

Ontario Grade 9 English Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. In which perspective does the narrator report the thoughts and actions of multiple characters?**
 - A. First person**
 - B. Third person limited**
 - C. Third person omniscient**
 - D. Third person objective**
- 2. What term refers to techniques or words used to create a particular effect in literature, such as imagery and metaphor?**
 - A. Linguistic Devices**
 - B. Literary Devices**
 - C. Figurative Language**
 - D. Descriptive Tools**
- 3. Which kind of conflict occurs when a character faces a challenge within themselves?**
 - A. Person vs. nature**
 - B. Person vs. person**
 - C. Person vs. self**
 - D. Person vs. society**
- 4. Which type of language includes the use of figures of speech such as metaphor and simile?**
 - A. Literal Language**
 - B. Figurative Language**
 - C. Descriptive Language**
 - D. Abstract Language**
- 5. What term describes the order in which the poem or story rhymes?**
 - A. Rhyme**
 - B. Rhyme scheme**
 - C. Pun**
 - D. Oxymoron**

- 6. What term describes the close repetition of similar vowel sounds within different consonants?**
- A. Alliteration**
 - B. Assonance**
 - C. Hyperbole**
 - D. Imagery**
- 7. What type of poem typically has a specific storyline and characters?**
- A. Limerick**
 - B. Narrative Poem**
 - C. Elegy**
 - D. Epic**
- 8. What term refers to the author's choice of words and the level of vocabulary used in a story?**
- A. Diction**
 - B. Syntax**
 - C. Tone**
 - D. Style**
- 9. What term refers to a harsh or bitter form of verbal irony?**
- A. Satire**
 - B. Hyperbole**
 - C. Sarcasm**
 - D. Simile**
- 10. What is the term for the author's arrangement of events that make up the action of a story?**
- A. Setting**
 - B. Plot**
 - C. Conflict**
 - D. Narrative**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In which perspective does the narrator report the thoughts and actions of multiple characters?

- A. First person**
- B. Third person limited**
- C. Third person omniscient**
- D. Third person objective**

The third person omniscient perspective allows the narrator to share the thoughts, feelings, and actions of multiple characters, providing a comprehensive view of the story's events and emotional landscape. This perspective offers readers insight into the inner workings of various characters, enabling a richer understanding of their motivations and the dynamics between them. In contrast, the first person perspective limits the narrative to the experiences and thoughts of a single character, as it uses "I" statements. The third person limited perspective shares the thoughts and feelings of one character only, restricting the reader's understanding to that individual's perspective. Lastly, the third person objective perspective does not delve into the thoughts or emotions of any characters, focusing solely on observable actions and dialogues from an outside viewpoint. The ability of the third person omniscient narrator to navigate multiple characters' experiences is what sets it apart and makes it the correct answer.

2. What term refers to techniques or words used to create a particular effect in literature, such as imagery and metaphor?

- A. Linguistic Devices**
- B. Literary Devices**
- C. Figurative Language**
- D. Descriptive Tools**

The term that refers to techniques or words used to create a particular effect in literature, including imagery and metaphor, is "literary devices." Literary devices are various techniques that writers use to convey their message, evoke emotions, and enhance their storytelling. These include not only imagery and metaphor, but also symbolism, alliteration, personification, and many other techniques that enrich the text and deepen readers' understanding and enjoyment. Imagery, for example, allows readers to visualize scenes and emotions through descriptive language, while metaphors create connections between unlike things, providing new perspectives. Therefore, recognizing terms collectively categorized as literary devices helps readers identify and analyze the tools that contribute to a work's artistic quality and meaning.

3. Which kind of conflict occurs when a character faces a challenge within themselves?

- A. Person vs. nature**
- B. Person vs. person**
- C. Person vs. self**
- D. Person vs. society**

The correct answer, C, identifies an internal struggle that characters experience, commonly referred to as a "person vs. self" conflict. This type of conflict involves a character grappling with their own emotions, beliefs, decisions, or personal dilemmas. It showcases the complexity of human psychology, reflecting struggles with identity, morality, or self-doubt. For instance, a character might face decisions regarding their values or how to cope with guilt, ultimately presenting a situation where the challenge is inherently personal. This internal conflict can drive the narrative by illustrating character development and the resolution of personal issues, making it a pivotal element in storytelling. The other options reference external conflicts: characters facing challenges in hostile environments (person vs. nature), conflicts with other individuals (person vs. person), or societal expectations and norms (person vs. society). While these are important conflict types as well, they involve external factors rather than the internal struggles that define the "person vs. self" conflict.

4. Which type of language includes the use of figures of speech such as metaphor and simile?

- A. Literal Language**
- B. Figurative Language**
- C. Descriptive Language**
- D. Abstract Language**

Figurative language is characterized by the use of figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole to convey meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of words. This type of language enhances imagery and emotional appeal by comparing and relating concepts in imaginative ways. For instance, a metaphor might describe a person's resilience by saying they are a "rock" in turbulent times, creating a vivid picture that emphasizes strength without stating it directly. In contrast, literal language conveys straightforward meanings without embellishment or interpretation. Descriptive language focuses on providing details that enhance visualization, often without figurative expressions, while abstract language deals with ideas and concepts that are not tangible or concrete. Therefore, figurative language stands out because of its ability to enrich the text and engage the reader's imagination through comparisons and symbolic representations.

5. What term describes the order in which the poem or story rhymes?

A. Rhyme

B. Rhyme scheme

C. Pun

D. Oxymoron

The term that describes the order in which the poem or story rhymes is "rhyme scheme." Rhyme scheme refers specifically to the pattern of end sounds in lines of poetry, often represented by letters to denote which lines rhyme with each other. For example, in a quatrain where the first and third lines rhyme and the second and fourth lines rhyme, the rhyme scheme would be labeled as ABAB. While "rhyme" refers to the repeating sound that creates rhythm and musicality in poetry, it does not specify the organization or pattern of those sounds. Terms like "pun" and "oxymoron" refer to specific figures of speech and wordplay, which are distinct from the concept of rhyme scheme. Therefore, "rhyme scheme" is the most accurate term to use when discussing the structured arrangement of rhymes in a poem or story.

6. What term describes the close repetition of similar vowel sounds within different consonants?

A. Alliteration

B. Assonance

C. Hyperbole

D. Imagery

The term that describes the close repetition of similar vowel sounds within different consonants is indeed assonance. Assonance is a literary device often used in poetry and prose to create rhythm and enhance the musical quality of the language. It occurs when vowels are repeated in close proximity, which can create a more melodic sound or unify a collection of words. For example, in the phrase "The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain," the repetition of the long "a" sound demonstrates assonance. This technique can evoke emotions and enhance the reader's experience by drawing attention to specific phrases or ideas. In contrast, the other options represent different literary devices: alliteration involves the repetition of initial consonant sounds; hyperbole is an exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally; and imagery refers to descriptive language that appeals to the senses. Each of these has its unique function in writing but does not specifically pertain to the repetition of vowel sounds as assonance does.

7. What type of poem typically has a specific storyline and characters?

A. Limerick

B. Narrative Poem

C. Elegy

D. Epic

A narrative poem is designed to tell a story, complete with a plot, characters, and a setting. This form of poetry often unfolds events and developments, similar to a short story or novel, and engages the reader through a sequence of events that typically leads to a climax and resolution. While other types of poems, such as elegies and epics, may include storytelling elements, they do not do so in the same structured way as a narrative poem. An elegy focuses more on mourning and lamentation, reflecting on loss rather than developing a storyline. Epics, while they can tell grand stories, are often lengthy and emphasize heroic deeds, and may not always stick to a single narrative structure as concise as that of a narrative poem. A limerick, on the other hand, is a whimsical, often humorous poem with a specific rhythm and rhyme scheme that does not support an expansive storyline or character development. Thus, the defining characteristic of a narrative poem is its ability to weave together characters and events in a coherent tale.

8. What term refers to the author's choice of words and the level of vocabulary used in a story?

A. Diction

B. Syntax

C. Tone

D. Style

The term that refers specifically to the author's choice of words and the level of vocabulary used in a story is diction. Diction encompasses not just the words themselves but also the connotations and nuances they carry, which can greatly affect the tone and meaning of the text. An author's diction can reflect their character's background, emotions, and even the setting of the story, contributing to the overall impact of the narrative on the reader. In contrast, syntax pertains to the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences, while tone refers to the emotional quality or attitude of the writing. Style, on the other hand, encompasses broader elements including diction, syntax, and tone, representing the author's unique voice or manner of expression in their writing. Therefore, diction is the most precise term in this context when discussing word choice and vocabulary specifically.

9. What term refers to a harsh or bitter form of verbal irony?

A. Satire

B. Hyperbole

C. Sarcasm

D. Simile

The term that refers to a harsh or bitter form of verbal irony is sarcasm. Sarcasm involves saying the opposite of what one really means, often in a scornful or mocking tone. It is frequently used to convey contempt or derision, making it distinct from simple irony, which can be more neutral or straightforward. Satire, while related to irony, is broader in scope as it critiques social norms or human vices, often using humor and exaggeration. Hyperbole refers specifically to exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally, and it does not inherently convey the sharpness or bitterness associated with sarcasm. A simile is a figure of speech that makes comparisons using "like" or "as" and is unrelated to verbal irony. Thus, sarcasm stands out as the correct choice due to its specific connotation of biting or harsh criticism wrapped in irony.

10. What is the term for the author's arrangement of events that make up the action of a story?

A. Setting

B. Plot

C. Conflict

D. Narrative

The term that refers to the author's arrangement of events within a story is "plot." The plot encompasses the sequence of events and the structure of the narrative, including the introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. It is crucial because it organizes the story and guides the reader through the characters' experiences and the story's themes. Understanding plot helps readers recognize how events develop and interact within the narrative, leading to a deeper comprehension of character motivations and the overall message of the story. This contrasts with terms like setting, which refers to the time and place where the events occur, and conflict, which pertains to the challenges faced by the characters. Narrative, while related, refers more broadly to the telling of the story itself, including the voice and perspective from which it is presented, and does not specifically denote the arrangement of events.