

Question 2

Language Paper 1

WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

- It is a language question that will ask 'How does the writer use language to describe X'
- 8 marks
- Time to take: 10 minutes

DIFFERENT LANGUAGE TECHNIQUES

- Adjectives
- Verbs
- Adverbs
- Abstract nouns
- Connotations
- Imagery
- Plosives
- Sibilance
- Juxtaposition
- Oxymoron

See our language technique sheet for more

DOs

- Do answer the question first. If you're being asked "How does the writer present the weather" decide 3-5 key words that would answer the question. (They present the weather as fierce, powerful etc).
- Do use these key words to help you then find examples that support your ideas.
- Do look for language techniques inside of those quotes.
- Do look for low level techniques: adjectives, verbs, abstract nouns.
- Do also look for higher level techniques: symbolism, personification and metaphors. Both low level and high level techniques are worth exploring.
- Do go to town on your analysis. This is where your marks are gained. Dig deep. We're impressed when a candidate can think outside of the box a little and consider two alternative perspectives.

DON'Ts

- Do not look for language techniques first - examiners know when you're 'spotting' them because your answers don't seem genuine or make sense.
- Do not mention context here ... it's amazing how many students do this.
- Not explain your idea fully.
- Just pick out a technique and not explain the effect of a technique.

THE MARK SCHEME	WHAT IT MEANS:
<p>Shows perceptive and detailed understanding of structural features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyses the effects of the writer's choices of structural features Selects a range of judicious examples Makes sophisticated and accurate use of subject terminology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the language technique create meaning- WHY does it show what you said Short, embedded quotes Make sure you understand what the language technique is and what it does (e.g. plosives are the d, t, p and b letters and they make harsh sounds)

AQA model example

EXAMPLES	WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WELL
<p>The phrase 'too choked with expectation' uses the abstract noun 'expectation' to symbolise all the excitement of the city and his new life there, as if it were food he can barely swallow. The prospect is almost 'too' overwhelming, 'too' thrilling. The suggestion of food could link back to eating 'meat' in the previous sentence, suggesting that Ugwu cannot literally or metaphorically absorb the rich food or new experiences on offer in the city, which emphasises, by comparison, the poverty of his own life up until now.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded quote 1 • Embeds technique 1 and suggests what it symbolises • Embeds quote 2 to support point • Links ideas together • Gives a deep insightful point regarding the character
<p>The writer develops the image of the mulberry tree as a dominating and supernatural force in the garden. Adjectives like 'massive' and 'twisted' establish the authoritative size and complexity of the tree and this is further developed with the simile 'like a gigantic malformed hand'. This personifies the tree and gives it a sense of deliberate intent, as if it rules over the elements of the garden around it. The 'hand' could imply a supernatural power that has a sinister influence over the rest of the garden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear point • Gives two examples to back up their point and says what it shows • Uses another quote and technique to back up point • Another technique and gives insightful idea • Zooms into word and gives meaning
<p>The writer employs an extended metaphor of power and strength to describe the Tyrannosaurus Rex. He says it 'towered' over the trees, the verb 'towered' suggesting that the huge creature is imposing itself on its jungle surroundings from a great height, and intimidating everything beneath it. It is personified as a 'great evil god', implying the Tyrannosaurus Rex is an all-powerful being without mercy, and also a 'terrible warrior', an image that conveys the idea of an invincible fighting machine destroying everything in its wake.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses technique to explain their point • Embeds quote and technique, says what it suggests • 2nd technique and quote and what it implies • 3rd technique and quote and what it conveys
<p>The writer uses the adjective 'golden' to suggest Mr Fisher has a nostalgic and romanticised view of books of the past. He thinks the world was full of stories which 'ran like gazelles and pounced like tigers', metaphorically conveying that not only were there many fast-paced stories but also that they ambushed the imagination so that the reader was totally immersed in the words on the page. The writer personifies the stories as 'illuminating minds and hearts' to imply that Mr Fisher believes every part of the reader was affected: not only did the stories reach the reader mentally but they captivated them emotionally, as if under a spell.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses technique and evidence to explain point • Uses another quote to back up point and explains in detail the effect • Technique 2 + evidence 2 and what it implies • Further analysis on evidence 2

WHAT THE ABOVE ALL DO WELL:

- Embed the quotes and techniques
- Use 2-4 embedded quotes (some analysed, some to back up point)
- Analysis always explained in detail

Structure for your question 2

We've created a little structure to help you tick off what the mark scheme wants. We'd recommend revising the structure and practice using it on unseen extracts. See how much detail you can go into in 10 minutes.

Remember: Think of 3-5 key words that would answer the question and use these to help you find examples

Point

Technique + Evidence

Analysis (embed another quote)

Technique 2 + Evidence 2

Analysis

Zoom in on word + technique + analysis

X2 (second without the zoom)

Sentence starters

- The writer develops an image of.../ the writer conveys.../ the writer depicts.../ the writer portrays...
- The adjective "insert quote".../ the personification on "insert quote".../ the simile "insert quote".../ can use any language technique
- Symbolising.../ suggesting.../ establishing.../ indicates.../ is emblematic of.../ this implies.../ this conveys.../ this showcases.../ this highlights.../ this demonstrates.../ this reinforces.../ this compounds...
- The harsh plosive on "insert quote".../ the joyous image of "insert quote".../ the adverbs "quote" and "quotes"...
- Symbolising.../ suggesting.../ establishing.../ indicates.../ is emblematic of.../ this implies.../ this conveys.../ this showcases.../ this highlights.../ this demonstrates.../ this reinforces.../ this compounds...
- The diction on "insert quote".../ the lexis on "insert quote".../ the verb "insert quote"

Example:

Extract from November 2019 paper:

If there are few moments in life that come as clear and as pure as ice, when the mountain breathed back at her, Zoe knew that she had trapped one such moment and that it could never be taken away. Everywhere was snow and silence. Snow and silence; the complete arrest of life; a rehearsal and a pre-echo of death. She pointed her skis down the hill. They looked like weird talons of brilliant red and gold in the powder snow as she waited, ready to swoop. I am alive. I am an eagle.

HOW DOES THE WRITER USE LANGUAGE HERE TO DESCRIBE ZOE'S FEELINGS

You could include the writer's choice of:

- Words and phrases
- Language features and techniques
- Sentence forms.

The writer develops an image of utter liberation in the exploration of Zoe's feelings. A semantic field of freedom is created through the adjectives "pure" and "alive", this symbolising how Zoe feels she is freed in the untainted landscape that surrounds her, enhancing the idea that she feels utterly liberated as she is so peaceful and at one with nature in the moment, she wants to it to be "never taken away". This is compounded through the metaphor "I am an eagle" as through comparing herself to a bird, one that is free and unconstrained, she feels in this moment that there are no human limitations placed upon her and she is free in the serenity of her surroundings. The animalistic verb on "swoop" conveys how although Zoe feels this liberation, she is almost igniting her predatory senses, perhaps suggesting that she feels she is the most liberated when she resembles an animal opposed to a human- this tranquil setting makes her feel this way.

Furthermore, a sense of contentedness and togetherness is established. The personification "when the mountain breathed back at her" implies how Zoe feels a sense of togetherness with nature, so much so, it appears alike to a human companion in this "complete arrest of life"- she feels as if nature is alive around her, protecting and nurturing her. The repeated alliterative phrase "snow and silence" compounds this contentedness as it places emphasis on despite it being desolate, there is this serenity and tranquillity surrounding her; she feels united with the "silence" and is not threatened by it in this vast landscape.

Breaking it down

Paragraph 1

□ **Point**

□ **Technique and Evidence**

□ **Analysis (embed another quote)**

□ **Technique 2 and Evidence 2**

□ **Analysis**

□ **Zoom in on word + technique + analysis**

The writer develops an image of utter liberation in the exploration of Zoe's feelings. A semantic field of freedom is created through the adjectives "pure" and "alive", this symbolising how Zoe feels she is freed in the untainted landscape that surrounds her, enhancing the idea that she feels utterly liberated as she is so peaceful and at one with nature in the moment, she wants to it to be "never taken away". This is compounded through the metaphor "I am an eagle" as through comparing herself to a bird, one that is free and unconstrained, she feels in this moment that there are no human limitations placed upon her and she is free in the serenity of her surroundings. The animalistic verb on "swoop" conveys how although Zoe feels this liberation, she is almost igniting her predatory senses, perhaps suggesting that she feels she is the most liberated when she resembles an animal opposed to a human- this tranquil setting makes her feel this way.

Paragraph 2

□ **Point**

□ **Technique and Evidence**

□ **Analysis (embed another quote)**

□ **Technique 2 and Evidence 2**

□ **Analysis**

Furthermore, a sense of contentedness and togetherness is established. The personification “when the mountain breathed back at her” implies how Zoe feels a sense of togetherness with nature, so much so, it appears alike to a human companion in this “complete arrest of life” - she feels as if nature is alive around her, protecting and nurturing her. The repeated alliterative phrase “snow and silence” compounds this contentedness as it places emphasis on despite it being desolate, there is this serenity and tranquillity surrounding her; she feels united with the “silence” and is not threatened by it in this vast landscape.