

SQA Specimen Paper

1. Choose a play in which a central character struggles to cope with social convention of 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.
2. 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.
3. Choose a play in which the conflict between two characters is an important feature.
Briefly explain the nature of this conflict and discuss how the dramatist's presentation of this feature enhances your understanding of the play as a whole.

Model Paper 1

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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Model Paper 2

1. Choose a play in which a character shows signs of instability at one or more than one key point in the play.
Explain the reason(s) for the character's instability and discuss how this feature adds to your understanding of the central concern(s) of the text.
2. Choose a play in which an important part is played by one or more than 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 in the play as a whole.
3. 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.

Model Paper 3

1. Choose a play in which 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 concern(s) of the play as a whole.