Evaluation (Paper 1 Q4)

GCSE English Language • Grades 4–8

WORKED SOLUTIONS

Name: worked example Class: _____ Total: 63 / 63

Show all your working. Marks are given for correct method as well as the final answer.

1. Write down what question 4 actually asks you to do. **[2 marks]**

it is an OPINION question
describing the extract scores nothing

Answer: say how far you agree, and back it with the text

2. Write down the three parts of a good evaluation paragraph. **[3 marks]**

say what you think first
prove it with the text
then explain HOW the writer creates it

Answer: judgement, quotation, explanation of the effect

3. Explain why *I agree because it is a good description* scores no marks. **[2 marks]**

no quotation, and good explains nothing

Answer: there is no evidence and no analysis

4. Write down how many detailed points are usually better than many brief ones in this question. **[2 marks]**

depth is credited, not coverage

Answer: three or four, each explained fully

5. Write down one detail that shows Maya is frightened. **[1 mark]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

a physical sign of fear

Answer: her hands will not stop shaking

6. Explain why checking the rope *for the fourth time* is effective. **[3 marks]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

once is sensible, four times is anxiety
the writer shows the fear instead of naming it
show not tell is worth saying by name

Answer: the number shows she is stalling

7. Explain the effect of the simile *patient as a shut door.* **[3 marks]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

a shut door is something that refuses entry
patient makes it feel indifferent
so the rock becomes an obstacle with a will of its own

Answer: ____ the rock seems closed to her and in no hurry____

8. Explain why the writer mentions the car park. **[3 marks]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

she said it loudly, where everyone could hear
so backing out now means public embarrassment
the fear is social as well as physical

Answer: ____ it shows she has an audience to fail in front of____

9. Explain the effect of ending on *very far away indeed.* **[3 marks]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

indeed is not needed for the meaning
it slows the line down
which mirrors how the distance feels to her

Answer: ____ it stretches the sentence out like the drop____

10. Explain how the short sentence *She had told them she was ready* contrasts with the one after it. **[4 marks]**

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

the claim is stated plainly and briefly
then the repetition of She had said it undercuts it
the gap between the two is where the tension sits

Answer: ____ it sets up what she claimed against what is true____

11. Write an opening sentence that makes a clear judgement about the statement. **[3 marks]**

> A student said: *"The writer makes Maya's fear feel completely real. You understand exactly why she cannot move."*

start with your position, not with the writer uses
largely or partly is fine -- it shows thought

Answer: ____ I largely agree, because the fear is shown physically____

12. Explain why disagreeing with part of the statement can earn MORE marks than agreeing with all of it. **[3 marks]**

you understand exactly why is a strong claim
arguing that her reasons stay partly hidden is defensible
and defending it is what evaluation means

Answer: ____ a balanced judgement shows critical thinking____

13. Write down two phrases that signal a judgement rather than a description. **[2 marks]**

others: the writer succeeds in, this is less convincing

Answer: ____ this is effective because, I partly agree____

14. Explain why you should quote briefly rather than copying a whole sentence. **[2 marks]**

the marks are for the explanation, not the copying

Answer: ____ a short quotation leaves room to analyse it____

15. Write down roughly how long you should spend on question 4 and why. **[2 marks]**

match the time to the marks
it is worth as much as Q2 and Q3 together

Answer: ____ about 20 minutes, because it is worth 20 marks____

16. Explain what *methods* means in the phrase *the writer's methods*. **[2 marks]**

not just words: sentence forms and ordering count

Answer: ____ language, structure and form choices____

17. Write down what a band-4 answer does that a band-2 answer does not. **[3 marks]**

band 2 describes and asserts
band 4 makes a judgement and proves how it is created

Answer: ____ it evaluates critically and analyses the methods____

18. Using the extract and the statement, plan a full answer.

> A student said: *"The writer makes Maya's fear feel completely real. You understand exactly why she cannot move."*

(a) Write your overall judgement in one sentence. **[3 marks]**

I largely agree: the fear is made physical and
social, though her reasons stay unspoken.

(b) List three pieces of evidence you would use. **[4 marks]**

1. for the fourth time -- stalling
2. her hands would not stop shaking -- the body betrays her
3. where everyone could hear -- the social trap

Answer: ____ a clear judgement plus three explained quotations____

19. Write one full evaluation paragraph on the simile *patient as a shut door*.

> *Maya checked the rope for the fourth time. Above her the rock face leaned out, patient as a shut door. She had told them she was ready. She had said it loudly, in the car park, where everyone could hear. Now her hands would not stop shaking, and the ground behind her had begun to feel very far away indeed.*

(a) State your judgement about how effective it is. **[2 marks]**

This is the most effective image in the extract.

(b) Explain how it creates that effect. **[4 marks]**

A shut door is an everyday obstacle, so the enormous rock face is made to feel personal and deliberate. Patient gives it indifference: it is not threatening Maya, it is simply waiting, which makes her panic feel small and unheard.

Answer: *judgement, then how the image creates it*

20. A student writes: *The writer makes it very tense. There are lots of good descriptions which make you want to read on.*

(a) Explain the two main weaknesses of this answer. **[3 marks]**

no quotation, so nothing is proved
good and tense are assertions, not analysis
it could be written about any text at all

(b) Rewrite it as a proper evaluation. **[4 marks]**

The tension comes from what Maya does not say. Checking the rope for the fourth time shows her stalling without ever naming her fear, so the reader works it out ahead of her -- which is far more uncomfortable than being told.

Answer: *no evidence, no analysis ; quote, judge, explain*

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