

GCSE English – how to approach Paper 2 reading questions

Q1 – Identify and Interpret information and ideas

List 4 things . . .

Marks given
4 marks

Max Time spend
5 minutes

Shade
4 boxes shaded

AO1

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas

Identify explicit and implicit information and ideas

- Underline key words in the question
- Read the text
- Shade the boxes of the statements you think are true
- Make sure you only shade 4 boxes

Q2 – Summarise

Write a summary . . .

8 marks – 10 minutes

1. Point from Text 1 with quotation
2. Interpret information
3. Point from Text 2 with quotation
4. Interpret information & make links between the texts

Identify and Interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
Select and synthesise information from different texts

- Underline relevant information in both texts
- Interpret this information to answer the question
- Show clear connections between the texts
- Use relevant quotations to support points from both texts
- What do the quotes suggest/infer

AO1

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
- Select and synthesise evidence from different texts

Q3 – Language

How does the writer's use of language . . .

Marks given
12 marks

Max Time spend
15 minutes

Make approx.
3 points

Comment, Explain, Analyse

- The question assesses language – words/ phrases/ language features/ language techniques/ sentences
- Use language terminology
- Select relevant quotations
- Explain and analyse the effects of the writer's choices of language

AO2

Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology

Q4 – Compare texts

Compare how the writers present . . .

Marks given
16 marks

Max Time spend
20 minutes

Make approx.
3+ points

Compare writers' ideas & viewpoints, and how they are shown

Devices to compare:

- Direct address (you/your)
- Metaphors, similes, imagery
- Hyperbole (exaggeration), rhetorical questions

AO3

Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed across two or more texts

Connectives:

- In a similar way / in comparison
- On the other hand / however
- In contrast / whereas

Explanation phrases:

- Suggests / implies / conveys / evokes / indicates