(New) Higher Past Paper Prose Questions

Answers to questions on Prose Fiction should refer to the text and to such relevant

features as characterisation, setting, language, key incident(s), climax, turning point, plot, structure, narrative technique, theme, ideas, description . . .

Specimen Paper

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a disturbing or violent incident.

Explain briefly what happens during this incident and discuss to what extent the

disturbing or violent nature of the incident is important to your understanding of

the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which a specific location or setting is crucial to the

plot.

Discuss how the writer makes you aware of the setting’s importance and how this

feature is used to enhance your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which a central character is presented as a

menacing or threatening presence.

Discuss how the writer’s presentation of this character adds to your understanding

of the text as a whole.

2015

1. Choose a novel or short story in which the method of narration is important.

Outline briefly the writer’s method of narration and explain why you feel this method makes such a major contribution to your understanding of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a moment of significance for one of the characters.

Explain briefly what the significant moment is and discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, its significance to the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story which has a satisfying ending.

Discuss to what extent the ending provides a successful conclusion to the text as a whole.

2016

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a central character to whom you react with mixed feelings.

With reference to appropriate techniques, briefly explain why you react to the character in this way and discuss how this reaction adds to your understanding of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story that deals with a theme of moral or social significance.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer develops this theme and discuss why its development adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which the choice of setting is central to your appreciation of the text.

Briefly explain how the writer effectively creates setting and, with reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer’s presentation of the setting is central to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2017

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a character who experiences rejection or isolation.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain the rejection or

isolation, and discuss how this aspect adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story which has an effective opening or conclusion.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain why the opening or conclusion is

effective and discuss how it adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story which deals with the theme of love or loss or redemption.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer develops this theme, and discuss how it adds to your understanding of the text as a whole.

2018

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a complex character for whom the reader has some sympathy.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain the nature of the complexity and discuss how your response to this character adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2. Choose a novel or short story in which important human values are explored.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how these values are explored and discuss how this adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

3. Choose a novel or short story in which the setting in time and/or place is important to your understanding of the text.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain the nature of the setting and discuss how it is important to your understanding of the text as a whole.

2019

1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a character who could be considered responsible for their own suffering and/or fate.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain the extent of the responsibility and discuss how this contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story which conveys a particularly pessimistic or inspiring message.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain the nature of the message and discuss how this contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which an incident is significant in relation to the central concerns of the text.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain why the incident is significant and discuss how it adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2021

1. Choose a novel or short story in which the opening or the ending has particular significance.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain briefly why the opening or the ending is significant and discuss to what extent it is important to your understanding of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which a central relationship is important to your understanding of the text.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer develops this relationship and discuss how it adds to your understanding of the text as a whole.

1. Choose a novel or short story in which a theme is highlighted through the experiences of a central character.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the experiences of the central character highlight the theme and discuss how this aspect contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2022

1. Choose a novel or short story which deals with the theme of betrayal or sacrifice or loss. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain the writer’s presentation of the theme and discuss how it contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2. Choose a novel or short story in which one of the main characters does not always fit in with their society and/or surroundings.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain the character’s situation and discuss how it contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

3. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a powerful ending.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain briefly why the ending is powerful and discuss how it contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2023

1. Choose a novel or short story in which a character has to make an important decision or deal with a difficult situation.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain what the important decision or difficult situation involves and discuss how this contributes to your understanding of the text as a whole.

2. Choose a novel or short story which explores love or isolation or conflict.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the exploration of love or isolation or conflict contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

3. Choose a novel or short story in which the setting in time and/or place is important to your understanding of the text.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain why the setting is important and discuss how this contributes to your understanding of the text as a whole.