

5.1 The function of structure in a text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS open forms 自由诗体 • closed and open form 定型与自由体 • closed forms 格律诗体

Objective

Build the skills to explain **closed and open form** 定型与自由体.

You must be able to:

- define closed and open forms
- state what open forms may still have
- state the CED's exam note about labels
- explain what 'structures combine' means

1 Worked examples

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

■ Closed forms

Closed forms of poetry include predictable patterns in the structure of lines, stanzas, meter, and rhyme, which develop relationships among ideas in the poem.

■ Open forms

Open forms may not follow expected or predictable patterns in the structure of their lines or stanzas, but they may still have structures that develop relationships between ideas. Open is not unstructured.

■ The exam note

“The AP Exam will not require students to label or identify specific rhyme schemes, metrical patterns, or forms of poetry.” Naming a sonnet earns nothing; explaining what its turn does earns everything.

■ Combining

Structures combine in texts to emphasise certain ideas and concepts. Rhyme, line length and stanza shape act together, so an analysis of one in isolation is thinner than the poem.

2 Practice

2.1 Define closed and open forms. [2]

2.2 State the CED’s exam note about labels. [2]

2.3 “Open” is not “unstructured”.

(a) Explain why. [2]

(b) State what “structures combine” means. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The AP Exam will not require students to [1]

- **A** label rhyme schemes, metrical patterns or forms
- **B** read poems
- **C** quote poems
- **D** write essays

3.2 Open forms may still have structures that [1]

- **A** develop relationships between ideas
- **B** rhyme perfectly
- **C** count syllables
- **D** repeat stanzas

3.3 A student’s answer names a poem’s form and stops.

(a) State what is missing. [1]

(b) Explain what the CED's note implies about marks.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 closed forms use predictable patterns of lines, stanzas, meter and rhyme; open forms may not follow predictable patterns but may still have structures developing relationships between ideas.

2.2 the exam will not require students to label or identify specific rhyme schemes, metrical patterns or forms of poetry.

2.3 (a) an open-form poem may still arrange lines and stanzas to develop relationships between ideas, so it has structure without a predictable pattern. (b) rhyme, line length and stanza shape act together to emphasise ideas.

3.1 A. the CED's own note.

3.2 A. relationships between ideas.

3.3 (a) what the form does in this poem. (b) the label itself is not assessed, so the marks lie entirely in explaining the structure's effect.