

Exercise walk-through

Textual details that convey setting ■ 1.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the CED's definition of setting at this level
- distinguish setting from description of place
- explain why time is half the definition
- select details that establish setting

Method — The definition

Setting includes the time and place during which the events of the text occur.

At this stage the definition is deliberately simple; 3.3 widens it.

Method — Setting and description

A description of a room is a detail; the setting is what the details together establish about **when** and **where**. Several details can establish one setting.

Method — Time

Time is half the definition and the half students most often drop. “A city” is not a setting; “a city on the night of a curfew” is.

Method — Selecting details

Look for what fixes time (clothes, technology, speech, references to events) and what fixes place (landscape, buildings, weather, language). One clear detail of each is worth more than a list.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the CED's definition of setting.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

the time **B1** and place during which the events of the text occur **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Distinguish a detail of place from a setting.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a detail of place describes one thing **B1**; a setting is what details together establish about when and where **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Students often drop half the definition.

- (a) State which half.
- (b) Name two kinds of detail that fix it.

Solution 2.3

Method: Time

Worked steps

(a) time **B1**. (b) any two of: clothes; technology; speech; references to events **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Setting includes place and

- A** time
- B** narrator
- C** conflict
- D** theme

Solution 3.1

Method: The definition

A time



B narrator

C conflict

D theme

Worked steps

A. time is the other half.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“A city” is not yet a setting because it lacks

- A** a time
- B** a character
- C** a plot
- D** an author

Solution 3.2

Method: Time

A a time



B a character

C a plot

D an author

Worked steps

A. no time is fixed.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A story mentions oil lamps, a horse and a telegram.

- (a) State what these details establish.
- (b) Explain how the reader uses them.

Solution 3.3

Method: Setting and description

Worked steps

(a) a period, roughly **B1**. (b) the reader combines them to date the events **B1**, since no single detail is decisive on its own **B1**.