

3.3 Textual details that convey setting

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS setting 场景 • conflict 冲突

Objective

Build the skills to read **setting** 场景 in its full sense.

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

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ 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.**

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State how the definition of setting widens from 1.2. [2]

2.2 Name the three added dimensions and define one. [2]

2.3 Setting is not background.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) State why social situation matters to a plot. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The dimensions added at 3.3 are social, cultural and [1]

- **A** historical
- **B** grammatical
- **C** metrical
- **D** editorial

3.2 Setting in the full sense [1]

- **A** acts on the plot
- **B** is mentioned once
- **C** is irrelevant
- **D** replaces character

3.3 A character cannot marry whom she chooses.

(a) State which dimension of setting is at work. [1]

(b) Explain how setting creates the conflict.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 1.2 gave time and place; 3.3 adds the social, cultural and historical situation.

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

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

3.1 A. historical.

3.2 A. it acts on the plot.

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