

GCSE AQA GCSE English Language

Paper Two, Question Four



KnowIT

Question Fact File

- How many marks is this question worth?
- How long (approximately) should you spend on this question?
- Which texts will this question be on?
- What is the focus of this question?

Understanding Ideas and Perspectives

Whilst it is important that you know what these texts are about, it is just as important for you to understand what the writer's perspective is.

This means that you understand what they think about whatever the focus of the question is. Think of the text as them expressing an opinion. You need to decide what their opinion is.

Take an exam paper and read the Q4 and the two texts. After you have read through each text, write a short sentence that sums up what you think their opinion is on the focus on the question.

Comparing Ideas and Perspectives

Once you have decided on the opinion of the writers in the two texts, this question then wants you to decide on what is similar, different or both about the writers' perspectives.

It does not matter if you only write about similarities or only write about differences or you write about a few of both. What does matter is that you attempt to compare.

List four words that are useful for comparison.

Now go back to your text and task and use all four of these words as you attempt to compare the perspectives of the writers in the two texts.

Writer's Methods

Once you have decided what the writer's viewpoint is you then need to explore the methods that the writer has used to show their point of view.

Writer's methods are any techniques (language or structure) that they have used deliberately to help support their ideas.

There are a huge amount of methods that writers use but a simple place to start is in AFORREST. This will help you to remember a few.

List what methods each of the letters in AFORREST could stand for.

Quoting Methods

When you have spotted similarities or differences in the writers' viewpoints you have then got to find quotes that show the methods that the writers have used.

If one writer is sad about something you need to find a method he has used (such as emotive language) to prove it. Similarly, in the other text if the writer is also sad about something you must find a method he has used to prove you are correct. It may, or may not, be the same method. These will be your quotes.

Using any exam paper read through the task and the texts and decide on one similarity or difference.

Then find a method that the writer has used and a quote that proves what you are saying is true.

Commenting on Methods

When you have identified and quoted a method that the writer has used you then need to ensure that you are making a comment on why you think the writer selected that particular method to help him express his opinion.

So, if the writer used a list – why pick a list?

Go back to your AFORREST list of methods.

Give a reason why you think that someone might use each of these methods.

Now return to the methods that you selected from the two texts. Why has this writer used this method here to help him express his opinion?

Bringing It All Together

You will need an exam paper for this one.

Using the skills that you have practised you are going to have a go at answering a Q4 on your own. If you use these skills accurately you should be able to get 5 – 8 marks.

1. What are the writers' perspectives on the question's focus?
2. Find four similarities or differences in the writers' perspectives.
3. For each similarity or difference attempt to name a method (and quote it) used by the writer that shows their opinion.
4. Comment on why you think the writer used these methods.