

# RUA Formula

## Own Words

These questions require you to show you understand what the passage means by putting it into your own words. You can do this in three easy steps:

- 1) Look at how many marks the question is worth. Each mark is a point you have to make.
- 2) Find and highlight each section of the text that you will use in your answer.
- 3) Explain this information ENTIRELY in your own words.

## Word Choice

These questions require you to discuss why the author has chosen a specific word and what impact it has. You can do that using this formula:

- The writer uses effective word choice in [quote]
- This literally means [tell me what it means]
- The word has connotations of [tell me the connotations]
- This has the effect of [what do the connotations suggest?]

## Imagery

These questions need you to identify an example of imagery and explain why it is effective. Your imagery options are:

**Simile** – a comparison using the word ‘like’ or ‘as’: ‘he was as cold as ice’

**Metaphor** – a comparison where something **is** something else: ‘she is a little angel.’

**Personification** – when a non-living thing is described as having human qualities: ‘the sky wept’.

For these questions the formula is:

- The writer is using [ identify technique ] to compare [ what is being compared ] to [ what it is being compared to ]
- This is effective because, Just as [ Identify the similar features of what is being compared ] so too does [ Highlight how the other item shares these traits ]
- YOU MAY NEED A THIRD BULLET POINT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE QUESTION.

## Linking

These questions ask you to identify how a phrase links to the rest of the passage. The formula is:

- [Quote from the section] links back to [whatever it links to]
- [2nd quote from the section] links forwards to [whatever it links to]

# Sentence Structure

The basic formula for these questions is:

- The writer is using the technique of [name of the technique] in [quote where the technique is]
- The use of [name of the technique] here [state the impact of the technique]
- [Relate back to passage & question]

There are a number of techniques these questions can require you to identify. These include:

## **Parenthesis ( ) - - , , [ ]**

- Used to add extra information.

## **Exclamation Marks !**

- Used to emphasise an emotion.

## **Question Marks**

- Used to create a rhetorical question (where the answer is obvious) or to demonstrate genuine uncertainty.

## **Repetition**

- Used to emphasise an idea or argument.

## **Lists**

- Used to emphasise the quantity/quality of something (Remember you must comment on whether it is a lot/little or a good/bad quality).

## **Inverted Commas ‘ ’**

- Used to highlight that the writer is giving someone else's opinion or using someone else's opinion.

## **Short Sentences**

- Used to add emphasis or give a point impact.

## **Long Sentences**

- Used to create a climax and build to an important idea.

# Tone

These questions ask you to identify the writer's tone (eg humorous, sarcastic, sympathetic etc.). You can comment on word choice, imagery or sentence structure. The formula for these questions is SEA:

- **State it:** state the writer's tone (emotive; critical; humorous; ironic...)
- **Evidence it:** quote words and phrases which help create this tone.
- **Analyse it:** explain how the writer's use of language (**word choice, imagery, sentence structure** –use these words if you can) achieve this tone. Tone is normally created through content (ideas, word choice, imagery).

# Attitude

These questions require you to identify how the writer feels towards a certain aspect (positive or negative). For these questions you can comment on word choice, imagery or sentence structure. You can do this by:

- The writer has a [ positive OR negative ] attitude to [ what ever you are talking about ]
- We are made aware of this when the writer uses [ name the technique ] in [ quote the technique ].
- This highlights that [ explain how the technique works and link to attitude ]

# Context

These questions ask you to explain what a word means based on the words/phrases around it. The formula for this is

- [Quote the word] means [give a definition of the word].
- The words [quote the words/phrases which helped you figure out its meaning] helped me work this out because [explain how the words helped you figure it out].

# Evaluation

These questions require you to evaluate how effective an introduction or conclusion is. Remember that an introduction is often trying to introduce the topic/ link to further in the passage/ hook the reader in. Conclusions are often trying to summarise the article's main points/ link back to previous sections or the introduction/ tie up the article. The basic formula for these questions is:

- [Quote]
- The introduction/conclusion is effective because [explain how the quote shows it is effective]