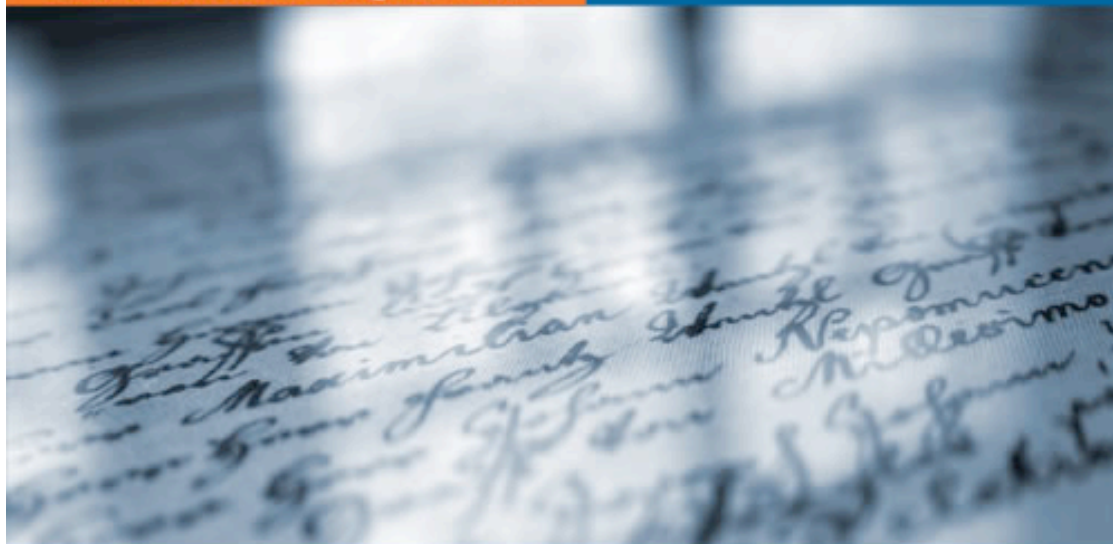


REVISE

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ENGLISH

Junior Certificate - Higher Level

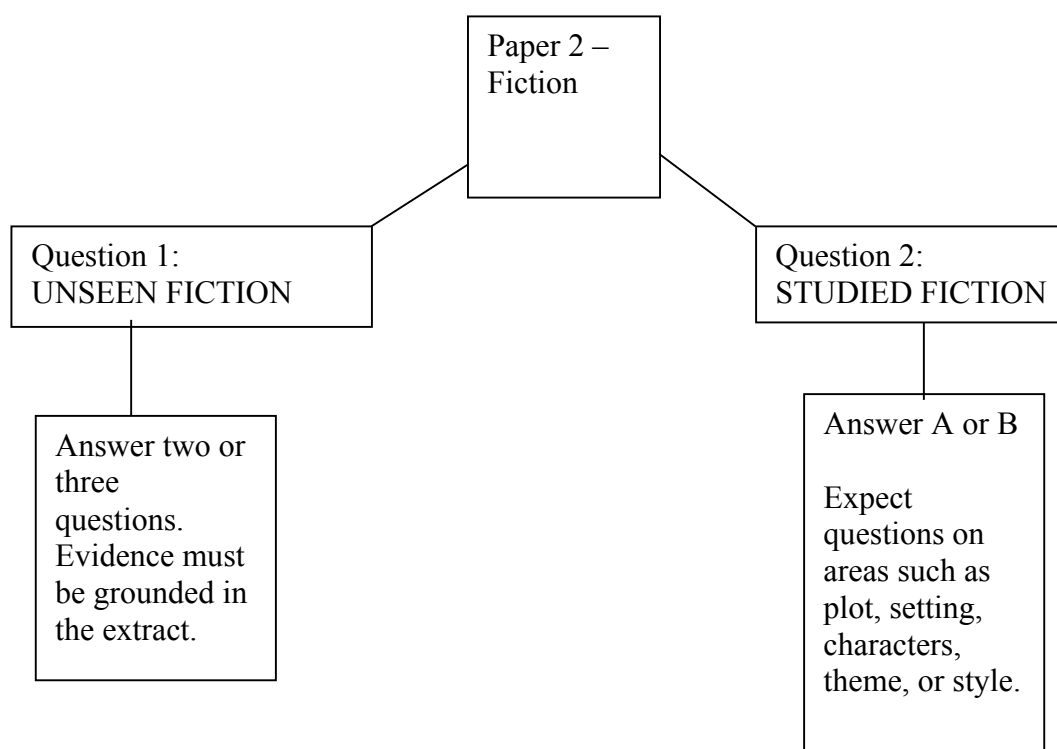


STUDY GUIDELINES: FICTION

Paper 2 – Fiction

Study Guidelines

The third section to appear on Paper 2 of the Higher Level exam paper is the Fiction Section. The structure of the Fiction Section may be summarised as follows:



You have to answer two questions in the Fiction Section.

For Question 1 in the Fiction Section, you will be given an extract from a novel or short story. You may be asked to answer two or three questions. Your answer must be based on the extract before you.

Question 2 is based on a novel (or short story) which you have studied in class. You will be given two questions and you must answer one of them

Unseen Extract

Questions on the unseen extract may focus on the following:

- Character
- Relationship
- Setting,
- Plot
- Language
- Writer's style
- Narrator and point of view
- Conflict

You may also be asked to suggest what you dislike or like about the extract.

In discussing the writer's style, you should explore areas such as:

- does the writer use simple or complex sentences?
- does the writer use formal or conversational language?
- is the extract easy to read or is it peppered with technical terms and jargon?
- does the writer make use of vivid description?
- are there examples of imagery in the passage
- do you find the extract entertaining, informative, amusing, humorous, upsetting – what feature of the writer's style made you feel this way?

You may have to assess the impact of the extract on you or on other readers. You may also be asked if you like or dislike a character in the extract. In answering, remember to make a personal response, but always explain your reasons for liking/disliking the extract/character with reference to the text.

STUDIED FICTION

There will be two questions on Studied Fiction on the exam paper and you answer one of them. Consider both questions carefully before deciding which one to answer. You don't want to change your mind half way through an answer, and then start on the other question. It's much better to take a few minutes to carefully select the question that will allow you to show your understanding of a studied novel or short story.

Questions for Student to Answer

Question:

What is important to know about opening and closing scenes?

Answer:

When you revise your novel or short stories, consider the following:

- What was the function of the opening and closing scenes?
 - Did the characters described in the opening scenes also appear in the closing scene?
 - What impression of the novel/story's setting did you get from the opening scene
 - What did you learn about the main characters in the opening scene – were your first impressions correct?
-

Question:

What should be taken into consideration when studying the plot of a novel?

Answer:

There are usually **four stages** in a plot:

- **Situation (beginning):** Characters introduced, problems hinted at.
- **Complications:** As the story develops, characters face challenges, experience conflict.
- **Crisis/climax:** Action reaches a turning point or highest point of tension. The crisis brings about a change in the story.
- **Resolution (ending):** The story is wrapped up, happily or unhappily.

In **novels** there tends to be more than one main plot. This is because novels usually have more characters than short stories do.

These secondary plots are known as **sub-plots**. They will usually connect with the main plot at some point in the narrative. (They are also found in drama, particularly Shakespearean drama.)

Focus on the following key areas:

- What were the key moments in the plot?
 - Which part of the plot did you find most enjoyable?
 - Was the conflict in the plot, emotional or physical or both?
 - Can you describe and discuss one example of major conflict in the novel
 - Did you think the resolution of the plot was satisfactory?
 - Was the plot credible or did it rely heavily on unlikely coincidences?
-

Question:

Discuss the importance of setting to a novel?

Answer:

Stories must take place somewhere and at a particular time, too. This can range from a few moments, as in a short story, or over a period of many years, as in some novels.

The action may take place in the past, the present or the future (as in science fiction).

Fiction writers may use setting to:

- Help us understand characters and their actions.
- Give a context to the problems/obstacles they face.
- Create a certain atmosphere or mood.
- Convey the underlying theme or meaning of a story.

Many novels have more than one setting, but it's unlikely that you would be expected to discuss more than one or two settings.

The following questions should be taken into account when discussing the setting of a novel:

- What kind of place did the events of the novel occur in?
 - Did the events occur in the past, present or future time?
 - What were the main values of the community or society?
 - Did the main characters hold these views or fight against them?
 - Did the setting change in the course of the novel?
 - Was the setting a place in which you would like to live?
-

Question:

When building up notes on the main characters in a short story, what points should be noted about each character?

Answer:

Firstly, don't attempt to describe and discuss ten or eleven characters. Focus on a small number of characters, perhaps the hero/heroine of the novel, a villain, one minor character, a character who changed considerably in the course of the novel.

- Can you describe the main characters? – How they dress, speak, act?
- Were the characters credible?
- Which characters could you identify with most?
- Which character would you most/least liked to have been in the novel or story?
- What relationships in the novel were constructive/destructive?
- Was there a character you admired in the novel?
- What characters became involved in conflict?
- How did the characters react to difficult situations?
- Did some characters change as a result of their experiences in the novel/short story?