Drama Questions Categories

Most questions can be put into categories. This is a helpful way of thinking about the questions that you can do for each text.

By looking for patterns in the questions, you can have a list of topic sentences and quotations in your head that could work for more than one essay.

This doesn’t always work – the questions aren’t exactly the same. However, If you have plans for certain types of essay in your head it is easier to adapt them to a slightly different question, rather than have no idea what you might want to say.

All drama questions begin with the following rubric

Answers to question on drama should refer to the text and to such relevant features as characterisation, key scene(s), structure, climax, theme, plot, conflict, setting…

**Character**

1. Choose a play in which a central character is slow to understand fully the seriousness of his or her behaviour.

Explain how this situation has developed and discuss how the character’s behaviour influences your overall assessment of him or her.

1. Choose a play where a central character experiences rejection or isolation or loneliness.

Explain how the dramatist makes you aware of the character’s situation and discuss how it adds to your understanding of character and/or theme in the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a central character feels uncertain about their position in their family/society/workplace.

Briefly explain the reasons for their uncertainty and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a central character struggles to cope with social convention, financial difficulties or family duties.

Briefly explain the reasons for the character’s struggle and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of this struggle enhances your understanding of character and/or theme in the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a major character’s actions influence the emotions of others.

Briefly explain how the dramatist presents these emotions and actions and discuss how this

contributes to your understanding of the play as a whole

**Character –Error of Judgement**

1. Choose from a play a scene in which you consider a character makes a significant error of judgement.

Briefly explain the nature of this error of judgement and discuss how this error and its consequences influence your understanding of character and/or theme in the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a character makes a vital error.

Briefly explain the reasons for their error and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

**Conflict between two characters**

1. Choose a play in which there is tension between two characters.

Briefly explain the root of this tension and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a power struggle between two characters is an important feature.

Briefly explain how the dramatist establishes the power struggle and discuss how this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which the conflict between two characters is an important feature. Briefly explain the nature of the conflict and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of the feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

**Theme**

1. Choose a play which explores one of the following: the nature of heroism, the impact of self -delusion, the burden of responsibility.

Discuss how the dramatist explores this central concern through her or his presentation of one or more than one character.

1. Choose a play in which an important part is played by one of the following: crime, punishment, retribution.

Explain how the dramatist explores the issue and discuss its importance to your understanding of character and/or theme as a whole.

1. Choose a play which features one of the following conflicts: traditional values versus modern thinking; duty versus self-interest; delusion versus self-awareness.

Explain how the dramatist presents this conflict and discuss how this contributes to your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play which explores an important issue or issues within society.

Briefly explain the nature of the issue(s) and discuss how the dramatist’s presentation of

the issue(s) contributed to your appreciation of the play as a whole.

**Specific Scenes**

1. Choose a play in which the opening scene(s) effectively introduce the central concerns of the play.

By referring in detail to the opening scene(s) discuss in what ways it’s important for your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose from a play a scene which you find amusing or moving or disturbing.

Explain how the scene provokes this response and discuss how this aspect of the scene contributes to your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which a scene acts as a clear turning point.

By referring in detail to the turning point, discuss in what ways it is important for your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which emotions of one or more than one character reach a clear climax.

By referring in detail to the climax, discuss in what ways it is important for your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which the concluding scene provides effective clarification of the central concerns.

By referring in detail to the concluding scene, discuss in what ways it is important for your understanding of the play as a whole.

1. Choose a play in which there is a scene involving a moment of conflict or of resolution to

conflict.

By referring to details of the scene, explain how the dramatist presents this moment and

discuss how this contributes to your appreciation of the play as a whole.

**Setting**

1. Choose a play in which setting in time and/or place is an important feature. Explain how the dramatist exploits aspects of the setting in a way which enhances your understanding of the central concerns of the play as a whole.
2. Choose a play in which the setting is an important feature.

Briefly explain how the dramatist establishes the importance of the setting and discuss how this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.