

National 5 Past Prose Essay Questions

Answers to questions in this part 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 . . .

Choose a novel or short story in which there is an interesting character.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author makes the character interesting.

Choose a novel or short story in which the writer creates a realistic or convincing character.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the writer creates this character, and say why you find him or her to be realistic or convincing.

Choose a novel or short story or a work of non-fiction which explores a theme which you find interesting.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the writer explores this theme.

Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which has a key incident.

Give a brief account of the incident, and by referring to appropriate techniques, show how this incident is important to the text as a whole.

Choose a novel or short story in which there is a character involved in some form of conflict.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the character comes to be involved in this conflict and how the conflict develops throughout the text.

Choose a novel or a short story which has a character who has to struggle with difficulties.

Describe what these difficulties are and go on to explain how the character tries to deal with these difficulties.

Choose a novel or a short story which has a character who provokes a strong reaction in you.

Describe how you feel about this character and show how the writer leads you to feel so strongly about the character.

Choose a novel or short story which presents you with an interesting place or topic.
Briefly identify the place or topic and go on to show how the writer makes it interesting for you.

Choose a novel or a short story which has an incident involving tension.
Describe briefly what happens at this point in the story and go on to show how it is important to the outcome of the story as a whole.

Choose a novel or a short story which deals with a powerful human emotion such as: love, hatred, jealousy, despair, etc . . .
Show how the powerful emotion affects at least one of the characters and go on to show how it affects the outcome of the story.

Choose a novel or a short story which deals with a serious aspect of life.
State what this serious aspect is and go on to show how the writer deepens your understanding of it.

Choose a novel or a short story in which there is conflict between two characters.
Examine the nature of the conflict and explain to what extent it is resolved.

Choose a novel or a short story with a message which is still relevant today.
Show how the author's portrayal of events and character(s) highlight the author's message.

Choose a novel or a short story which made a strong impact on you.
Explain how the writer's use of language creates this impact.

Choose a novel or a short story where there is an incident which is a turning point crucial to the fate of the main character.
Briefly describe what happens at this point and go on to explain why this is crucial to the fate of a main character.

Choose a novel or a short story in which setting in place and/or time is an important feature.
Briefly describe the setting(s) and explain the importance of this feature to the story.

Choose a novel or a short story which deals with an important human issue such as the abuse of power, conflict between good and evil, loss of freedom or hatred between individuals or groups.
Show how the author reveals the issue through the portrayal of people and events throughout the text, and show how your understanding of the issue has deepened.