

English A: Language & Literature

100 Core Questions · All Units

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Q01 MEDIA

What is the primary purpose of a newspaper editorial?

HINT & CONCEPT

An editorial = the paper's official opinion.

- ☐ A To report facts without opinion
- ☐ B To express the newspaper's opinion on a current issue
- ☐ C To entertain readers with fiction
- ☐ D To list classified advertisements

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What does 'audience' mean when analysing a text?

HINT & CONCEPT

Ask: who is this text written FOR?

- ☐ A The people who live near the author
- ☐ B The intended readers or viewers the text is designed to address and affect
- ☐ C The actors who perform the text
- ☐ D The critics who reviewed the text

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

What does the term 'register' mean in linguistics?

HINT & CONCEPT

Think about how you speak differently to a teacher vs. a friend.

- ☐ A The volume of a speaker's voice
- ☐ B The formal or informal style of language suited to a context
- ☐ C A list of vocabulary words
- ☐ D A type of punctuation mark

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

Q04 ORAL

The IB Individual Oral is a discussion based on:

HINT & CONCEPT

One literary + one non-literary text, linked by a global issue.

- ☐ A A prepared speech about the student's favourite book
- ☐ B A literary extract AND a non-literary text both connected to a global issue
- ☐ C A debate between two students
- ☐ D A reading of a poem from memory

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q05 LIT

'Setting' in a literary work primarily refers to:

HINT & CONCEPT

When and where — these shape character and atmosphere.

- ☐ A The moral lesson of the story
- ☐ B The time and place in which the action occurs
- ☐ C The central conflict between characters
- ☐ D The sequence of events

POETRY

Q06 LIT

A 'Shakespearean sonnet' has how many lines?

HINT & CONCEPT

Three quatrains + one couplet = 14.

☐ A 8

☐ B 10

☐ C 14

☐ D 16

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

Q07 LANG

Which of the following best describes a 'dialect'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Dialects are regional or social varieties — think Southern American English vs. British English.

☐ A A language spoken only in one country

☐ B A variety of a language used by a particular community, with distinct vocabulary and grammar

☐ C A foreign language learnt at school

☐ D A form of sign language

POETRY

What is a 'stanza'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Think of a stanza as a poem's paragraph.

- ☐ A A single line of poetry
- ☐ B A group of lines forming a unit in a poem, like a paragraph in prose
- ☐ C The rhythm pattern of a poem
- ☐ D The final couplet of a sonnet

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

What is a 'lingua franca'?

HINT & CONCEPT

English serves this role globally for business and academia.

- ☐ A A dialect spoken only in France
- ☐ B A language used as a common means of communication between speakers of different native languages
- ☐ C A language that is extinct
- ☐ D A language with no written form

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Q10 MEDIA

'Bias' in a media text means:

HINT & CONCEPT

Even choosing WHICH stories to cover is a form of bias.

- ☐ A A text with no point of view
- ☐ B A slant or prejudice that influences how events are presented
- ☐ C A writing technique used in academic essays
- ☐ D A font style used in headlines

DRAMA

Q11 LIT

A 'soliloquy' is when a character:

HINT & CONCEPT

'To be, or not to be' — Hamlet alone on stage.

- ☐ A Speaks privately to another character so no one else hears
- ☐ B Speaks their thoughts aloud alone on stage, sharing inner feelings directly with the audience
- ☐ C Argues with the villain of the play
- ☐ D Delivers the opening speech of the play

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What does 'purpose' mean when analysing a text?

HINT & CONCEPT

Ask: what is this text TRYING to do to its audience?

- ☐ A The length of the text
- ☐ B What the text intends to achieve — to persuade, inform, entertain, move, or provoke
- ☐ C The publication date of the text
- ☐ D The literary form of the text

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

What is the main difference between 'denotation' and 'connotation'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Denotation = what it IS. Connotation = what it FEELS like.

- ☐ A Denotation is informal; connotation is formal
- ☐ B Denotation is the literal dictionary meaning; connotation is the associated, emotional meaning
- ☐ C Denotation is spoken; connotation is written
- ☐ D They mean the same thing

POETRY

Q14 LIT

What is 'alliteration'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Peter Piper picked a peck' — same starting sound.

- ☐ A The repetition of end rhymes in a poem
- ☐ B The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words
- ☐ C A metaphor comparing two unlike things
- ☐ D The musical quality of words in a line

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

Q15 PAPER

In IB Paper 1, what are students primarily asked to do?

HINT & CONCEPT

Unseen text analysis — you haven't read it before.

- ☐ A Write an original creative short story
- ☐ B Analyse unseen texts in terms of language, audience, purpose, and effect
- ☐ C Translate a passage into another language
- ☐ D Memorise literary quotations

DRAMA

Q16 LIT

What are 'stage directions'?

HINT & CONCEPT

They are printed in italics and not spoken aloud.

- ☐ A Lines spoken by the actors on stage
- ☐ B Instructions in a play's script that describe actions, settings, or how lines should be delivered
- ☐ C The title of a scene
- ☐ D The playwright's biography

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q17 LIT

What is the 'narrative perspective' of a story told entirely through 'I'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'I went to the market' — the narrator is also a character.

- ☐ A Third-person omniscient
- ☐ B Second-person
- ☐ C First-person
- ☐ D Third-person limited

DRAMA

Q18 LIT

What is an 'aside' in drama?

HINT & CONCEPT

The character steps out of the action to whisper to the audience.

- ☐ A A long speech that concludes a scene
- ☐ B A remark spoken by a character directly to the audience, unheard by other characters on stage
- ☐ C A second plot running alongside the main plot
- ☐ D A note written in the margin of the script

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

Q19 PAPER

What is the effect of short sentences in a text?

HINT & CONCEPT

Short. Sharp. Punchy. They hit hard.

- ☐ A They make the text harder to read
- ☐ B They create a slow, languid pace
- ☐ C They create urgency, tension, or emphasis — they punch
- ☐ D They indicate the writer ran out of ideas

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

Q20 LANG

'Code-switching' refers to:

HINT & CONCEPT

Bilingual speakers do this naturally when talking to different people.

- ☐ A Translating a text into a code
- ☐ B Switching between two or more languages or dialects in conversation
- ☐ C Changing the font of a written document
- ☐ D Encrypting a message

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q21 LIT

A narrator who knows the thoughts and feelings of ALL characters is called:

HINT & CONCEPT

'Omni' = all; 'scient' = knowing.

- ☐ A Unreliable narrator
- ☐ B First-person narrator
- ☐ C Third-person omniscient narrator
- ☐ D Second-person narrator

POETRY

Q22 LIT

'Simile' compares two things using:

HINT & CONCEPT

'My love is LIKE a red, red rose' — Burns.

- ☐ A Only nouns
- ☐ B 'Like' or 'as'
- ☐ C Without any comparison word
- ☐ D Contrasting adjectives

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q23 LIT

Which of the following is a direct example of 'dialogue'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Dialogue is characters speaking — look for quotation marks.

- ☐ A The city lay silent under grey snow.
- ☐ B She wondered if he had left.
- ☐ C 'Come back,' she whispered.
- ☐ D The war had changed everything about him.

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What is the function of the 'counter-argument' in a persuasive essay?

HINT & CONCEPT

Raise the objection — then knock it down.

- ☐ A To undermine the writer's own position
- ☐ B To acknowledge and then refute an opposing view, strengthening the writer's credibility
- ☐ C To fill space in the essay
- ☐ D To summarise the conclusion

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

'Motif' in literature refers to:

HINT & CONCEPT

A symbol that appears again and again throughout a work.

- ☐ A The central character's main desire
- ☐ B A recurring element — image, idea, or phrase — that carries symbolic weight
- ☐ C The climax of the plot
- ☐ D The rhyme scheme of a poem

What does 'foreshadowing' do in a narrative?

HINT & CONCEPT

Dark clouds before a storm in a story — they warn us.

- ☐ A Explains events that happened before the story began
- ☐ B Gives hints or clues about what will happen later
- ☐ C Interrupts the main plot with a sub-story
- ☐ D Presents two characters with contrasting traits

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What is a 'thesis statement' in an essay?

HINT & CONCEPT

It answers the essay question in one clear, arguable sentence.

- ☐ A The title of the essay
- ☐ B The central argument that the essay will prove, stated clearly in the introduction
- ☐ C A list of texts the student has read
- ☐ D The concluding sentence of the essay

Q28 HL

What is 'allegory'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Animal Farm = the Soviet Union; Napoleon = Stalin — every character represents something.

- ☐ A A poem with no rhyme scheme
- ☐ B A narrative in which characters, events, and settings stand for abstract ideas or moral qualities beyond the literal story
- ☐ C A list of alliterative phrases
- ☐ D A type of stage direction

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

Q29 ORAL

What is a 'global issue' in the context of the IB IO?

HINT & CONCEPT

It must be significant beyond one country and connect meaningfully to both texts.

- ☐ A A local community problem
- ☐ B A significant, relevant issue with transnational impact that connects the two texts being discussed
- ☐ C Any topic the student finds personally interesting
- ☐ D A political argument between nations

Q30 LIT

A story about a man on a literal journey who simultaneously discovers truths about himself is an example of:

HINT & CONCEPT

Outer journey mirrors inner growth.

- ☐ A Epistolary novel
- ☐ B Picaresque only
- ☐ C Quest narrative / bildungsroman
- ☐ D Stream of consciousness

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

Q31 LANG

What is the main concern of 'language endangerment'?

HINT & CONCEPT

It is estimated that half the world's ~7,000 languages may be extinct by 2100.

- ☐ A Languages growing too rapidly
- ☐ B Languages dying out as their last speakers die or shift to dominant languages
- ☐ C Languages being written down for the first time
- ☐ D Languages becoming official in new countries

Q32 LANG

The word 'actress' is replacing with the gender-neutral 'actor'. This change is best described as:

HINT & CONCEPT

The change removes a gendered distinction from the vocabulary.

- ☐ A A phonological change
- ☐ B A semantic narrowing
- ☐ C Gender-neutral language reform
- ☐ D Dialect levelling

POETRY

Q33 LIT

A poem's 'tone' refers to:

HINT & CONCEPT

Is the poet angry? nostalgic? ironic? melancholy? — that's tone.

- ☐ A The volume at which the poem should be read
- ☐ B The poet's attitude toward the subject, conveyed through word choice and imagery
- ☐ C The rhyme scheme of the poem
- ☐ D The number of syllables per line

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

Q34 LANG

Which term describes the attitude that one variety of language is correct and others are inferior?

HINT & CONCEPT

Pre-SCRIB = prescribing rules; it judges 'correct' vs 'incorrect' language.

☐ A Descriptivism

☐ B Prescriptivism

☐ C Relativism

☐ D Formalism

POETRY

Q35 LIT

What is the effect of 'onomatopoeia'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Buzz', 'crash', 'hiss' — the sound IS the meaning.

☐ A It creates a visual image through colour words

☐ B The word sounds like the thing it describes, appealing to the auditory sense

☐ C It repeats sentence structures for emphasis

☐ D It compares two unrelated things indirectly

HL — THEORY & CONTEXT

Q36 HL

What is 'Marxist literary theory' primarily concerned with?

HINT & CONCEPT

Class conflict, who holds economic power, and whose ideology the text serves.

- ☐ A How literature teaches economic principles
- ☐ B How texts reflect, reinforce, or challenge class relations, capitalism, and economic power structures
- ☐ C The biography of Karl Marx
- ☐ D All literature published in the 19th century

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

Q37 PAPER

When analysing a text for IB, the acronym SLIMS can remind you to consider:

HINT & CONCEPT

Subject + Language + Imagery + Mood + Structure.

- ☐ A Subject, Language, Imagery, Mood, Structure
- ☐ B Synonyms, Literature, Ideas, Metaphors, Sounds
- ☐ C Setting, Learning, Intention, Music, Satire
- ☐ D Style, Length, Irony, Memory, Sound

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

In media literacy, what does 'framing' mean?

HINT & CONCEPT

Two papers cover the same protest very differently — same facts, different frame.

- ☐ A The border around a photograph
- ☐ B How a story is presented to highlight certain interpretations and marginalise others
- ☐ C A technique for writing introductions
- ☐ D A photographic composition technique only

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

'Euphemism' is the use of:

HINT & CONCEPT

'Passed away' instead of 'died' is a classic example.

- ☐ A Harsh, blunt language to shock the audience
- ☐ B A milder or more indirect expression in place of a direct one
- ☐ C Technical jargon to impress readers
- ☐ D Exaggeration for comic effect

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q40 LIT

An 'unreliable narrator' is one who:

HINT & CONCEPT

Their account contradicts clues elsewhere in the text.

- ☐ A Speaks in a language the reader doesn't understand
- ☐ B Cannot be fully trusted because of bias, limited knowledge, or dishonesty
- ☐ C Always tells the truth from a god-like perspective
- ☐ D Narrates a story in the second person

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Q41 MEDIA

'Logos' as a rhetorical appeal involves:

HINT & CONCEPT

Logic + evidence = logos.

- ☐ A Making the audience feel frightened
- ☐ B Using facts, statistics, logical arguments, and evidence to persuade
- ☐ C Showing the speaker's good character
- ☐ D Appealing to the audience's sense of nostalgia

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

What is the difference between a 'symbol' and a 'metaphor'?

HINT & CONCEPT

A white dove in a story = symbol. 'He is a dove' = metaphor.

- ☐ A They are identical literary devices
- ☐ B A metaphor is a direct comparison in language; a symbol is an object or image within the story world that represents something beyond itself
- ☐ C A symbol is in poetry only; a metaphor is in prose only
- ☐ D A metaphor uses 'like' or 'as'; a symbol uses neither

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

Why must the global issue connect both the literary AND non-literary text in the IO?

HINT & CONCEPT

The whole point is cross-text, cross-type comparison.

- ☐ A It is a rule only for HL students
- ☐ B Because the IO is an exploration of how the same issue is treated differently across text types and contexts — comparison is central
- ☐ C Because both texts must be from the same country
- ☐ D The connection is optional if the student explains why

Q44 LIT

What literary device is used in: "The fog crept in on little cat feet"?

HINT & CONCEPT

The fog is given animal-like movement without using 'like' or 'as'.

- ☐ A Simile
- ☐ B Personification and metaphor
- ☐ C Alliteration
- ☐ D Hyperbole

HL — THEORY & CONTEXT

Q45 HL

What is 'feminist literary criticism'?

HINT & CONCEPT

How does this text portray women? Whose perspective dominates?

- ☐ A Criticism written only by women
- ☐ B An approach that examines how texts represent gender and challenge or reinforce patriarchal power structures
- ☐ C A method for identifying female characters
- ☐ D Criticism that rejects all male authors

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

What is the 'connotation' of a word?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Home' and 'house' have the same denotation but different connotations.

- ☐ A Its dictionary definition
- ☐ B The emotional or cultural associations the word carries beyond its literal meaning
- ☐ C Its grammatical function
- ☐ D The syllable stress pattern of the word

What is 'ethos' as a rhetorical appeal?

HINT & CONCEPT

A doctor citing their medical degree before giving advice uses ethos.

- ☐ A Appealing to the audience's emotions
- ☐ B Appealing to logic and evidence
- ☐ C Appealing to the speaker's credibility and authority
- ☐ D Appealing to the audience's sense of beauty

Q48 LIT

'Dramatic irony' in theatre occurs when:

HINT & CONCEPT

The audience holds information the character lacks.

- ☐ A The audience doesn't know what the characters are thinking
- ☐ B The audience knows something that a character on stage does not
- ☐ C Two characters speak at exactly the same time
- ☐ D An actor forgets their lines

Q49 LIT

The 'climax' of a play is best defined as:

HINT & CONCEPT

The peak of the dramatic arc — everything changes from this point.

- ☐ A The first scene of the play
- ☐ B The moment of highest tension or turning point from which the action moves toward resolution
- ☐ C The part where two characters first meet
- ☐ D The playwright's conclusion in the programme notes

Q50 HL

What does 'archetype' mean in literary analysis?

HINT & CONCEPT

The hero, the trickster, the wise elder — patterns found in myths worldwide.

- ☐ A The first draft of a manuscript
- ☐ B A universal character type or symbolic pattern that recurs across cultures and literature
- ☐ C A technical term for iambic pentameter
- ☐ D A type of footnote in academic writing

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

Q51 ORAL

What role does 'context' play when analysing a non-literary text in the IO?

HINT & CONCEPT

A wartime propaganda poster means differently than a peacetime one.

- ☐ A It is irrelevant because only language matters
- ☐ B Understanding when, where, by whom, and for whom a text was made is essential to interpreting why it uses the language choices it does
- ☐ C Context only matters for literary texts
- ☐ D Context means the paragraph before the quotation

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

When a sentence breaks expected syntax or grammar deliberately, this is called:

HINT & CONCEPT

'I am. Tired. Of. Waiting.' — the unusual syntax creates emphasis.

- ☐ A A spelling error
- ☐ B Syntactic deviation — a deliberate departure from standard grammar for effect
- ☐ C Onomatopoeia
- ☐ D Enjambment

POETRY

The 'volta' in a sonnet is:

HINT & CONCEPT

Volta = Italian for 'turn.'

- ☐ A The final rhyming couplet's last word
- ☐ B A sudden shift or turn in argument, tone, or perspective
- ☐ C The opening metaphor of the poem
- ☐ D The metre of the poem

DRAMA

Q54 LIT

Catharsis, as described by Aristotle, is:

HINT & CONCEPT

The audience feels washed clean of emotion at the end.

- ☐ A The opening spectacle of a play
- ☐ B The emotional release and purification the audience feels at the end of a tragedy
- ☐ C The villain's final confession
- ☐ D The moral lesson in the final monologue

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

Q55 PAPER

When approaching an unseen text in Paper 1, what should you do FIRST?

HINT & CONCEPT

First read for the whole — then go back for the details.

- ☐ A Begin writing your analysis immediately
- ☐ B Read the text once quickly for overall meaning and tone before identifying specific devices
- ☐ C Write a plan with literary terms only
- ☐ D Look for all the metaphors before reading the whole text

POETRY

Iambic pentameter consists of:

HINT & CONCEPT

da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM — ten syllables, five iambs.

- ☐ A Five stressed syllables per line
- ☐ B Ten syllables per line: unstressed-STRESSED, repeated five times
- ☐ C Four beats per line with rhyme
- ☐ D Six pairs of syllables alternating long-short

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What distinguishes 'analysis' from 'summary' in literary writing?

HINT & CONCEPT

Summary: the character leaves. Analysis: the verb 'crept' suggests secrecy, implying...

- ☐ A Analysis is shorter than a summary
- ☐ B Analysis explains HOW language creates meaning; summary only says WHAT happens
- ☐ C Analysis uses no quotations; summary uses many
- ☐ D They are identical in IB essays

POETRY

Q58 LIT

What is 'assonance'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain' — same vowel 'ai' sound.

- ☐ A Repetition of consonant sounds
- ☐ B Repetition of vowel sounds within nearby words
- ☐ C An exact rhyme at the end of two lines
- ☐ D The comparison of two unlike things

DRAMA

Q59 LIT

What is the purpose of a 'tragic flaw' (hamartia)?

HINT & CONCEPT

Oedipus's pride, Macbeth's ambition — both lead to disaster.

- ☐ A It makes the hero unlikeable to the audience
- ☐ B It is the quality or error in the protagonist that leads to their downfall in tragedy
- ☐ C It is a type of comedy used to relieve tension
- ☐ D It is the villain's weapon against the hero

Q60 LIT

'Deus ex machina' (god from the machine) in drama describes:

HINT & CONCEPT

A sudden, unlikely event that conveniently resolves everything.

- ☐ A A play performed entirely by machines
- ☐ B An artificial or improbable resolution introduced abruptly to solve the plot
- ☐ C The opening conflict of a play
- ☐ D A metaphor for divine intervention in real life

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

Q61 PAPER

In analysing an image or visual text, what is the term for writing or text embedded in or alongside the image?

HINT & CONCEPT

Barthes: text that 'anchors' the meaning of an image.

- ☐ A Caption irony
- ☐ B Anchorage
- ☐ C Visual metaphor
- ☐ D Symbolic code

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

What is 'pathos'?

HINT & CONCEPT

A charity showing images of suffering children appeals to this.

- ☐ A An appeal to the audience's emotions
- ☐ B An appeal to logical proof
- ☐ C An appeal to the author's reputation
- ☐ D A statistical method

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

In the IO, why is it important to focus on specific language features of the extract?

HINT & CONCEPT

HOW the text means is more important than WHAT it means.

- ☐ A Because longer quotations earn more marks
- ☐ B Because the IO assesses how language choices in the texts construct meaning — not just what the texts say
- ☐ C Because the examiner wants to hear as many quotes as possible
- ☐ D Because all questions will be about grammar

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

In advertising, what is the purpose of a 'call to action'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Buy now,' 'Sign up today,' 'Don't miss out' — these all do this.

- ☐ A To provide background information to the reader
- ☐ B To directly prompt the audience to do something — buy, click, call, or share
- ☐ C To describe the company's history
- ☐ D To acknowledge the product's limitations

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What is the 'PEEL' essay paragraph structure?

HINT & CONCEPT

Make a point, prove it with evidence, explain the effect, link to the question.

- ☐ A Point, Example, Explain, Link
- ☐ B Preview, End, Evaluate, List
- ☐ C Plot, Event, Effect, Language
- ☐ D Paragraph, Essay, Evidence, Literature

POETRY

What is 'enjambment'?

HINT & CONCEPT

The sentence doesn't stop at the line end — it spills over.

- ☐ A A sudden pause within a line of poetry
- ☐ B When a sentence or phrase runs on from one line into the next without a pause
- ☐ C The repetition of vowel sounds
- ☐ D A poem with no rhyme scheme

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

What does 'satirical' mean?

HINT & CONCEPT

Swift's 'A Modest Proposal' mocks British policy by pretending to suggest eating Irish babies.

- ☐ A Deeply emotional and moving
- ☐ B Using humour, irony, or exaggeration to criticise and mock human folly or social institutions
- ☐ C A style with no emotion whatsoever
- ☐ D An objective, factual report

Q68 LANG

A speaker uses slang and informal grammar with friends but switches to formal English in a job interview. This best illustrates:

HINT & CONCEPT

The speaker changes language style based on social context.

- ☐ A Code-switching
- ☐ B Linguistic imperialism
- ☐ C Prescriptivism
- ☐ D Phonetic transcription

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Q69 LIT

'In medias res' means a narrative that:

HINT & CONCEPT

Latin for 'into the middle of things.'

- ☐ A Ends without resolution
- ☐ B Begins in the middle of the action
- ☐ C Uses a frame story
- ☐ D Is narrated by multiple voices

Q70 HL

What does 'postcolonial theory' examine in literature?

HINT & CONCEPT

Whose story is told? Who has power to name and define?

- ☐ A Literature written after the invention of the internet
- ☐ B How texts represent, reinforce, or resist the legacies of colonialism — including power, identity, and cultural dominance
- ☐ C All literature written after 1900
- ☐ D Only literature from Africa

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

Q71 LANG

What is 'linguistic determinism' (a strong version of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis)?

HINT & CONCEPT

Strong Sapir-Whorf = language CONTROLS thought.

- ☐ A Language changes over time based on social needs
- ☐ B The language we speak determines the way we think and perceive reality
- ☐ C Grammar rules are universal across all languages
- ☐ D Dialects are inferior to standard languages

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

Hedging language (e.g., 'may suggest', 'could imply') is used in literary analysis to:

HINT & CONCEPT

Literature is open to interpretation — 'this suggests' is stronger than 'this proves.'

- ☐ A Show the student doesn't know the answer
- ☐ B Acknowledge that interpretations of literature are not absolute, showing intellectual humility
- ☐ C Avoid writing long sentences
- ☐ D Replace evidence with speculation

DRAMA

What is 'subtext' in drama?

HINT & CONCEPT

What the character MEANS vs. what they actually SAY.

- ☐ A The text printed below the stage directions
- ☐ B The hidden meaning beneath a character's spoken words
- ☐ C A secondary text the playwright wrote
- ☐ D The opening monologue of a play

What does 'close reading' mean in literary study?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Close' = micro-level: every word choice matters.

- ☐ A Reading with your face very close to the page
- ☐ B Reading only the first and last paragraphs of a text
- ☐ C Careful, detailed analysis of a short passage, examining language, form, and meaning at the level of individual words and phrases
- ☐ D Skimming a text for main ideas

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

Which term describes the gap between what the character believes and what the reader knows to be true?

HINT & CONCEPT

The audience sees what the character doesn't.

- ☐ A Dramatic irony
- ☐ B Verbal irony
- ☐ C Situational irony
- ☐ D Sarcasm

What is 'juxtaposition' and why do writers use it?

HINT & CONCEPT

Beauty beside ugliness makes each more vivid.

- ☐ A Placing a word next to its synonym for clarity
- ☐ B Placing two contrasting ideas, images, or characters side by side to highlight differences and create meaning through contrast
- ☐ C A type of rhyme in which two words sound similar
- ☐ D A narrative that alternates between past and present

LITERATURE — PROSE FICTION

What is 'stream of consciousness' as a narrative technique?

HINT & CONCEPT

Virginia Woolf and James Joyce used this to enter the mind.

- ☐ A A list of historical events in a novel
- ☐ B A narrative that follows a river through a landscape
- ☐ C A technique that attempts to reproduce the continuous, unedited flow of a character's thoughts
- ☐ D A story told by multiple narrators

Q78 HL

What is 'deconstruction' as a critical approach?

HINT & CONCEPT

Derrida: every text undermines its own claims.

- ☐ A Breaking a text into smaller paragraphs for easier reading
- ☐ B A close reading approach that exposes contradictions and instabilities within a text's own logic, showing meaning is never fixed
- ☐ C Destroying books that contain harmful ideas
- ☐ D A method of removing literary devices from a text

Q79 HL

In narrative theory, what is the difference between 'fabula' and 'sjuzhet'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Fabula = what happened. Sjuzhet = how it's told.

- ☐ A Fabula is the title; sjuzhet is the body
- ☐ B Fabula is the raw chronological story events; sjuzhet is the way those events are narrated and arranged
- ☐ C They are two types of narrator
- ☐ D Fabula is Russian for setting; sjuzhet is Russian for character

'Caesura' in poetry is:

HINT & CONCEPT

'To be, || or not to be' — the double bar marks a pause mid-line.

- ☐ A A break or pause within a line of verse, often marked by punctuation
- ☐ B The final word of a poem
- ☐ C A type of rhyme scheme
- ☐ D A poem without a fixed form

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

What is the difference between a 'text' and a 'body of work' in IB English?

HINT & CONCEPT

An ad campaign as a 'body of work'; one novel as a 'text'.

- ☐ A They mean the same thing
- ☐ B A body of work is a collection (e.g., an author's essays, an advertising campaign) studied as a whole; a text is a single work
- ☐ C A text is shorter than a body of work only
- ☐ D Body of work refers to literary texts only

Q82 LANG

Which best describes 'sociolect'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Teen slang, medical jargon, and legal language are all examples.

- ☐ A A language spoken only in society
- ☐ B A variety of language associated with a particular social group
- ☐ C The study of social behaviour
- ☐ D A language used in all social classes equally

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

Q83 PAPER

In Paper 2, 'comparative analysis' requires you to:

HINT & CONCEPT

Compare HOW the texts treat the same idea — not just WHAT they say.

- ☐ A Summarise two texts side by side
- ☐ B Explore how two or more texts treat shared themes, with detailed textual evidence, showing similarities and differences
- ☐ C List all the literary devices in each text separately
- ☐ D Write two separate essays about different texts

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

What is the most important habit to develop for IB English success?

HINT & CONCEPT

Analysis = HOW + WHY + EVIDENCE. That's the whole game.

- ☐ A Memorising the definitions of all literary terms
- ☐ B Reading widely and practising the discipline of asking HOW and WHY a text means what it means — then proving your reading with textual evidence
- ☐ C Writing long essays with many quotations
- ☐ D Focusing only on the texts covered in class

'Polyphony' in a narrative (Bakhtin) describes:

HINT & CONCEPT

Dostoevsky's novels: no single voice dominates — all perspectives coexist.

- ☐ A A text written in multiple languages
- ☐ B A narrative with many distinct, equally valid voices and perspectives, none of which is authoritative
- ☐ C A poem with multiple rhyme schemes
- ☐ D A text with more than one narrator spelling the same events

What is the difference between 'theme' and 'subject' in literature?

HINT & CONCEPT

Subject: war. Theme: war corrupts innocent men.

- ☐ A Theme is what happens; subject is what the author believes
- ☐ B Subject is the topic; theme is the author's insight or argument about that topic
- ☐ C They mean the same thing
- ☐ D Subject is expressed in one word; theme is expressed in one sentence only

UNSEEN TEXT STRATEGIES

What does 'ambiguity' mean in literary analysis, and is it a weakness?

HINT & CONCEPT

Great literature resists being pinned down to one meaning.

- ☐ A Ambiguity is always an error and should be avoided
- ☐ B Ambiguity means a text has only one correct interpretation
- ☐ C Ambiguity is when a text deliberately supports multiple valid interpretations simultaneously — it is often a strength in literary writing
- ☐ D Ambiguity means the author made a grammatical mistake

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

Q88 ORAL

In the IO, what distinguishes a high-scoring response from an average one?

HINT & CONCEPT

Quality of analysis > quantity of quotations.

- ☐ A Memorising more literary terms
- ☐ B Demonstrating consistent, evidence-based analysis of how language choices in both texts construct the global issue, with nuanced insight
- ☐ C Speaking louder and more confidently
- ☐ D Using more quotations per minute

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Q89 MEDIA

What is a 'propaganda technique' called 'bandwagon'?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Everyone is buying one — don't be left out!'

- ☐ A Attacking the character of an opponent
- ☐ B Persuading people by suggesting everyone else is doing or believing something
- ☐ C Using fear to change behaviour
- ☐ D Providing too much information to confuse the audience

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

What does 'semantic shift' describe?

HINT & CONCEPT

'Nice' once meant 'foolish' in Middle English.

- ☐ A A change in a word's meaning over time
- ☐ B A change in word order in a sentence
- ☐ C Moving vocabulary from one language to another
- ☐ D The rhythm pattern in poetry

PAPER SKILLS & WRITING

What is the difference between 'style' and 'content' in a text?

HINT & CONCEPT

The same idea can be expressed in a thousand different styles.

- ☐ A Style is shorter than content
- ☐ B Content is WHAT is said; style is HOW it is said — the language choices that shape the saying
- ☐ C They are synonymous in literary analysis
- ☐ D Content refers only to imagery; style refers to structure

Q92 LIT

A novel told entirely through letters and diary entries is called:

HINT & CONCEPT

Epistola = letter in Latin.

- ☐ A Picaresque
- ☐ B Epistolary
- ☐ C Picaresque
- ☐ D Postmodern metafiction

HL — THEORY & CONTEXT

Q93 HL

What is 'the death of the author' (Roland Barthes)?

HINT & CONCEPT

Once published, the author loses control — the reader creates meaning.

- ☐ A A poem about a writer who dies
- ☐ B The theory that meaning in a text is not fixed by the author's intention but is created in the act of reading
- ☐ C A study of how authors are forgotten over time
- ☐ D A theory that all books should be anonymous

POETRY

What is 'apostrophe' as a poetic device?

HINT & CONCEPT

'O Death, where is thy sting?' — addressing Death directly.

- ☐ A A punctuation mark showing possession
- ☐ B Directly addressing an absent person, abstract idea, or non-human entity
- ☐ C A comparison using 'like' or 'as'
- ☐ D The repetition of vowel sounds

INDIVIDUAL ORAL

What does 'representation' mean in IB English analysis?

HINT & CONCEPT

How is gender, race, or class shown/constructed in this text?

- ☐ A Literally drawing a picture of a character
- ☐ B How groups of people, events, or ideas are constructed and portrayed in texts — through language, image, and selection
- ☐ C Political representation in government
- ☐ D The number of characters in a text

Q96 HL

'Hegemony' (Gramsci) in cultural studies refers to:

HINT & CONCEPT

Power maintained through culture, not just force — the powerful make their values seem 'common sense.'

- ☐ A Military dominance of one country over another
- ☐ B The way dominant groups maintain social power through cultural consent — making their worldview seem natural and inevitable, not imposed
- ☐ C The study of language systems
- ☐ D An economic theory of monopoly

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Q97 MEDIA

What does it mean when a media text 'constructs reality'?

HINT & CONCEPT

Media doesn't reflect reality — it selects and shapes it.

- ☐ A The text is fictional
- ☐ B The text presents a selective version of events shaped by choices of language, image, and perspective — not a neutral mirror
- ☐ C The text is entirely truthful
- ☐ D The text is aimed at construction workers

Q98 HL

Edward Said's concept of 'Orientalism' describes:

HINT & CONCEPT

'The Orient' as constructed by Western imagination — not as it actually is.

- ☐ A Asian art traditions
- ☐ B The Western tendency to construct 'the East' as exotic, inferior, and other — serving to justify colonialism
- ☐ C A school of Japanese literature
- ☐ D A geographical study of eastern countries

POETRY

Q99 LIT

What distinguishes 'free verse' from other poetic forms?

HINT & CONCEPT

Walt Whitman's 'Song of Myself' — no fixed pattern.

- ☐ A It always has an ABAB rhyme scheme
- ☐ B It lacks regular metre or rhyme scheme, relying on natural speech rhythms
- ☐ C It is written in exactly ten syllables per line
- ☐ D It only has two stanzas

NON-FICTION & MEDIA

Which best describes 'intertextuality'?

HINT & CONCEPT

A modern novel quoting Shakespeare — the two texts talk to each other.

- ☐ A Writing a text that is longer than the original
- ☐ B The way a text references, borrows from, or responds to other texts
- ☐ C The study of text written between two covers
- ☐ D A translation of a text from one language to another

Answer Key

Q1: B	Q2: B	Q3: B	Q4: B	Q5: B
Q6: C	Q7: B	Q8: B	Q9: B	Q10: B
Q11: B	Q12: B	Q13: B	Q14: B	Q15: B
Q16: B	Q17: C	Q18: B	Q19: C	Q20: B
Q21: C	Q22: B	Q23: C	Q24: B	Q25: B
Q26: B	Q27: B	Q28: B	Q29: B	Q30: C
Q31: B	Q32: C	Q33: B	Q34: B	Q35: B
Q36: B	Q37: A	Q38: B	Q39: B	Q40: B
Q41: B	Q42: B	Q43: B	Q44: B	Q45: B
Q46: B	Q47: C	Q48: B	Q49: B	Q50: B
Q51: B	Q52: B	Q53: B	Q54: B	Q55: B
Q56: B	Q57: B	Q58: B	Q59: B	Q60: B
Q61: B	Q62: A	Q63: B	Q64: B	Q65: A
Q66: B	Q67: B	Q68: A	Q69: B	Q70: B
Q71: B	Q72: B	Q73: B	Q74: C	Q75: A
Q76: B	Q77: C	Q78: B	Q79: B	Q80: A
Q81: B	Q82: B	Q83: B	Q84: B	Q85: B
Q86: B	Q87: C	Q88: B	Q89: B	Q90: A
Q91: B	Q92: B	Q93: B	Q94: B	Q95: B
Q96: B	Q97: B	Q98: B	Q99: B	Q100: B