

Sy4 Revision - Passage-based Questions: Common Question Terms

Types of PBQs

Type 1	Thoughts and feelings / impressions / relationships in the passage / in one other moment. You need to provide the <u>thought</u> / <u>feeling</u> / <u>impression</u> about the character(s) / relationship / theme as the point. • e.g. (i) What vivid impressions do you form of _____ (character / relationship) in this passage? • e.g. (i) How does (the writer) strikingly portray _____ (character's impressions, thoughts and/or feelings / relationship / theme) in this passage? • e.g. (ii) Explore one other moment in the text where (the writer) powerfully portrays _____ (character's impressions, thoughts and/or feelings / relationship / theme). If just the character is stated in the question, you can examine all aspects of the character: thoughts/feelings and impressions. e.g. How does Shakespeare strikingly portray Romeo in this passage?
Type 2	Effect on the reader based on the passage / in one other moment / elsewhere in the play. You need to look at the <u>reasons</u> for these impacts as your point. (Note: Point ≠ craft!) • e.g. (i) How does (the writer) make this passage particularly _____ (insert term from table below) for you? • e.g. (i) How does (the writer) use words and images to create atmosphere in this passage? • e.g. (i) How does (the writer) makes (the character) so persuasive / pitiful in this passage? • e.g. (ii) Explore one other moment where (the writer) makes particularly _____ (insert term from table below) for you. • e.g. (ii) Explore how (the writer) creates _____ (insert term from table below) impressions of (a character) elsewhere in the play.
Type 3	Idea from the passage and how it develops in the rest of the text. You can consider the immediate and also long-term impact in the text. • e.g. (ii) The passage ends: "The war is now on." How does Ngugi vividly convey this idea in what follows?

Note:

- For "in the passage" questions, always focus on the passage given and avoid references elsewhere.
- All of the following require you to engage *WRITER'S CRAFT* in your answers.
- Always remember to check if there is any change (gradual / sudden) in the mood and atmosphere in the passage and exercise your own judgment when using this list. This is just a guide, it is definitely by no means exhaustive.



Key words

*Dramatic	● Action-packed: literal action / flurry of actions ● Intense emotions: Heated speeches, outbursts, sadness, guilt, humour (e.g. crying and wailing) ● Mood / atmosphere: tension, suspense, gloom, exhilaration (any changes within the passage?) ● Conflict (violent physical conflict or silent tension?) ● Vivid portrayal <u>Note:</u> Dramatically significant - point must contain a dramatic element and also convey the importance towards a character / theme / relationship
*Memorable / Striking / Interesting / Vivid	● Passage / Character leaves a lasting impression ● Something unusual / out of the ordinary ● What is so impressionable about the passage? (graphic / imagery) ○ Impactful: intensity of moment? Conflict? Reunion? etc. ○ Important: a critical turning point? ○ Intense emotions: a character's strong words / emotions / actions? (even more so if these have never been seen before / elsewhere) ○ Nostalgic / Poignant
*Tension / Suspense	● Suspense ● Conflicts / arguments ● Emotional strains ● The threat of unexpected events / revelations / potential danger ● Limited knowledge of certain characters ● Severe / drastic changes that impact characters mostly irreversibly
*Powerful / Effective	● Mostly affects the emotions / must be impactful (Similar to dramatic) ● Drives home a very strong message to the reader / audience
*Significant / Important	● Catalyst: turning point revealing key character traits and relationships that are not seen elsewhere / for the first time ● Conveys a thematic message ● Impact / foreshadow ● Vivid portrayal



*Disturbing / Horrifying	• Unsettling / uneasiness generated (For horror, it should be frightful, shocking or even revolting) • Look out for unusual traits in characters / setting / situation • Analyse the mood and atmosphere: e.g. ominous / foreboding etc.
Moving Sadness / Pity / Feel sorry for / Sympathy	• Impacts the reader / audience's emotions strongly (both positively and negatively) • Positive: Catharsis • Negative: grief / trauma / arousing sympathy and empathy
Humour / Amusing	• Comical • Ironic • Satire • Hyperbole
Entertaining / Engage the audience's attention	Note: Does not always have to be humour only! Consists of anything that both <u>captures</u> one's attention and <u>sustains</u> it through the passage. • Humour • Tension and suspense • Any other strong emotion that can arouse interest • Conflict
Funny and also serious / humour and seriousness	Note: Usually the humorous aspect is overt and the seriousness lies in the undertone / reference to serious themes and issues in the passage.

