

Stylistic effects

1 Skim-reading

Read passage to get a sense of time, place, topic, genre, tone and atmosphere.

2 Scanning and selecting

After reading the question on writers' effects (Paper 2 question 2), and underlining the key word in each part of the question, return to passage and highlight possibly in two colours for the two different aspects the relevant material in the indicated paragraphs. Identify and highlight only the essential word or phrase which is particularly effective, not a large 'chunk' of text. Aim to find approximately five choices for each part of the question.

3 Transferring to a plan

Transfer the chosen quotations to a list, dividing them into the two sections. Against each choice explain its meaning and the effect it is conveying in this context. Treat each short choice separately and avoid 'clumping' i.e. giving a list and treating them as a group. Pay particular attention to figurative language, i.e. similes and metaphors. You may use literary terms if they are relevant and accurate, but you still need to explain the precise effect of the particular example you have chosen.

4 Developing the response

Look again at the relevant parts of the passage, this time at the use of such devices as repetition, contrast, question marks or exclamation marks, sentence lengths, sound effects. Comment on how the choices link to create a sustained effect. Add to the beginning or end of each section of your plan a brief overview comment which draws an overall conclusion about the aim and combined effect of the language of the passage, e.g. *An atmosphere of fear is created through the use of short questions and repetition of references to darkness.*

5 Writing the response

The response should be written carefully, putting the quotations from the passage in inverted commas within each sentence explaining its effect, and not repeating unnecessarily the words *The effect is ...* For full marks there should be a range of choices with their effects, and a sense of overview in both sections. The whole response is expected to be a side to a side and a half of writing.