

Analysis and criticism of creative texts (including literature)

This represents the approach more common at an upper secondary and university level. It concerns more formal, intellectual reactions.

Aspects analysed include the significance of events in a novel, treatment of the same themes in different works and other links between them; the extent to which a work follows conventions, and more global evaluation of the work as a whole. Key concepts operationalised in the scale include:

- ▶ comparing different works;
- ▶ giving a reasoned opinion of a work;
- ▶ critically evaluating features of the work, including the effectiveness of techniques employed.

Progression up the scale is characterised as follows: there are no descriptors for A1 and A2. Until B2, the focus is on description rather than evaluation. At B2, the user/learner can analyse similarities and differences between works, giving a reasoned opinion and referring to the views of others.

At C1, analysis becomes more subtle, concerned with the way the work engages the audience, the extent to which it is conventional, whether it employs irony.

At C2, the user/learner can recognise finer linguistic and stylistic subtleties, unpack connotations and give more critical appraisals of the way in which structure, language and rhetorical devices are exploited in a work of literature for a particular purpose.

ANALYSIS AND CRITICISM OF CREATIVE TEXTS (INCLUDING LITERATURE)

C2

Can give a critical appraisal of work of different periods and genres (novels, poems, and plays), appreciating subtle distinctions of style and implicit as well as explicit meaning.

Can recognise the finer subtleties of nuanced language, rhetorical effect, and stylistic language use (e.g. metaphors, abnormal syntax, ambiguity), interpreting and 'unpacking' meanings and connotations.

Can critically evaluate the way in which structure, language and rhetorical devices are exploited in a work for a particular purpose and give a reasoned argument on their appropriateness and effectiveness.

Can give a critical appreciation of the deliberate breach of linguistic conventions in a piece of writing.

C1

Can critically appraise a wide variety of texts including literary works of different periods and genres.
Can evaluate the extent to which a work meets the conventions of its genre.
Can describe and comment on ways in which the work engages the audience (e.g. by building up and subverting expectations).
Can compare two works, considering themes, characters and scenes, exploring similarities and contrasts and explaining the relevance of the connections between them.
Can give a reasoned opinion about a work, showing awareness of the thematic, structural and formal features and referring to the opinions and arguments of others.

Can evaluate the way the work encourages identification with characters, giving examples.

B2

Can describe the way in which different works differ in their treatment of the same theme.

B1

Can point out the most important episodes and events in a clearly structured narrative in everyday language and explain the significance of events and the connection between them.

Can describe the key themes and characters in short narratives involving familiar situations that are written in high frequency everyday language.

A2 Can identify and briefly describe, in basic formulaic language, the key themes and characters in short, simple narratives involving familiar situations that are written in high frequency everyday language.

A1 No descriptors available

Pre-A1 No