

# Task 2 Comparison

**This task requires learners to make connections between the writing and concerns of two texts. The task must have a literary focus.**

**Therefore tasks should:**

- explicitly require comparison or contrast between the texts**
- focus the comparison or contrast on a literary aspect of the texts (e.g. the presentation of a key concern).**

**AO1-5 20% each**

## **AO1**

- **Structure/organisation of comparison**
- **knowledge of the text**
- **Relevant terminology**
- **accuracy**

## **Problems**

- Poor structure or organisation: focus too broad so trying to cover too much ground; shaky paragraphing; favouring one text.
- Lack of textual knowledge and overview of the whole text affects the quality of creative engagement.
- Not always relevant use of terminology.
- Poor proofreading affecting technical accuracy

## **AO2**

- **Analyse use of language, form, structure**
- **Quote and explain effect of writer's choices**

## **Problems**

- Commentary of meaning rather than analysis of how the use of language, form and structure conveys meaning.
- Asserted ideas: insufficient support or lack of development of ideas.
- Approaching characters as real people rather than literary constructs.
- Feature-spotting.

## **AO3**

- **Start with the writing**
- **Only explore relevant context**

## **Problems**

- Context-led responses with the text used as illustration.
- Sweeping generalisations.
- Perils of biographical reading: conflating writer and characters/narrator.

## AO4

- Compare the texts
- Develop links
- Compare the writing not just the context

## Problems

- Poor balance between texts.
- Making too many superficial or undeveloped links: assertion; loss of clear focus on task.
- Relying too heavily on contextual links rather than solidly literary connections.

## **AO5**

- **Alternative viewpoints**
- **Critical readings**

## **Problems**

- Using poor quality web-based sources: encourages commentary and loss of focus; serious danger of plagiarism.
- Failing to engage with the different interpretation quoted/referenced.
- Quoting too much material from other readers leaving too little space for AO2.

**Begin by establishing a framework which will provide the structure to your comparison.**

**Comparative areas and issues:**

- Themes/thematic links**
- Characters how does the writer create a sense of character?**
- How does the writer create mood/atmosphere?**
- Language features word choices/metaphorical language?**
- Structural features – sentence length, dialogue**
- Techniques/dramatic techniques/narrative voice**
- Historical context**
- Social context**

## **Think about:**

- **Point of view – first person narrative, third person narrative, narrative voice-omniscient narrator, intrusive/unintrusive narrator, unreliable narrator**
- **Narrative Structure – e.g frame narrative**
- **Order of the narrative**
- **Acts/scenes/order in play**
- **Register – mode, manner, field**
- **Lexis – nouns, verbs, modifiers**
- **Speech, dialogue, thought – direct speech, indirect speech, presentation of thoughts**
- **Metaphor, simile, symbolism**
- **Pathetic fallacy**
- **Sentence types – effects**
- **Analepsis (flashback)**
- **Prolepsis (flash forward)**



## **Rhetorical features:**

- **Foreshadowing**
- **Juxtaposition**
- **Repetition**
- **Mirroring**
- **Listing**
- **parallelism**