

Structure Analysis

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

A text opens with a wide view of a storm, then focuses on one boat. Explain the structural effect.

Step 1 · Feature

A wide, panoramic opening.

Step 2 · Shift

The focus zooms in to a single boat.

Step 3 · Effect

The narrowing draws the reader's attention to the boat, making us care about its fate within the vast storm.

Answer: Wide → narrow turns abstract danger into personal danger.

Check: Tracks the shift and explains the effect.

2. Now try one with the steps

Track the focus through 'First Light'.

Step 1 · Paragraph 1

Step 2 · Paragraph 2

Step 3 · Paragraph 3

Step 4 · Paragraphs 4–5

Answer:

3. Practice

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

1. What does 'structure' mean when analysing a text? [2]

2. Name three structural features a writer might use. [2]

3. What is meant by a text 'zooming in'? [1]

4. For how many years had Mr Haddad baked every morning? Write the number. [1]

5. In which paragraph does the flashback happen? Write the number. [1]

6. How should structure analysis differ from language analysis? [2]

7. What is the effect of opening with 'the town was still a sketch'? [2]

8. Why does the writer zoom from the town to 'one window'? [2]

9. What does 'too early for customers' add to the structure at the turning point? [2]

10. Explain how the flashback changes the effect of the ending. [3]

11. Why might a writer end an extract on direct speech? [2]

12. A story opens with a calm scene, then suddenly shifts to chaos. Analyse this choice. [3]

13. What is a cyclical structure and why might a writer use one? [2]

14. Write one sentence on how the structure of 'First Light' interests the reader. [2]

4. Before you hand it in

Analysing word choices when the question asks about structure.

Track openings, shifts, time and endings across the whole text.

'The writer uses a flashback.' (and stopping)

Explain why it is placed there and what it makes the reader feel or realise.

Writing about the text in order with no structural terms.

Label each shift (zoom, flashback, turning point) and its effect.

Ignoring the ending.

Always comment on how and why the text ends where it does.