

Exercise walk-through

Textual details that convey setting ■ 3.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- state how the definition of setting widens here
- name the three dimensions added
- explain why social situation is part of setting
- distinguish setting from background

Method — The widening

1.2 said time and place. **3.3 adds: setting includes the social, cultural and historical situation during which the events of the text occur.**

Method — Three dimensions

Social: how people are ranked and related. **Cultural:** what is believed, expected, permitted. **Historical:** what has happened and is happening beyond the text.

Method — Why social

A character's options are set by their social situation as much as by the room they stand in. In a long text, setting in this sense is what makes a decision difficult.

Method — Not background

Background is what a summary mentions once. Setting in the full sense acts on the plot: it supplies obstacles, permissions and expectations that the characters must work within.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State how the definition of setting widens from 1.2.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

1.2 gave time and place **B1**; 3.3 adds the social, cultural and historical situation **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name the three added dimensions and define one.

Solution 2.2

Method: Three dimensions

Worked steps

social, cultural and historical **B1**; e.g. cultural is what is believed, expected or permitted **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Setting is not background.

- (a) State the difference.
- (b) State why social situation matters to a plot.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) background is mentioned once **B1**; setting supplies obstacles, permissions and expectations the characters work within **B1**. (b) it sets what a character's options actually are **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The dimensions added at 3.3 are social, cultural and

A historical

B grammatical

C metrical

D editorial

Solution 3.1

Method: Three dimensions

A historical



B grammatical

C metrical

D editorial

Worked steps

A. historical.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Setting in the full sense

A acts on the plot

B is mentioned once

C is irrelevant

D replaces character

Solution 3.2

Method: Not background

A acts on the plot



B is mentioned once

C is irrelevant

D replaces character

Worked steps

A. it acts on the plot.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A character cannot marry whom she chooses.

- (a) State which dimension of setting is at work.
- (b) Explain how setting creates the conflict.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) the social and cultural situation **B1**. (b) the setting defines what is permitted **B1**, so the character's wish collides with it and becomes a conflict **B1**.