



Theme – Revision

Full list of questions, organised by type: Theme or Issue

Questions which focus on key moments / dramatic or interesting moments in texts:

1. “Important themes are often expressed in key moments in texts” Compare how the authors of the three comparative texts studied by you used key moments to heighten your awareness of an important theme.
2. “There are key moments in a text when a theme comes sharply into focus” Discuss.
3. “The dramatic presentation of a theme or issue can add greatly to the impact of narrative texts”
4. “Exploring a theme or issue through different texts allows us to make interesting comparisons”
 - (a) Choose a theme from 1 text you have studied & say how it helped maintain your interest in the text. (30)
 - (b) Compare how the theme is treated by the authors of 2 other texts to maintain the reader’s interest. (40)
6. (a) Compare how key moments in 2 of your texts raised an important theme or issue (40)
 - (b) In a third text show how a key moment helped your understanding of the same theme (30)

Questions on what you’ve learned from studying this theme (personal & universal insights)

1. “Studying a theme or issue enables a reader to form both personal and universal reflections on that theme or issue” Discuss in relation to two or more texts.
2. “A reader’s view of a theme or issue can be either changed or reinforced through interaction with texts.”
3. “A theme or issue explored in a group of narrative texts can offer us valuable insights into life”

4. “The comparative study of a theme or issue allows the reader to gain a variety of viewpoints on that theme or issue”

(a) Describe the viewpoint on your chosen theme in one text you have studied.

(b) Compare the viewpoint on the same theme in your other two texts. (40)

5. “The study of a theme or issue can offer a reader valuable lessons and insights.”

(a) Identify and discuss at least one valuable lesson or insight that you gained through the study of a theme or issue in one text on your comparative course.

(b) Compare at least one valuable lesson or insight that you gained, from studying the same theme or issue (as discussed in (a) above), in two other texts on your comparative course. The valuable lesson or insight may be the same, or different, to the one discussed in (a) above.(40)

Questions on the extent to which the issue is resolved:

1. “In many texts, a theme or issue may not be resolved to the complete satisfaction of the reader”

2. (a) Discuss the extent to which a theme or issue is resolved to your satisfaction in one text on your comparative course.

(b) Compare the extent to which the same theme or issue is resolved to your satisfaction in two other texts on your comparative course.

Structuring your answer

You should aim to write on **three points** in your essay.

Introduction

- Name the texts and the authors.
- Clearly state the theme you have studied.
- Give your response to the question and list the subheadings which you believe answer the question.

Paragraph One

- Discuss the first text under the first subheading.
- Begin with a general statement about the subheading
- Use a key moment or moments to support your point.

- Include relevant quotation.

Paragraph Two

- Discuss the second text under the first subheading, comparing and contrasting it to the points you made about the first text.
- Begin with a general statement about the subheading in which you outline the main differences/similarities: Make sure that your statement explains how the subheading answers the question.
- Qualify/refine this statement by saying to what extent this is true in each of the texts.
- Compare and contrast with the points you made in the first paragraph.
- Use key moments and quotations to support your points.

NB: Your comparisons must be relevant. Compare key moments and make sure you discuss how the same aspect of the theme is similar or different to the first / second text

Paragraph Three

- Discuss the third text under the same subheading.
- Begin with a general statement in which you outline the main similarities/differences between all three texts.
- Use key moment/s and quotation to support your points.
- End this last paragraph with a statement which once again links all texts under the subheading and explains how the points made have answered the question.

Overview

- ✓ Your essay should be eleven paragraphs in length.
- ✓ Remember, some of the paragraphs may be quite long, but this is not a problem.
- ✓ Conclusion should refer back to the question and reflect on what you have learned through your study of the theme.

Structure

Introduction – 1 paragraph

Subheading 1 – 3 paragraphs

Subheading 2 – 3 paragraphs

Subheading 3 – 3 paragraphs

Conclusion – 1 paragraph



You should aim to write on **three points** in your essay.

Below is an outline of some the **subheadings on the THEME OF IDENTITY** which you may wish to consider for your three texts:

- Characters can assume a false identity in order to escape a world in which they do not feel they belong or in order to fit in with those they admire
- Characters can have a moment of revelation about their identity
- While accepting one's identity and being true to oneself is desirable, it does not guarantee complete happiness. It may require sacrifices of oneself and others.
- Characters can experience different levels of success in establishing their own identity.
- Third parties can be instrumental in helping a character to establish their identity or forcing them to face up to it. Such interventions can be well-intentioned or malicious.
- Sometimes a character needs to strike out on their own in order to establish their identity.
- The author's treatment of the theme influences our view of that theme
- The ending of the text gives us an insight into the theme

Below is an outline of some the **subheadings on the THEME OF ESCAPE** which you may wish to consider for your three texts:

- Characters wish to escape a world in which they do not feel they belong
- Characters need the support of those around them if they are to escape
- Accepting reality, however unpleasant, can help a character's chance of escape
- The author's treatment of the theme influences our view of that theme
- The ending of the text gives us an insight into the theme