

How to develop text analysis at GCSE

In order to avoid vague or empty statements, you must be as specific and analytical as you can. Use the following questions to help you develop your response and layer your analysis and interpretation. You can also use this to check your work in order to ensure you are on track to achieving a good mark for analysis.

What – this indicates when you are providing a personal response (*What do you see? What is presented? What do you know?*)

How – this often refers to method and techniques (*How is this shown? How do you know?*)

Why – this often refers to author intention or message (*Why has this been used?*)

Top tips:

1. Layer meaning and interpretation
2. Double up on techniques
3. Link everything back to your point and the question
4. Ensure points are relevant, perceptive and sophisticated

Developing a response:

What is your idea?

What is the evidence to back this up?

What can you infer from the evidence?

How is your idea shown in the evidence?

How does the writer use techniques / language / structure?

How does this link back to your initial idea?

Why did the writer use this?

Why did they want to show this?

Why did they choose to present it in this way?



Key phrases:

This suggests

This implies

This reinforces

This reveals

This shows

The writer conveys/presents/contrasts/
implies/indicates/creates/reveals

Use these questions to help you further develop each idea:

Points - Development and Analysis	Development by linking – taking ideas further
<p>What kind of mood is created? How? Why?</p> <p>What kind of atmosphere is created? How? Why?</p> <p>What ideas are expressed/presented? How? Why?</p> <p>What do you learn about character/action/setting/relationships/themes?</p> <p>How are these presented? Why?</p> <p>What is the intended effect of...? How is this achieved?</p> <p>What technique is used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why has it been used?• What is the effect?• How does it reinforce the message?• How does it reinforce your point?• How does it reinforce or reflect the themes?• What other technique is visible in your evidence? Can you <u>double up</u> on the techniques used?• What is the effect?• Why was it chosen? <p>What kind of language has been used?</p> <p>Diction/word choice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the connotations?• How does it affect the reader?• Why has it been used? Why this particular word?• Where is it? Why?• How does it reinforce the message/author intention?• How does it reinforce your point? <p>How is the reader supposed to feel/react? How do you know?</p>	<p>Link to context as a way of developing interpretation of meaning:</p> <p>What do you know about the intended audience?</p> <p>What do you know about the time period?</p> <p>What do you know about the author?</p> <p>Why was the text written?</p> <p>Issues that the author is commenting on.</p> <p>Link to the form:</p> <p>What is the form?</p> <p>What do you know about the features of this form?</p> <p>How do the techniques adhere to the features of the form (play, novel, poetry)? Why?</p> <p>If it is a play, consider the effect of the audience 'watching' the performance. Think about this as an experience.</p> <p>Link to author intention:</p> <p>What is their message? How does your example show this?</p> <p>What do they want you to understand? How do you know?</p> <p>What do they want you to do? How do you know?</p>