

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(8700)

Marked responses
8700-1 Q2 Levels 1-4

Version 1.0 27 September 2017

EXAMPLE RESPONSES



Look in detail at this extract from **lines 6 to 11** of the Source:

What had awakened him was the noise from the storm: wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop, and thunder. He turned on the light with a sensation of being adrift in a boat, and pushed closer to the bulk of the large dog sleeping beside him. He pictured the roaring Pacific Ocean a few blocks from his house, spilling in furious waves against the rocks. He lay listening to the storm and thinking about the black bird and about his mother, waiting for the pounding in his chest to die down. He was still tangled in the images of his bad dream.

How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the storm?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

The writer says that the boy was scared, ~~the~~ at the dream because it said he was waiting for the pounding in his chest to ~~go~~ die down. ~~the~~.

The writer also says that it was a miserable because it says "wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop and thunder" that shows it was a very bad day.

"He lay listening to the storm and thinking about the black bird and about his mother" that shows he cares about the birds.

Level 1: 1 mark

Simple awareness of language; one simple comment on the effect of language; simple textual detail. The rest of the response does not focus on language.

(Not yet focused on language)

Simple textual detail

Simple comment on the effect of language

Look in detail at this extract from lines 6 to 11 of the Source:

What had awakened him was the noise from the storm: wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop, and thunder. He turned on the light with a sensation of being adrift in a boat, and pushed closer to the bulk of the large dog sleeping beside him. He pictured the roaring Pacific Ocean a few blocks from his house, spilling in furious waves against the rocks. He lay listening to the storm and thinking about the black bird and about his mother, waiting for the pounding in his chest to die down. He was still tangled in the images of his bad dream.

How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the storm?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

In lines 6 to 11 the writer uses language to describe the storm by being very descriptive which created an image in the reader's head. "wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop, and thunder"

Simple comment on the effect of language

this gives us a good image in our heads about the weather and the storm. "wind lashing

Some appropriate textual detail

the trees" makes us feel that the storm is very violent.

Attempt to comment on the effect of language

"pictured the roaring Pacific Ocean" this emphasises that the sea is very aggressive and angry.

Some use of subject terminology

"roaring" is a personification and the writer has used this to represent the sea as a monster

Attempt to comment on the effect of language

that is very aggressive and is unhappy. The quote "He was still tangled in the images of his bad dream" suggests that

Some appropriate textual detail but the comment is about content rather than the use of language

the minister is trying to show that he is very worried and scared about what is going on. "Tongues" suggests that he is struggling to forget about them and things they are real events.

Level 2: 4 marks

Some understanding of language; attempts to comment on the effect of language; some use of appropriate textual detail; some use of subject terminology.

The comment on the effects of language in this response is better than in the previous response on Level 1, but the explanation is not yet sufficiently developed to be considered clear.

A typical level 2 response sometimes offers synonyms for the selected word. Here, "aggressive" is an appropriate synonym for "roaring", but "unhappy" is less successful.

Look in detail at this extract from **lines 6 to 11** of the Source:

What had awakened him was the noise from the storm: wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop, and thunder. He turned on the light with a sensation of being adrift in a boat, and pushed closer to the bulk of the large dog sleeping beside him. He pictured the roaring Pacific Ocean a few blocks from his house, spilling in furious waves against the rocks. He lay listening to the storm and thinking about the black bird and about his mother, waiting for the pounding in his chest to die down. He was still tangled in the images of his bad dream.

How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the storm?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

In lines 6 to 11 the writer uses language to describe the effects of the storm by creating a semantic field of fear. He does this by using such words as "roaring" and "furious". The word "roaring" has connotations of dangerous animals that you would fear, for example lions. By using the word furious shortly after this makes me think of a lion which would attack you. The author has done this to make the storm seem dangerous and that we should be fearful of it.

Another way in which the author describes the effects of the storm is by saying "wind lashing the trees". ^{He uses} personification to describe the wind by using the word lashing.

Attempt to comment on the effect of language

Clear explanation of the effects of language

Accurate use of subject terminology

Attempt to comment on the effect of language

which ~~is usually~~ usually implies something to do with fighting or conflict. This links to the effects of the storm because ~~the~~ meaning could be that the storm has the same effects as conflict, ultimately ending in devastation or pain. This also links back to my previous point as both of the ~~method~~ methods that the writer has used makes us think that the effect of the storm is of devastation and negative outcomes.

Level 3: 5 marks

Clear understanding of language; one clear explanation of the effects of language in the first paragraph; accurate use of subject terminology.

The explanation of the effects of language in this response is better than the previous response on Level 2.

The response could have been improved by a more specific analysis of the word "lashing" and a greater range of examples.

Look in detail at this extract from **lines 6 to 11** of the Source:

What had awakened him was the noise from the storm: wind lashing the trees, rain on the rooftop, and thunder. He turned on the light with a sensation of being adrift in a boat, and pushed closer to the bulk of the large dog sleeping beside him. He pictured the roaring Pacific Ocean a few blocks from his house, spilling in ferocious waves against the rocks. He lay listening to the storm and thinking about the black bird and about his mother, waiting for the pounding in his chest to die down. He was still tangled in the images of his bad dream.

How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the storm?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

10-12 mins?

[8 marks]

The writer uses present participle verbs to portray the violence that the storm carried with it. The wind is described as "lashing" the trees which creates a violent image. The verb "lashing" has connotations of a violent motion, and the personification here, from the wind's perspective, shows that the storm had affected such a large, strong thing such as a tree. This shows the violence of the storm, as it had in a way 'attacked' the tree.

Relevant textual detail

Clear explanation of the effects of language

Clear and accurate use of subject terminology

Through the use of adjectives, the writer depicts an aggressive image of the storm. The writer describes the waves as "ferocious" which ~~creates~~ portrays aggression, as the

Beginning to analyse effects of language

angry connotations come to mind. As the waves are ~~not~~ depicted as "furious" ^{mis} ~~shows that~~ ^{describes} ~~perceived~~ the storm ~~as~~ as having an emotion, which makes it act so aggressively, as if it is taking it out on the rocks. The

Clear explanation of effects of language

adjective "furious" ~~is also~~ comes across as exaggerated, as it is at a high level of anger, this emphasises the aggression of the storm, as it depicts ^{it} ~~them~~ as having a very strong anger, resulting in such actions.

Perceptive analysis of language

The writer creates ~~sympathy~~ ~~fact~~ by an emotional effect that the storm has, through the use of the **past participle verb** "hanged".

This verb has connotations of entrapment and ~~is~~ immobility, which has been caused by the storm. The fact that the storm has made ^{Alex} ~~a~~ ~~my~~ feel that way shows that it has a lot of power, and is very superior, almost dominant.

Level 4: 7 marks

Perceptive understanding of language by the end; sophisticated and accurate use of subject terminology.

The analysis of the effects of language in this response is better than in the previous response on Level 3.

The selection of language is the same as in the several other responses, but it is what the student does with it that is significant.

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/8700

You can talk directly to the GCSE English subject team

E: english-gcse@aqa.org.uk

T: 0161 953 7504