

First Language English

Paper 1, Question 2 (d)

Reading Paper

Language Analysis

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Language analysis revision – quiz

Language Analysis (Q2) for First Language English > Video lesson, worksheet, PowerPoint and quiz ...

In the final paragraph of the exemplar we read, what is the effect of this line:

*Our nameless, faceless man's eyes meet the lens of
our camera.*

There are two possible correct answers.

- To break the narrative wall and challenge the reader to consider how they might contribute to an unequal society
- To highlight the homeless man's loneliness and isolation
- To suggest that the homeless man is universal: he could be anyone, including you
- To emphasise the homeless man's appearance and lack of control over his situation

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Language analysis structure

A lesson for **First Language English**
Paper 1 – reading skills
Question 2(d) – language analysis

Introduction

00:00 / 39:00

What do you already know about Q2(d) – the language analysis question?

Paper 1 – The reading paper (50%)

- Question 1: comprehension and summary task (30 marks)
- Question 2: short answer and language questions (25 marks)
- Question 3: extended response to reading (25 marks)

Example question

Re-read paragraphs 1 and 2.

- Paragraph 1 begins ‘Lights up on New York City ...’ and introduces the setting of the busy city of New York.
- Paragraph 2 begins ‘In a dizzying spin, ...’ and describes the various types of people found on the streets of New York.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three examples** of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

What do you have to do?

- You will be given two paragraphs from a longer text to analyse
- You have to pick three images from each paragraph, explain the meaning of the quote and analyse the effect of the image
- You should analyse word choices and the effect on the reader
- You don't need to pick out any language devices

Do not

- × Do not look for language devices
- × Do not analyse the other paragraphs
- × Do not give more than three images per paragraph
- × Do not try to be too clever
- × Do not deviate from the structure

How to answer Question 2 (d)

Overall effect sentence: what is the overall effect of the paragraph?

- **Quote:** should be a strong image and must match the quote given in the mark scheme
- **Meaning:** give a definition or a synonym of the meaning of your quote
- **Connotations:** pick out a powerful word and state its connotations
- **Effect:** state the effect of your quotation

x3

And repeat the above again for your second paragraph

What would that look like?

- **The overall effect of paragraph 10 is to show a magical and**
- QM **romanticized view of the underwater world.** Firstly, the image of “shell-encrusted” **means** that the doorstep was completely covered by shells.
- E This has **connotations** of being decorated by gems, showing how
- Q precious the location is and how the hotel blends in with its natural
- M surroundings. Secondly, the image of clownfish “darting” **means** that the
- E fish are rapidly zig-zagging all over. “Darting” has **connotations** of being agile, light and free, and this might reflect Jenny’s own excitement. Finally,
- QM the image of the anemone’s “swirling fingers” **means** that they are twisting and wrapping around. “Swirling” has **connotations** of magic and dancing, suggesting even the landscape is performing for Jenny.

○ - 1

Q - 3

M - 3

E - 3

Common overall effects

- Magical
- Romanticized
- Precious, treasured, like jewels
- Vulnerability
- Innocent
- Evil
- Water-like, fluid
- Awe-inspiring
- Unstoppable force
- Increasing tension
- Contrast (e.g. storm with the calm that comes after)
- Relief and rejuvenation
- Humour
- Mystery/eeriness
- Cliché
- Self-deprecating

Question 2 (d)

Re-read paragraphs 1 and 2.

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- Paragraph 2 begins 'In a dizzying spin, ...' and describes the various types of people found on the streets of New York.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three examples** of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

Let's read!

*The View from the Other
Side*

Quick questions

- How would you **summarise** the description?
- What do you think the writer's **message** is about New York?
- Why did the writer choose to use **cinematic language** to frame their description?

How would you summarise the description?

This is a description of New York City, showing the glittering skyscrapers, wealthy inhabitants and homeless people who are ignored by society.

The description is told from the perspective of a film director, looking for subjects to record.

As a storm breaks in the city, we see that all the other New Yorkers have somewhere warm and dry to go to, but the homeless man stays ignored in the rain, with nowhere to go and no-one who offers help, including the director.



What do you think the writer's message is about New York?



This description is a criticism of the inequality represented by New York's capitalist society, with extreme wealth and extreme poverty coexisting in the city.



Why did the writer choose to use cinematic language to frame their description?

The cinematic technique creates a sense of rapid movement, voyeurism, and commodification of people. The homeless man is just a subject for the director's film, but not a person worthy of help or interaction.

It shows how we often look, but don't see. Or how we see, but don't act.

It's also an effective technique for viewing the city before zooming into images, detailing what is seen from many different angles.



Let's start our analysis...

Overall effect sentence: what is the overall effect of the paragraph?

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- **Meaning:** give a definition or a synonym of the meaning of your quote
- **Connotations:** pick out a powerful word and state its connotations
- **Effect:** state the effect of your quotation

Paragraph 1 – overall effect

Lights up on dazzling New York City, the Big Apple, the City that Never Sleeps, where Fat Cats prowl and ingénues seek fame, glory or money - whichever comes first. Pan out and see skyscrapers climbing into the heavens, their facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel, like modern-day castles touching the clouds. Each one vies for attention, a dazzling display of architectural prowess, creating a mesmerizing urban landscape that ignites the imagination. And perhaps if we can zoom in close enough, we might see a solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper, looking down, casting judgement or rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh. For what happens below is nothing to be proud of.

What's the overall effect of this paragraph?

Paragraph 1 – overall effect

Lights up on dazzling New York City, the Big Apple, the City that Never Sleeps, where Fat Cats prowl and ingénues seek fame, glory or money - whichever comes first. Pan out and see skyscrapers climbing into the heavens, their facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel, like modern-day castles touching the clouds. Each one vies for attention, a dazzling display of architectural prowess, creating a mesmerizing urban landscape that ignites the imagination. And perhaps if we can zoom in close enough, we might see a solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper, looking down, casting judgement or rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh. For what happens below is nothing to be proud of.

Overview: The overall effect of this paragraph is to showcase the dazzling grandeur and ambition of the stereotypical image of New York, whilst casting judgement on the extravagance of the extreme wealth of the city.

Paragraph 1 – zoom in

Lights up on dazzling New York City, the Big Apple, the City that Never Sleeps, where Fat Cats prowl and ingénues seek fame, glory or money - whichever comes first. Pan out and see skyscrapers climbing into the heavens, their facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel, like **modern-day castles touching the clouds**. Each one vies for attention, a dazzling display of architectural prowess, creating a mesmerizing urban landscape that ignites the imagination. And perhaps if we can zoom in close enough, we might see a solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper, looking down, casting judgement or rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh. For what happens below is nothing to be proud of.

- Meaning?
- Connotations?
- Effect?

The mark scheme

Modern-day castles touching the clouds: comparing skyscrapers to castles reaching high into the sky; castles are historic symbols of power, also symbols of inequality between ruler and the ruled, creates a sense of majesty or dominance, creates a fantasy-like or fairytale image, as though New York is already a myth.

Continue this example

- **The overall effect of paragraph 1 is to show that the stereotypical view of New York as being grand and magical could also be criticized for its extreme wealth and inequality.**
- QM Firstly, the image of “modern-day castles touching the clouds” **means** the skyscrapers reaching high in the sky, creating a sense of dominance. This portrays New York like a fairytale city, yet “castles” have **connotations** of power, rulers and the ruled, and might **imply** that New York too has a huge distance between those with money and those below without.
- E

Secondly,... Quote + meaning + connotation + effect

Finally,... Quote + meaning + connotation + effect

○ – 1/1

Q – /3?

M – /3?

E – /3?

Mark scheme for paragraph 1

- **Lights up on dazzling New York City:** sun rises, the description begins; sounds like stage directions, performance, setting the stage for a glamorous portrayal of New York, creates a sense of wonder, too bright to look at, like a jewel or something precious.
- **Where Fat Cats prowl and ingenues seek fame, money or glory:** where rich people live and actors hope for success; contrasting characters of powerful and aspiring to be powerful people, prowl suggests a competitive or predatory environment, hints towards the American dream, everyone is seeking status, superficial.
- **Skyscrapers climbing into the heavens:** extremely tall buildings; creates a sense of awe or grandeur, symbols of achievement, represents people's ambition to reach new heights, as though otherworldly or magical.

Mark scheme for paragraph 1

- **Facades adorned with glimmering glass and steel:** buildings decorated in shining glass and steel; a modern or futuristic city, sparkling like a precious metal, adorned suggests something lovingly decorated, steel and glass are both cold or harsh materials like the lifestyle.
- **Modern-day castles touching the clouds:** comparing skyscrapers to castles reaching high into the sky; castles are historic symbols of power, also symbols of inequality between ruler and the ruled, creates a sense of majesty or dominance, creates a fantasy-like or fairytale image, as though New York is already a myth.

Mark scheme for paragraph 1

- **Each one vies for attention:** all the skyscrapers want to be noticed; makes the buildings seem alive, even the buildings are competitive like the people, reinforces themes of ambition and success.
- **Solitary face peering out from the top of the tallest skyscraper:** a single person looking out of the window; sense of isolation from those who are on top, even those who succeed still aren't happy, God-like figure, casting judgement, creates a sense of mystery.
- **Rolling his eyes with an apathetic sigh:** the figure shows disdain and/or detachment from the city below; suggests the indifference of those on top to those below them, suggests a cynical outlook of New York's citizens, suggests no-one cares about struggles of those below.

Your turn!

Do paragraph 2 completely by yourself:

- **Overall effect sentence:** what is the overall effect of the paragraph?
 - **Quote:** should be a strong image and must match the quote given in the mark scheme
 - **Meaning:** give a definition or a synonym of the meaning of your quote
 - **Connotations:** pick out a powerful word and state its connotations
 - **Effect:** state the effect of your quotation

Sentence starters

The overall effect of the paragraph is to suggest...

- Firstly, the image of “...” **means** that... (explain/definition)
- The word “...” has **connotations** of... ,... and ..., which **suggests** that (effect).
- Secondly, the image of “...” **means** that... (explain/definition)
- The word “...” has **connotations** of... ,... and ..., which **suggests** that (effect).
- Finally, the image of “...” **means** that... (explain/definition)
- The word “...” has **connotations** of... ,... and ..., which **suggests** that (effect).

Over to you!
Mark scheme up next

Overall effect of paragraph 2:

The overall effect of this paragraph is to suggest the stark contrast between privilege and poverty.

Mark scheme for paragraph 2

- **Freefall from the lofty heights of the privileged few:** Move swiftly downward from the skyscrapers to the ground; creates a dramatic sense of rapid descent, emphasises difference between those on top and those below, represents contrast between privileged and marginalised people, suggests a fall from grace, suggests a drop in status, alludes to issues of inequality highlighted by the description.
- **The gum-spattered ground:** the floor littered in chewing gum; gritty image of littered urban city, suggests the mundane and everyday aspects of New York, contrasts with the glittering skyscrapers, suggests New York isn't clean or well-cared for, symbolises the less fortunate beggar who is also sitting on the floor, suggests neglect of the city.

Mark scheme for paragraph 2

- **The toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases:** the muscled legs wearing expensive designer heels and those holding briefcases; suggests luxury and creates fashionable image, emphasises material wealth, suggests excess money spent on things that don't really matter, contrasts with the beggar who has nothing, symbols of wealth and status.
- **A homeless man, burrowed deep into his green overcoat:** homeless man huddled into his coat; creates empathy for homeless man, suggests his vulnerability and exposure to harsh weather, contrasts with the wealthy individuals above him, suggests his need for shelter, highlights his lack of resources or safe place to retreat to, burrowed is an animal-like image, burrow is also an animal's home.

Mark scheme for paragraph 2

- **Weariness is etched into every line of his face, deep crags and gullies:** tiredness is clear by the pronounced wrinkles on his face; creates empathy, suggests a long, hard life, contrasts with the healthy people on the street, suggests the long-lasting effects of hardships on man's body, aligns him with nature.
- **The man's hand outstretched, trembling, weathered and calloused:** hand reaching out, shaking, aged and rough; sense of desperation and vulnerability, plea for help, contrasts his aged and rough hands with the smooth skin of those around him, connotations of begging.

Mark scheme for paragraph 2

- **Sea of bustling bodies, smooth skin, and purpose:** crowds of people with direction and healthy appearances; suggests chaotic abundance of people in a busy city, crowds of people contrast with the isolated figure of the homeless man, contrasts his weathered skin with their healthy and smooth appearances, contrasts crowd's movement and sense of purpose with homeless man's lack of purpose and movement as he has nowhere to go to.
- **Can you help me? Will you help me? Can you see me?:** asks if the crowd care enough to help or even acknowledge the existence of the homeless man; questions might echo the homeless man's pleas or what he wishes he could say, suggests his uncertainty and vulnerability, prompts the reader to question their own empathy and individual responsibility.

Exemplar

The overall effect of paragraph 2 is to contrast the poverty of the homeless man with the extreme wealth of the New Yorkers. Firstly, "the toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases" means that New Yorkers are healthy and own expensive designer accessories. The word "leather" has connotations of wealth and sophistication. This suggests the luxury, excess wealth and fashionable image of New York. By contrast, the image of the "gum-spattered ground" means that the floor is littered with chewing gum. The connotations of "ground" are the bottom, the lowest, and overlooked, much like the homeless man. The image might contrast with the glittering skyscrapers and suggest the neglect of the city. Finally, the image of "weariness etched into every line of his faced, deep crags and gullies" means that the homeless man's tiredness is marked by pronounced wrinkles. The word "etched" has connotations of being carved over time and something that is irreversible. This creates empathy as the reader realises the long-lasting effects of a hard life on the man's physical health, contrasting with the healthy people around him on the street.

Exemplar – annotated

The overall effect of paragraph 2 is to contrast the poverty of the homeless man with the extreme wealth of the New Yorkers. Firstly, "the toned legs sporting Manolo Blahniks and leather suitcases" **means** that New Yorkers are healthy and own expensive designer accessories. The word "leather" has **connotations** of wealth and sophistication. This **suggests** the luxury, excess wealth and fashionable image of New York. **By contrast, the image of the "gum-spattered ground" means** that the floor is littered with chewing gum. The **connotations** of "ground" are the bottom, the lowest, and overlooked, much like the homeless man. The image might contrast with the glittering skyscrapers and **suggest** the neglect of the city. Finally, the image of "weariness etched into every line of his faced, deep crags and gullies" **means** that the homeless man's tiredness is marked by pronounced wrinkles. The word "etched" has **connotations** of being carved over time and something that is irreversible. This **creates empathy** as the reader realises the long-lasting effects of a hard life on the man's physical health, contrasting with the healthy people around him on the street.

Review your work

Tick ✓ your overall sentence

It should come at the beginning of the paragraph

Underline your quotes

You should have three short quotes in the paragraph

Circle your connotations

Did you give a connotation for all your quotes?

Squiggle your meaning

Where did you explain the literal meaning of the quote?

Highlight the effect

Where have you said the effect of the quote?

Put a * next to your best analysis

Which quote do you think you analysed the best and why?

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Description
5	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide-ranging discussion of judiciously selected language with some high quality comments that add meaning and associations to words/phrases in both parts of the text, and demonstrate the writer's reasons for using them. Tackles imagery with some precision and imagination. There is clear evidence that the candidate understands how language works.
4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanations are given of carefully selected words and phrases. Explanations of meanings within the context of the text are secure and effects are identified in both parts of the text. Images are recognised as such and the response goes some way to explaining them. There is some evidence that the candidate understands how language works.
3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A satisfactory attempt is made to select appropriate words and phrases. The response mostly gives meanings of words and any attempt to suggest and explain effects is basic or very general. One half of the text may be better addressed than the other.
2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response provides a mixture of appropriate choices and words that communicate less well. The response may correctly identify linguistic devices but not explain why they are used. Explanations may be few, general, slight or only partially effective. They may repeat the language of the original or do not refer to specific words.

You have 6 Q
 You have 5+ M
 You have 5+ E (imaginative)

You have 5+ Q if the rest is amazing
 You have 4+ M
 You have 4+ E (clear, make sense)

You have 5+ Q
 You have 3+ M
 You have 0-3 E (basic)

You have 4+ Q
 You have 1-2 M (basic)
 You have 0 E

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