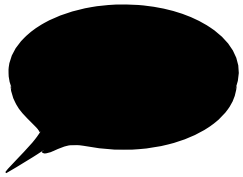
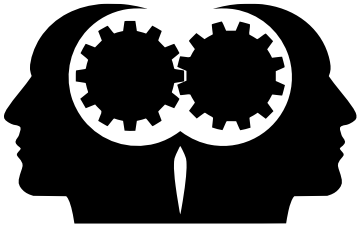
Introduction to English Language Paper 1 Section A

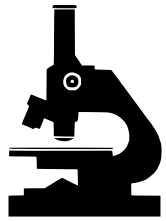
Identifying



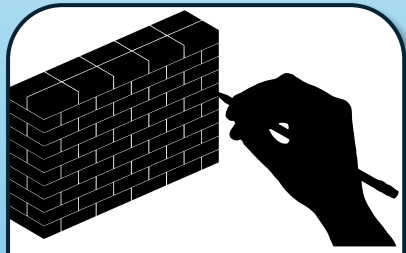
Choosing evidence



Language analysis

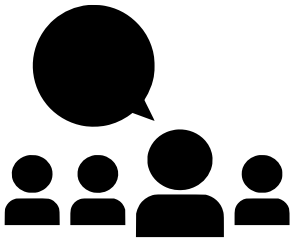


Zooming in

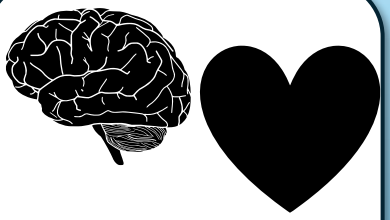


Structural analysis

Evaluating



Explaining



Understanding effects

These are some of the main skills you will need to master the Paper 1 Section A exam.

What does each of these skills mean?
How is language analysis different to structural analysis?
Why is evaluating a very different skill to explaining?

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Learning outcomes

To describe the key skills required for Paper 1 Section A

To explain how to answer Q1

To evaluate what skills are needed for Q2

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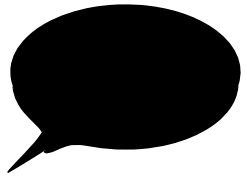
Paper 1 skills

Identifying



Choosing evidence

Identifying information is important because you need to read through texts and find the information you need to answer questions successfully.

Choosing evidence ensures you can back up your interpretations and support your ideas with examples from the text.

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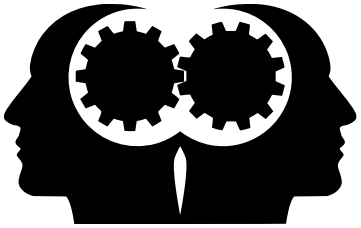
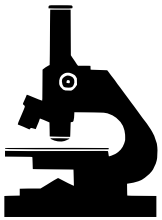
Paper 1 skills



Language analysis



Zooming in

Language analysis shows you can see the ***effects*** a text has on a reader and why.

Zooming in on key parts of the text improves your ability to analyse that text and master your analytical skills.

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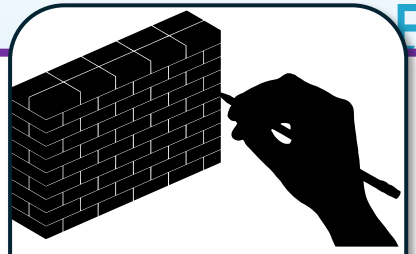
Paper 1 skills



Structural analysis

Structural analysis is different to language analysis because we explore how a text is put together and how it changes from beginning to end.

We look at how a text is divided up into different sections what **effects** these sections can have on a reader.

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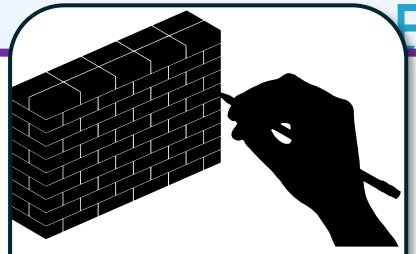
Paper 1 skills



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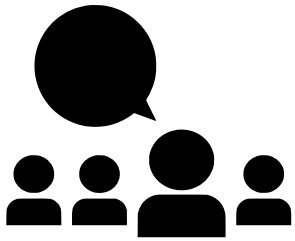
Paper 1 skills

Evaluating



Explaining

Evaluating a text is very important in Paper 1. It means to consider **one interpretation** of a text and *judge whether you agree or disagree with that interpretation*.

That is different to **explaining** because you will need to explain your own interpretations for most of Paper 1.

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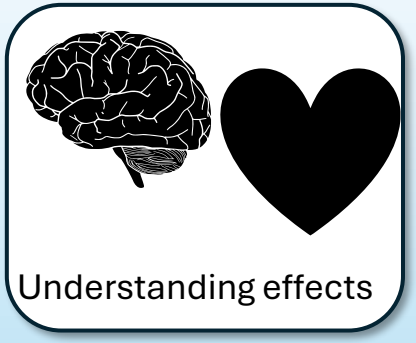
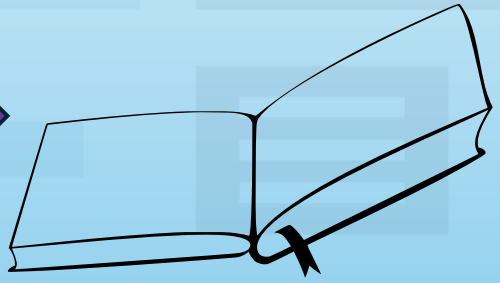


Writer



Text

Reader

A writer will choose every single word carefully when creating a text. Every adjective, every sentence, every paragraph – each will be designed to have specific **effects on the reader.**

We need to explore how the text has **effects on the reader**: how it makes them think and feel. If we can do that successfully, we will master Paper 1 Section A.

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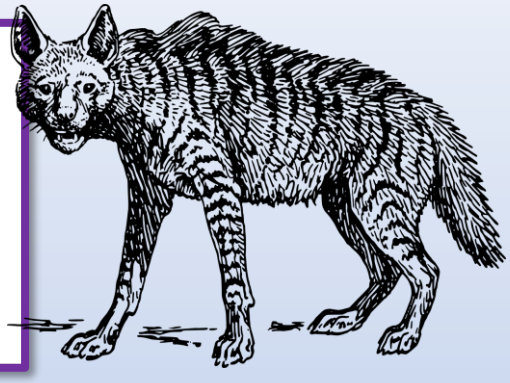
Yip Yip Yip Yip Yip

Read through the extract from Life of Pi by Yann Martel.



It was published in 2001 and it is an extract from the middle of the novel. It is set on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, where a teenage boy called Pi is on a lifeboat with a tiger, an orangutan and a hyena, but there are no other people.

This is important information to keep in mind when answering the questions.

Timed conditions: 10 minutes

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Q1 (4 marks)

Identifying

Question 1 will ask you to focus on a specific section of the text.

In the case of the Life of Pi text, the question asks you to focus on lines 1 to 9.

There are four sections to this question which are all multiple choice.

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Read lines 1-9 again and put a tick in the right box for each of the four questions

Q1.1: What worries Pi about the hyena?

- **Its appearance** ☐
- **Remembering what Pi's father told him about hyenas** ☐
- **The noise it is making** ☐

Q1.2: How does hyenas usually attack?

- **On their own** ☐
- **In a pair** ☐
- **As a group** ☐

Q1.3: What sort of attackers are hyenas?

- **Tough** ☐
- **Vulnerable** ☐
- **Reluctant** ☐

Q1.4: What does Pi hope will distract the hyena away from him?

- **Its mother** ☐
- **The other animals on the boat** ☐
- **The horizon** ☐

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Let's look at the answers for Q1

Q1.1: What worries Pi about the hyena?

Its appearance	
Remembering what Pi's father told him about hyenas	✓
The noise it is making	

Q1.2: How does hyenas usually attack?

On their own	
In a pair	
As a group	✓

Q1.3: What sort of attackers are hyenas?

Tough	✓
Vulnerable	
Reluctant	

Q1.4: What does Pi hope will distract the hyena away from him?

Its mother	
The other animals on the boat	✓
The horizon	

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Why were these the answers?

Q1.1: What worries Pi about the hyena?

Its appearance	
Remembering what Pi's father told him about hyenas	✓
The noise it is making	

"It was the hyena that worried me. I had not forgotten **Father's words.**"

Q1.2: How does hyenas usually attack?

On their own	
In a pair	
As a group	✓

Hyenas attack in **packs** whatever animal can be run down

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Why were these the answers?

Q1.3: What sort of attackers are hyenas?

- **Tough** ☑
- **Vulnerable** ☐
- **Reluctant** ☐

"They are **hardy attackers**, rising up from buttings and kickings immediately,"

Q1.4: What does Pi hope will distract the hyena away from him?

- **Its mother** ☐
- **The other animals on the boat** ☑
- **The horizon** ☐

"I clung to the hope that **a zebra, a familiar prey, and an orang-utan, an unfamiliar one**, would *distract* it from thoughts of me"

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Q2 focuses on language analysis

It asks you to focus on specific lines. In this example, we are asked to explore lines 10 to 19.

Here is the question:

How does the writer use language here to describe the hyena's appearance?

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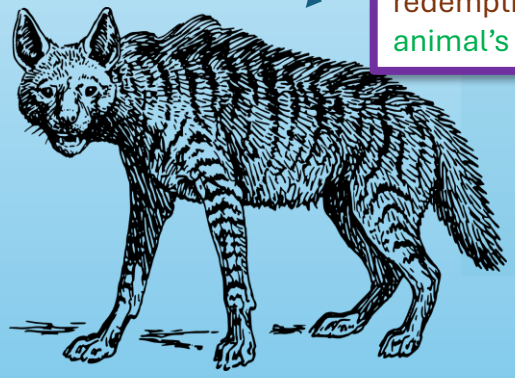
Re-read lines 10 to 19



"ugly beyond redemption"
Adjective of ugly and hyperbole of beyond redemption to amplify how disgusted Pi is by the animal's appearance

Around your hyena picture:

Write down examples of how the hyena is described
How the writer has employed language techniques
Why this example affects how the reader understands the hyena's appearance

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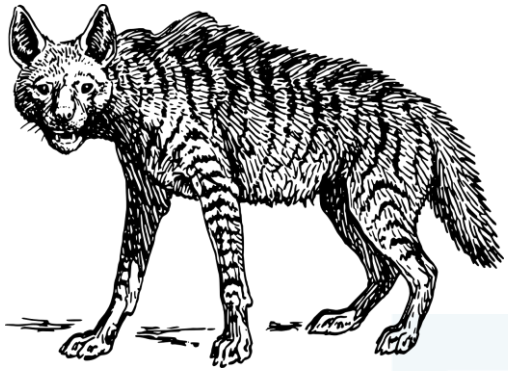

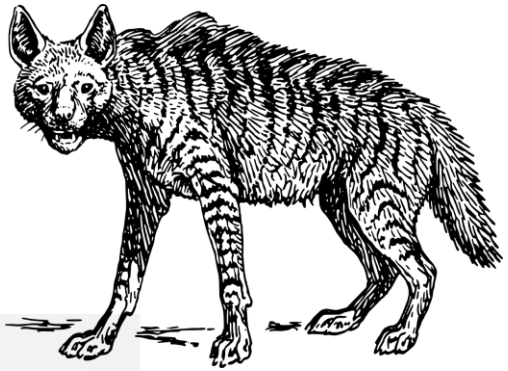

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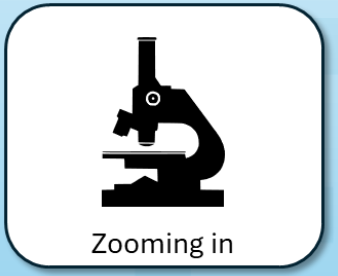
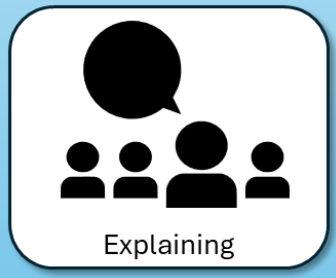
Next lesson we will explore turning our notes in to proper answers for Q2





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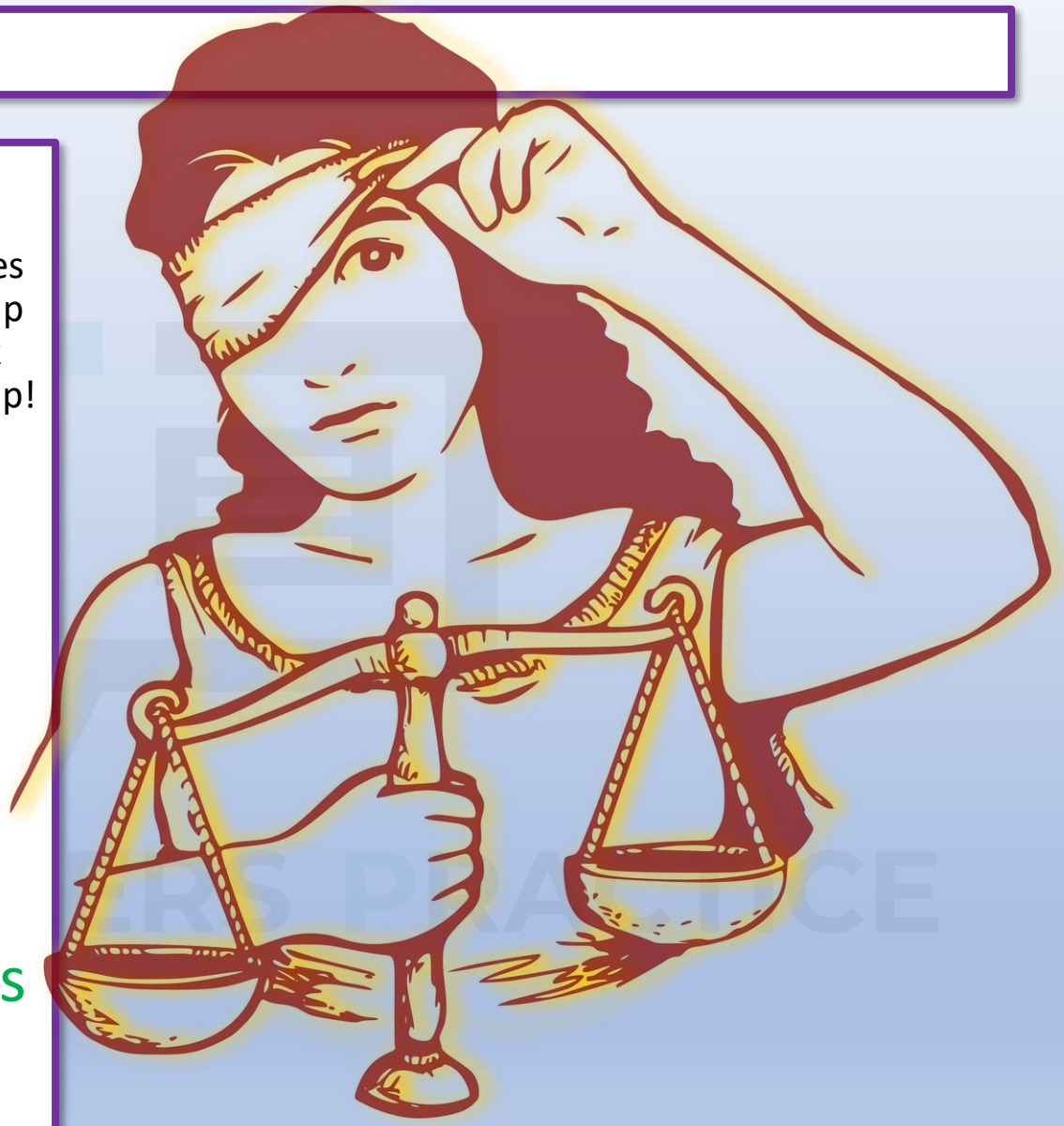
Plenary: Blind Vote

- Put your heads on the table and close your eyes.
- I will read out the learning outcomes and you need to put your thumbs up or down to judge how far you think you have progressed. Do not look up!

To describe the key skills required for Paper 1 Section A

To explain how to answer Q1

To evaluate what skills are needed for Q2



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