

Comparing Viewpoints

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

State each writer's overall viewpoint in one sentence.

Step 1 · Source A

Railway travel is unnatural, noisy and dehumanising; he will not travel by train again.

Step 2 · Source B

The commuter train is imperfect but precious, because it gives her peace and time.

Step 3 · Combine

A rejects the train; B, despite complaints, loves it.

Answer: Opposite overall attitudes: rejection versus affection.

Check: Each viewpoint is a judgement, not a topic.

2. Now try one with the steps

Compare how each writer opens.

Step 1 · Source A

Step 2 · Source B

Step 3 · Compare

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. How many times has the writer of Source A travelled by railway? Write the number. [1]

2. How many minutes is the Source B writer's journey? Write the number. [1]

3. What speed does Source A complain about? Write the number of miles per hour. [1]

4. Name two complaints about the 7.42 in Source B. [2]
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5. What is the difference between a viewpoint and a perspective? [2]
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6. Give one similarity between the two writers' views. [1]
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7. Why does Source B's writer admit the critics are 'not wrong' before praising the train? [2]
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8. What method is 'What is the purpose of a journey, if one arrives without having travelled?' and what is its effect? [2]
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9. Write a comparative sentence about the two writers' overall attitudes using 'whereas'. [2]
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10. Explain how 'we, who call ourselves its masters, sit meekly' reveals Source A's perspective. [3]
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11. Compare the effect of A's list 'It roars, it shrieks, it fills the sky with filth' with B's list 'the reservoir ..., then the allotments, then the backs of terraced houses'. [3]
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12. Why does the Source B writer love the tunnel? [1]
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13. How might each writer's era shape their perspective? [2]
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14. Why is a point-by-point structure better than writing about Source A then Source B?

[2]

4. Before you hand it in

Comparing only what the writers say, not how they say it.

In every paragraph: view + method + effect, for both sources.

Writing 'Source A is negative and Source B is positive' and stopping.

Refine: 'B admits the train is crowded and late, but values the peace it brings.'

Forgetting perspective.

Add a sentence on each writer's situation, era or experience.

Pairing unrelated methods.

Pair methods that do similar jobs, such openings or two figurative images.