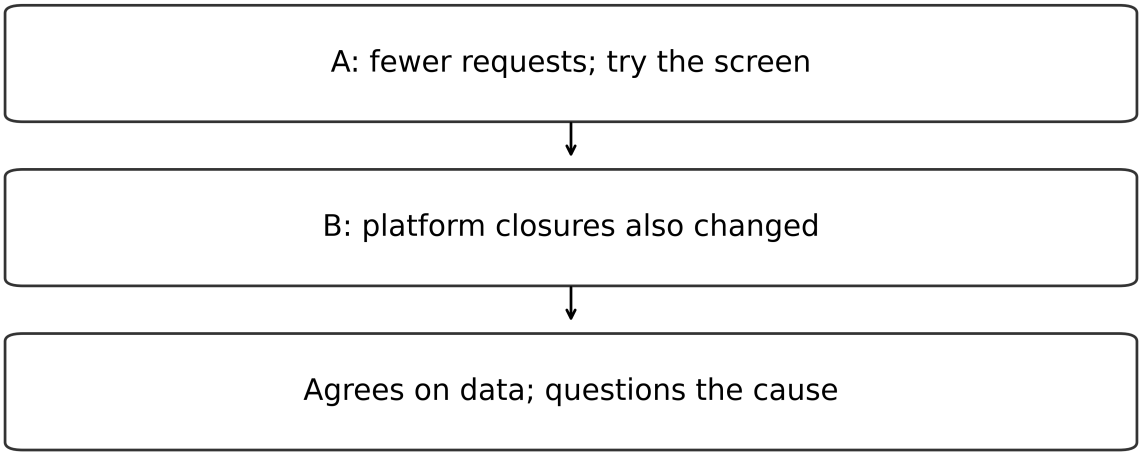
Build a brief claim record for each text: topic, position, evidence and limit. Keep the speakers separate. If Text 1 reports a possibility and Text 2 reports a concern, a response that makes both certain has altered both positions.

Compare claims about the same relationship, not just shared vocabulary. Agreement may concern a benefit while disagreement concerns generalisation. One text may supply evidence absent from the other rather than directly contradict it. Identify exactly which proposition is supported, challenged or narrowed.

When asked how one author would respond, use that author's reasoning and scope. Do not choose your preferred opinion or a compromise that neither text supports. A response can acknowledge the other text's evidence while resisting its broad conclusion if that matches the stated limitation.

Check every clause of the answer. A choice may describe Text 1 correctly and misrepresent Text 2, or identify a real disagreement then exaggerate its importance. Trace each assertion back to its source. The final choice must accurately connect both texts, not merely summarise one.

Cross-text comparison connects claims about the same issue. "Signs reduced wrong turns" and "lighting also changed during the trial" can coexist. The second statement challenges a causal explanation, not necessarily the recorded reduction.



Worked steps: A: fewer requests; try the screen → B: platform closures also changed → Agrees on data; questions the cause

Worked example. Original Text 1: "A trial in one gallery found that longer labels increased the time visitors spent at exhibits, suggesting that detailed labels can promote engagement." Original Text 2: "Time spent reading does not necessarily indicate deeper engagement; visitors may be trying to understand unclear wording." Text 2 would question whether time alone supports Text 1's engagement inference , not deny that the trial recorded more time.

■ Practice material

Text A. During a two-week trial, a station displayed route information on a large screen. Requests for platform directions fell from 60 in the preceding fortnight to 36. The screen seems a promising way to help travellers find their platforms, and other stations should consider a trial.

Text B. Fewer requests were recorded during the screen trial, but several platforms were closed for repairs at the same time. The remaining journeys may have been easier to navigate. Before treating the screen as the explanation, compare similar periods with the same platform arrangement. A further trial is reasonable if it separates these changes.

2 Practice

2.1 Text 1: maps helped navigation in one park. Text 2: the result may differ in larger parks. Their relationship is: [1]

- **A** Text 1 discusses only weather.
- **B** Text 2 limits generalisation of Text 1's result.
- **C** Text 2 proves no map helps anywhere.
- **D** Both claim all parks are identical.

2.2 One author accepts a measured increase but questions its cause. This is: [1]

- **A** Agreement about the only cause
- **B** An unrelated vocabulary dispute
- **C** A challenge to interpretation
- **D** A denial of every measurement

2.3 Before comparing, keep each author's _____ separate. [1]

2.4 Shared subject matter guarantees that two authors agree. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

Use the complete original case context in section 1.

3.1 Identify one agreement and the precise disagreement or qualification. [3]

3.2 How would B most likely respond to “The screen caused a 40% reduction at every station”? Check every part of the claim. [3]

3.3 Propose evidence that would address B’s concern, and explain why interviewing the screen’s designer about its colour would not. [3]

Solutions

Accept equivalent correct methods and supported interpretations. The marks check reasoning; they are not an official grade.

2.1 B – Text 2 concerns scope, not denial of the original result. A changes the subject to weather; C turns a scope caution into universal failure; D contradicts the concern about different parks.

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.2 C – Observation and explanation can be evaluated separately. A wrongly identifies agreement about causation; B changes the issue to vocabulary; D confuses accepting measurements with denying them.

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.3 claim – Attributing one author's view to the other distorts the comparison.

Correct response linked to the given case.

2.4 False – They may interpret the same subject differently.

Correct response linked to the given case.

3.1 Both accept that recorded requests fell and allow a further trial. B questions attributing the reduction to the screen because platform closures also changed navigation. B does not claim the screen certainly fails.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence. Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.

3.2 The observed reduction is $(60 - 36)/60 = 40\%$ at one station, but B would reject the causal certainty and every-station scope. The simultaneous closures leave an alternative explanation and no observations at other stations are supplied.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence. Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.

3.3 Compare otherwise similar periods or randomised station trials with matched platform arrangements, recording requests and traveller numbers. This addresses confounding and rates. A colour preference interview does not isolate the screen's navigation effect.

Sound conclusion or proposed method. Relevant supporting steps or textual evidence. Accurate conditions, checks or qualification.