

# NCEA Level 2 English (Unfamiliar Texts) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What is a comparison made directly without using 'like' or 'as' called?**
  - A. Simile**
  - B. Metaphor**
  - C. Personification**
  - D. Pun**
- 2. What term describes a name of something you cannot see, touch, or measure?**
  - A. Abstract noun**
  - B. Collective noun**
  - C. Proper noun**
  - D. Pronoun**
- 3. What aspect of personal engagement with a text refers to one's own appreciation for it?**
  - A. Personal understanding**
  - B. Personal appreciation**
  - C. Personal opinion**
  - D. Personal critique**
- 4. What is the importance of analyzing the conclusion of a text?**
  - A. It contains the most detailed information**
  - B. It reinforces main ideas and themes**
  - C. It introduces new characters**
  - D. It often changes the story's direction**
- 5. What is one effective way to approach a poem as an unfamiliar text?**
  - A. By ignoring its structure and focusing on the summary.**
  - B. By conducting a close reading to analyze language, structure, and imagery.**
  - C. By paraphrasing it without any analysis.**
  - D. By discussing it with others before reading it deeply.**

- 6. Which figure of speech gives human characteristics to non-human objects or ideas?**
- A. Personification**
  - B. Metaphor**
  - C. Oxymoron**
  - D. Satire**
- 7. Which term refers to the use of syllables to control the rhythm of reading?**
- A. Meter**
  - B. Tempo**
  - C. Rhythm**
  - D. Cadence**
- 8. What term describes the situation when the ordinary meaning of a word is the opposite of the author's intended message?**
- A. Metaphor**
  - B. Irony**
  - C. Allegory**
  - D. Hyperbole**
- 9. What kind of language is characterized by specific terminology used in a professional context?**
- A. Colloquial language**
  - B. Technical language**
  - C. Informal language**
  - D. Abstract language**
- 10. What is the purpose of annotation while reading?**
- A. To critique the author's style**
  - B. To ensure retention and enhance comprehension**
  - C. To create summary notes for future reference**
  - D. To summarize the entire text in one phrase**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is a comparison made directly without using 'like' or 'as' called?**

**A. Simile**

**B. Metaphor**

**C. Personification**

**D. Pun**

The term for a comparison made directly without the use of "like" or "as" is called a metaphor. This literary device creates an implicit analogy between two unrelated things by stating that one is the other, therefore highlighting shared qualities or characteristics. For example, saying "time is a thief" suggests that time steals moments from our lives without using a comparative word such as "like" or "as." The other terms do not correctly describe this type of comparison. A simile, for instance, specifically employs "like" or "as" to draw comparisons. Personification attributes human qualities to non-human entities, making them relatable in a human context, while a pun involves a play on words often for humorous effect. Each of these terms has its unique definition and application in literature, but none corresponds to the direct comparison characteristic of a metaphor.

**2. What term describes a name of something you cannot see, touch, or measure?**

**A. Abstract noun**

**B. Collective noun**

**C. Proper noun**

**D. Pronoun**

The term that best describes a name of something you cannot see, touch, or measure is an abstract noun. Abstract nouns refer to concepts, ideas, or qualities that are not tangible. For example, love, happiness, and freedom are all abstract nouns because they represent experiences or feelings rather than physical objects. This distinction is crucial in understanding language, as it helps classify different types of nouns based on their characteristics and the nature of what they represent. Collective nouns, on the other hand, are terms used to describe a group of people or things, such as "team" or "flock," and are not about intangible concepts. Proper nouns are specific names for particular people, places, or organizations, like "Sarah" or "New York," whereas pronouns are words that substitute for nouns (such as he, she, or it) but do not specifically capture the essence of something you cannot physically interact with. Thus, the focus on the intangible nature of an abstract noun makes it the correct choice in this context.

**3. What aspect of personal engagement with a text refers to one's own appreciation for it?**

**A. Personal understanding**

**B. Personal appreciation**

**C. Personal opinion**

**D. Personal critique**

The correct choice highlights the notion of "personal appreciation," which focuses specifically on the subjective enjoyment or value one finds in a text. This appreciation encompasses emotional responses and the significance that the text holds for an individual, which can vary greatly from person to person. It reflects how a reader connects with themes, characters, and the overall message or aesthetic qualities presented in the material. While personal understanding involves grasping the content, themes, and ideas within the text, it does not directly relate to how one feels about it on a personal level. Personal opinion, though it might include appreciation, can be broader and encompass critical judgments or feelings that may not reflect pure appreciation. Lastly, personal critique tends to imply a more analytical approach, focusing on evaluating strengths and weaknesses rather than simply appreciating the text. Thus, "personal appreciation" most accurately captures one's emotional and subjective enjoyment of the text.

**4. What is the importance of analyzing the conclusion of a text?**

**A. It contains the most detailed information**

**B. It reinforces main ideas and themes**

**C. It introduces new characters**

**D. It often changes the story's direction**

Analyzing the conclusion of a text is crucial because it reinforces the main ideas and themes presented throughout the work. A well-crafted conclusion ties together the narrative or argument, ensuring that readers leave with a clear understanding of the author's intentions and the central messages. It often synthesizes the preceding content, helping to solidify the reader's grasp of the key points and the overall moral or lesson intended by the author. The conclusion typically serves to summarize the journey taken in the text, allowing for reflection on the themes that were introduced earlier. By reiterating these ideas, the conclusion not only provides closure but also emphasizes their significance, making them more memorable for the reader. In contrast, including detailed information or introducing new characters usually occurs in the body of the text, while a shift in the story's direction would typically take place during the climax or pivotal moments, rather than the conclusion.

**5. What is one effective way to approach a poem as an unfamiliar text?**

**A. By ignoring its structure and focusing on the summary.**

**B. By conducting a close reading to analyze language, structure, and imagery.**

**C. By paraphrasing it without any analysis.**

**D. By discussing it with others before reading it deeply.**

Conducting a close reading of a poem is an effective way to approach it as an unfamiliar text because this method allows for an in-depth analysis of various elements that contribute to the poem's meaning and emotional impact. When engaging in close reading, a reader pays careful attention to the language, structure, and imagery used by the poet. This not only enhances understanding of the text but also uncovers nuances that may be missed with a more superficial reading. Analyzing the language helps to reveal the connotations and emotions that specific word choices evoke. Examining the structure, such as the use of rhyme, meter, or stanza form, can provide insights into the poem's rhythm and how it conveys its themes. Imagery invites the reader to visualize and connect with the sensory elements the poet evokes, enriching the overall experience. This analytical approach fosters a deeper appreciation and comprehension of the poem, as opposed to merely summarizing or paraphrasing its content, which might overlook the subtleties and artistic devices that give poetry its power. By immersing oneself in the text through close reading, readers can develop a more informed and engaged interpretation.

**6. Which figure of speech gives human characteristics to non-human objects or ideas?**

**A. Personification**

**B. Metaphor**

**C. Oxymoron**

**D. Satire**

Personification is the figure of speech that assigns human traits, emotions, or intentions to non-human entities, such as animals, inanimate objects, or abstract concepts. This literary device allows writers to create vivid imagery and evoke emotional responses by attributing familiar human actions or feelings to things that do not possess those qualities. For instance, when a writer describes the wind as "whispering through the trees," they are personifying the wind by suggesting it can whisper, an action typically associated with humans. This technique enhances the reader's connection to the text by making the non-human elements more relatable and dynamic. The other options represent different concepts. Metaphor involves a direct comparison between two unrelated things to highlight similarities without using "like" or "as," while oxymoron combines contradictory terms to create a unique expression. Satire utilizes humor, irony, or exaggeration to criticize or mock a subject. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify why personification is the appropriate choice for giving human characteristics to non-human subjects.

**7. Which term refers to the use of syllables to control the rhythm of reading?**

- A. Meter**
- B. Tempo**
- C. Rhythm**
- D. Cadence**

The use of syllables to control the rhythm of reading is best described by the term "meter." Meter specifically refers to the structured pattern of syllables in poetry, creating a predictable rhythm that enhances the reading experience. By organizing syllables in various patterns, meter establishes beats and emphasizes certain words, helping to create a musical quality in written language. While "tempo" refers to the speed of the reading, it does not specifically address how syllables are arranged or organized to create rhythm. "Rhythm" is a broader term that encompasses various aspects of sound patterns in language, including pace, but does not singularly focus on syllable structure. "Cadence" often refers to the way in which the voice rises and falls while reading, typically related to the natural flow of speech rather than a fixed pattern of syllables. Thus, "meter" is the most precise term when discussing the organization of syllables that dictates the rhythm in a structured manner.

**8. What term describes the situation when the ordinary meaning of a word is the opposite of the author's intended message?**

- A. Metaphor**
- B. Irony**
- C. Allegory**
- D. Hyperbole**

The term that describes a situation where the ordinary meaning of a word is the opposite of the author's intended message is irony. Irony often involves a contrast between expectations and reality, where a statement or situation has an underlying meaning that is different from (or even the opposite of) what is explicitly stated. In literature and speech, irony can be used to convey a deeper or more complex meaning, often highlighting the discrepancies between appearances and underlying truths. In contrast, metaphor refers to a figure of speech that implies a comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as," whereas allegory involves a narrative in which characters and events symbolize deeper moral or political meanings. Hyperbole employs exaggerated statements that aren't meant to be taken literally, often for emphasis or effect. Each of these terms serves a unique purpose in writing but does not capture the specific sense of contradiction inherent in irony.

**9. What kind of language is characterized by specific terminology used in a professional context?**

- A. Colloquial language**
- B. Technical language**
- C. Informal language**
- D. Abstract language**

The correct answer is based on the nature of technical language, which is defined by its use of specific terminology and jargon that pertains to particular fields or professions. This type of language is ideal for conveying precise information and concepts, making it essential for effective communication within specialized disciplines like science, medicine, engineering, and technology. Technical language often includes terms that might not be familiar to those outside the field, reflecting the complexity and specificity required to discuss intricate ideas or processes accurately. It enables professionals to communicate efficiently with each other, as it encapsulates a wealth of knowledge within specific terms that hold significant meaning in their context. In contrast, colloquial language refers to informal spoken language that may include slang, regional phrases, and conversational tones. Informal language also lacks the precision needed for professional discourse and is typically used in casual contexts. Abstract language, on the other hand, deals with concepts that are not grounded in concrete realities, making it less useful for specific applications where precise meaning is necessary.

**10. What is the purpose of annotation while reading?**

- A. To critique the author's style**
- B. To ensure retention and enhance comprehension**
- C. To create summary notes for future reference**
- D. To summarize the entire text in one phrase**

The purpose of annotation while reading is primarily to ensure retention and enhance comprehension. When readers annotate, they actively engage with the text by highlighting important ideas, writing notes in the margins, and asking questions or making connections. This active involvement helps in understanding the material at a deeper level and aids memory retention, as it requires the reader to process and reflect on the content rather than passively reading. Annotation is a method of facilitating active learning, which is key to grasping complex themes, arguments, and concepts effectively. While creating summary notes for future reference, critiquing the author's style, or summarizing the entire text in one phrase may have their own merits, they do not capture the primary intent behind annotation, which centers around understanding and retaining the core material during the reading process.