

Past-paper walk-through

Developing a literary thesis statement ■ 9.6

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 1 Q3 ■ 6 marks
- 2025 Set 2 Q3 ■ 6 marks
- 2024 Set 1 Q3 ■ 6 marks
- 2024 Set 2 Q3 ■ 6 marks
- 2023 Set 1 Q3 ■ 6 marks
- 2023 Set 2 Q3 ■ 6 marks

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 3

2025 Set 1 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. In many works of literature, characters may be significantly affected by memories of the past. A character may be inspired by the past, haunted by the past, unable to let go of the past, or motivated by the past to craft a better future. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character is significantly affected by a memory. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of the memory on the character contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. **[6]**

Solution 3

- Literary argument essay (6 points). Prompt: In many works of literature, characters may be significantly affected by memories of the past. A character may be inspired by the past, haunted by the past, unable to let go of the past, or motivated by the past to craft a better future. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character is significantly affected by a memory. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of the memory on the character contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Solution 3

- Scoring rubric — Row A (Thesis, 0-1 pt): 1 pt — responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that presents an interpretation or a position. | Row B (Evidence and Commentary, 0-4 pts): 1 pt — provides mostly general evidence; 2 pts — provides some specific relevant evidence with commentary that mostly repeats it; 3 pts — provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning, with commentary that explains how the evidence supports the line of reasoning; 4 pts — as for 3 pts, and consistently explains how the evidence supports the line of reasoning, explaining how multiple pieces of evidence support the argument. | Row C (Sophistication, 0-1 pt): 1 pt — demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or develops a complex understanding of the rhetorical or literary situation, e.g. by explaining significance within a broader context, discussing alternative interpretations, or employing a vivid and persuasive style.

Solution 3

- General notes: responses are first drafts; award points for what the response does, not for length or polish.

Question 3

2025 Set 2 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. Many works of literature feature a character who holds a secret that can have broader implications for that character or other characters. For example, such secrets may create conflict, provide a source of consolation, protect characters from reality, or allow one character to manipulate other characters. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which an important character holds a secret that affects that character's relationship with one or more other characters. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the effect of the character's secret contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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Solution 3

- Literary argument essay (6 points). Prompt: Many works of literature feature a character who holds a secret that can have broader implications for that character or other characters. For example, such secrets may create conflict, provide a source of consolation, protect characters from reality, or allow one character to manipulate other characters. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which an important character holds a secret that affects that character's relationship with one or more other characters. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the effect of the character's secret contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Solution 3

- Scoring rubric — Row A — 1 pt: Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation of the | Row B — 2 pt: Provides some specific, relevant | Row C — 1 pt: Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or develops a complex literary
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Question 3

2024 Set 1 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. Many works of literature feature a character who may be reluctant to make a decision, unable to make a decision, or is resistant to doing so. This indecision can have broader implications for that character or other characters. Such implications may include changes to a character's relationships, social and/or financial stability, well-being, or any other aspects of the character's existence. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character delays or avoids making a decision. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of this indecision contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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Solution 3

- Literary argument essay (6 points). Prompt: Many works of literature feature a character who may be reluctant to make a decision, unable to make a decision, or is resistant to doing so. This indecision can have broader implications for that character or other characters. Such implications may include changes to a character's relationships, social and/or financial stability, well-being, or any other aspects of the character's existence. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character delays or avoids making a decision. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of this indecision contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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Question 3

2024 Set 2 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. Many works of literature explore a character's sense of lacking something important in life. The character perceives an unfulfilled need which may be emotional, spiritual, financial, or something the character does not understand or cannot articulate. Either from your own reading or from the following list, choose a work of fiction in which such a feeling is explored. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the character's sense of an unfulfilled need contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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Solution 3

- Literary argument essay (6 points). Prompt: Many works of literature explore a character's sense of lacking something important in life. The character perceives an unfulfilled need which may be emotional, spiritual, financial, or something the character does not understand or cannot articulate. Either from your own reading or from the following list, choose a work of fiction in which such a feeling is explored. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the character's sense of an unfulfilled need contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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Question 3

2023 Set 1 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. In many works of literature, characters choose to reinvent themselves for significant reasons. They may wish to separate from a previous identity, gain access to a different community, disguise themselves from hostile forces, or express a more authentic sense of self. Either from your own reading or from the following list, choose a work of fiction in which a character intentionally creates a new identity.

Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the character's reinvention contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. **[6]**

Solution 3

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Question 3

2023 Set 2 ■ Q3 ■ 6 marks

Literary Argument. Many works of literature feature a rebel character who changes or disrupts the existing state of societal, familial, or political affairs in the text. They may break social norms, challenge long-held values, subvert expectations, or participate in other forms of resistance. The character's motivation for this rebellious behavior is often complex. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character changes or disrupts the existing state of societal, familial, or political affairs. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the complex motivation of the rebel contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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