

Language Analysis

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Analyse: 'The abandoned house sagged under years of neglect.'

Step 1 · Point

The writer presents the house and defeated.

Step 2 · Evidence

The verb 'sagged'.

Step 3 · Analysis

'Sagged' personifies the house; its connotations of drooping suggest hopelessness and decay, so the reader pities it.

Answer: Point → 'sagged' → personification of exhaustion and decay.

Check: Zooms in on one verb and explores its effect.

2. Now try one with the steps

Analyse the simile 'like a hanged thing' (paragraph 2).

Step 1 · Method

Step 2 · Connotations

Step 3 · Effect

Answer:

3. Practice

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

1. What is the difference between a simile and a metaphor? [2]

2. Identify the technique: 'The wind whispered through the trees.' [1]

3. What are connotations? [1]

4. Name two verbs from paragraph 1 of the passage that personify the storm. [2]
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5. Which simile is used for the light bulb in paragraph 2? [1]
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6. Explain why analysing one word in depth scores better than naming many techniques. [2]
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7. Analyse the effect of 'clawed' in: 'The branches clawed at her coat.' [2]
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8. What is a semantic field? Give one from the passage. [2]
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9. What effect does the opening simile 'the way a debt collector does: without knocking' create? [2]
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10. Analyse 'the corrugated roof shrieked and buckled'. [3]
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11. Why might the writer say the sea had been 'chained to' the land 'all summer'? [2]
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12. Give two possible readings of 'a gull laughed'. [2]
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13. How does sentence length change in paragraph 3, and what is the effect? [2]
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14. Write one analytical sentence on how the writer presents Kemi's fear, using a short quotation. [2]
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4. Before you hand it in

Feature-spotting: 'The writer uses a simile and personification.'

Always explain the effect: what does it make the reader think or feel, and why that word?

Quoting long chunks

Use short, precise quotations, ideally single words or short phrases.

Generic effects: 'It makes the reader want to read on.'

Name the specific feeling or image created.

Analysing paragraph order in a language-only question.

Keep to language features unless the question also asks for structure.