

N5 Close Reading Formulae



The guidelines below will gain one mark each, if done correctly. If the question is worth 2 or more marks, you MUST work through the formula again for every extra mark available. It is suggested you write in concise bullet points rather than full sentences throughout the paper.

Understanding Questions

ALL understanding questions should be answered **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**! If you lift answers straight from the passage without changing them into **YOUR OWN WORDS** as far as possible, you will lose the mark. This includes general questions you can't assign to a formula below.

Many of these questions will ask you to summarise points made in the passage. It is essential your answers are concise (to the point), as you don't have enough time to write huge paragraphs. Bullet points work well.

Context Question

1. Give the meaning of the word
2. Quote a word or a phrase from the context
3. Explain how this word/ phrase helps you understand the meaning of the original word.

Linking Question

1. Quote the words that link back to ideas in the previous paragraph.
2. Explain how this connects with the argument or ideas in the previous paragraph.
3. Quote the words which link to the following paragraph or move the argument forward.
4. Explain what the author goes on to write about in the following paragraph.

Imagery Question

1. Identify the image (what is being compared to what?)
2. Give the literal meaning of the image (Just as...)
3. Explain the connection between the two (so too...)
4. Explain the effect of the image

Word Choice Question

1. Quote a word/ phrase
2. Give the connotations of the word or phrase (what it makes you think of/ what you associate with the word).
3. Explain what this suggests about the writer's argument or what they are describing.

Sentence Structure Question

1. Identify a sentence structure technique and where it occurs in the passage (you may put the line number or quote the words)
2. Explain the impact of using the sentence structure technique/ how it adds to the writer's argument.
3. Look out for:
 - Statement
 - Question/ rhetorical question
 - Exclamation
 - Command
 - Minor sentence
 - Punctuation
 - List
 - Parenthesis
 - Inversion
 - Climax or anti- climax
 - Antithesis
 - Etc



Language Question

Language questions want you to focus on word choice, imagery, tone and structure. Sometimes the paper will identify specific techniques it wants you to analyse. Remember to keep your **WITS** about you.

1. Identify the language feature you will be dealing with and follow the formula for that type of question.

REMEMBER: the more you study and complete past papers,
the more familiar you will become with the formulae.

