



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## O-Level Examination Revision Notes – Paper 2

### Overview

The O-Level Paper 2 is worth a total of **50 marks** and comprises 3 key segments:

#### Section A: Visual Comprehension (5m)

This section requires you to respond to questions based on 2 texts, one of which is a visual text.

#### Section B: Narrative Comprehension (20m)

This section asks you to answer a range of questions related to a narrative text or recount. You will need to apply skills that enable you to extract both literal and inferential meanings, demonstrate your vocabulary knowledge, and understand the writer's craft.

#### Section C: Expository Comprehension (25m)

This section involves answering a range of questions related to a non-narrative text, followed by crafting an 80-word summary of the passage's key information. The questions typically evaluate your literal and inferential comprehension of the text, vocabulary knowledge, understanding of the writer's purpose and tone, as well as your awareness of the text's structure.

Students are given **1 hr 50 mins** to complete the entire paper.

### General Tips for Paper 2

1. **Preview the text:** Begin by reading the text thoroughly before tackling the questions. Focus on the structure of the text and the writer's main emphasis to develop a comprehensive understanding.
2. **Analyse each question:** Take the time to read each question carefully, noting the following:
  - Command words
  - The specific location of the answer
  - No. of marks the question is worth
3. **Highlight Key Information:** Clearly indicate where the answer is found within the text, and underline any contextual clues that assist you in deriving your response.
4. **Review your work:** After completing your answers, check your work meticulously to ensure that:
  - Your responses directly address the question
  - You maintain accuracy in grammar and spelling
  - Quotation marks are used appropriately when citing information from the text

## Section A: Visual Comprehension

In this section of the paper, read both Text 1 and Text 2, and try to derive the following information:

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>Refers to <b>the reason</b> behind creating the visual text, addressing the creator's <b>intent</b>. Common purposes include informing, persuading, entertaining or instructing. It answers: "Why is this message being conveyed?"</p> <p>Tip: Look for the <b>imperative (command) words</b> in the visual text to help you derive your answer.</p>
<b>Message</b>	<p>The <b>specific content</b> or <b>main idea</b> conveyed by the visual text, answering: "What is being said?"</p> <p>Tip: The message of the text should be reflected by <b>both the words and the imagery of the visual text</b>.</p>
<b>Audience</b>	The <b>specific group of people</b> the visual text is intended to target.
<b>Tone</b>	<p>Reflects the writer's attitude towards the message. To derive the tone, evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Word choice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emotional and persuasive language creates a passionate tone while technical language suggests seriousness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Sentence structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short abrupt sentences may convey urgency, whereas longer sentences may reflect a relaxed tone.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Some common tones include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Optimistic</li> <li>● Enthusiastic</li> <li>● Neutral</li> <li>● Indifferent</li> <li>● Critical</li> <li>● Serious</li> <li>● Casual</li> <li>● Emotional</li> </ul>
<b>How the image complements the words</b>	Consider how the image complements the words. <b>Analyse the main subject of the image and the action involved</b> , linking it to <b>the overall message of the visual text</b> .

## **Section B & C: Narrative & Expository Comprehension**

When reading the texts, annotate them while paying attention to the following information:

<b>Narrative Comprehension</b>	<b>Expository Comprehension</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plot structure</li> <li>● Characterisation (traits, feelings and relationships)</li> <li>● Setting</li> <li>● Descriptive Details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Structure of text (cause and effect, problem and solution, compare and contrast, descriptions and time order)</li> <li>● The main idea of each paragraph</li> </ul>

Tips for Tackling Questions in Section B and C:

1. Read each question carefully, noting the following:
  - Command words
  - The specific location of the answer
  - No. of marks the question is worth
2. Identify required skills of the question:
  - Deriving **literal meaning**
  - Inferring **implied meaning**
  - Demonstrating **knowledge of vocabulary** in context
  - Understanding **writer's craft, tone and intent**
  - Recognising the **structure** of the text
3. Review your work, ensuring that:
  - Your responses directly address the question
  - You maintain accuracy in grammar and spelling
  - Quotation marks are used appropriately when citing information from the text

Question types in Sections B and C:

<b>Narrative Comprehension</b>	<b>Expository Comprehension</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Direct questions</li> <li>● Inference questions</li> <li>● Vocabulary questions</li> <li>● Language for effect questions</li> <li>● Global question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Direct questions</li> <li>● Inference questions</li> <li>● Vocabulary questions</li> <li>● Language for effect questions</li> <li>● Summary question</li> </ul>

## Question Command Words:

<b>Give / State / Provide / Identify / Quote</b>	These question keywords usually indicate that the answer is <b>stated</b> in the passage. Note that some <b>minor rephrasing</b> may be necessary to answer the question.
<b>Who</b>	'Who' questions require you to identify <b>a person/persons</b> in your answer.
<b>Where</b>	'Where' questions require you to identify <b>a place</b> in your answer.
<b>When</b>	'When' questions require you to identify <b>a time</b> in your answer.
<b>What</b>	'What' questions require you to identify and state <b>the specific information asked for in the question</b> .
<b>Why</b>	'Why' questions require you to identify a <b>reason</b> or <b>explanation</b> in your answer. Usually these are <b>inference</b> questions.
<b>How</b>	'How' questions require you to identify a <b>way</b> , <b>method</b> or <b>process</b> in your answer. Usually these are <b>writer's craft</b> questions.
<b>Explain</b>	'Explain' questions may require you to either <b>provide a reason (either stated or implied)</b> or to <b>paraphrase keywords</b> (especially if the question asks you to <i>explain in your own words</i> ).
<b>In your own words</b>	This expression indicates that the question requires you to <b>paraphrase specific information</b> in the passage. Make use of appropriate word or phrase substitutes to replace keywords.
<b>Suggest</b>	'Suggest' questions require you to <b>make an inference based on contextual clues</b> .
<b>Effective</b>	'Effective' questions require you to consider how the writer <b>emphasises</b> an idea / <b>evokes</b> a particular emotion.
<b>Unusual</b>	'Unusual' questions require you to explain <b>what is expected</b> in contrast to <b>what is the reality</b> . (irony)
<b>Evidence</b>	Questions that ask you to provide 'evidence' to support a perspective require you to look for <b>specific relevant examples</b> within a text. These may include specific facts or statistics, dates or time periods, and research findings.
<b>Personality</b>	'Personality' refers to the <b>character traits</b> of a person. Usually these are <b>adjectives</b> .
<b>Attitude</b>	'Attitude' refers to <b>one's thoughts and feelings towards someone or something</b> .
<b>Mood</b>	'Mood' can refer to <b>one's feelings at a particular instance</b> or <b>the atmosphere of a particular setting</b> .
<b>Feeling</b>	'Feelings' refer to the <b>emotions</b> felt by the characters.

Tips and Techniques for Answering Questions:

1. Inference Questions:
  - Use both contextual clues and your prior knowledge.
2. '3 details' Questions:
  - Identify the inference of the question and consider associated words / phrases
  - Locate relevant details from the text
  - Determine keywords in each detail and paraphrase them in your answer
  - Explain the relevance of the details to the question in your answer (if necessary)
3. IYOW Questions:
  - Identify the keywords of each relevant detail of the text, and paraphrase them in your answer making use of appropriate substitutes.
4. Global Questions:
  - Locate specific evidence in the passage to support your answer.
5. Talking Heads Questions:
  - Understand the perspectives implied by the question.
  - Take note of whether the question requires you to locate an explanation or evidence from the passage.
  - Locate the relevant information in the passage, and rearrange the words (if necessary) such that you respond directly to the question.

## **Section C: Summary Writing**

Tips for Tackling Summary Question:

1. Pay attention to keywords:
  - Identify how many types of points the question requires, where to find the information and the starting words for your summary.
2. Read the passage slowly:
  - Highlight or underline relevant and unique phrases or sentences
  - Number your points
3. Paraphrase your points:
  - Take note of the keywords of each summary point
  - Paraphrase keywords using substitution, elaboration, condensation, antonyms or rearranging the words of the sentence
  - Include technical terms without paraphrasing
4. Organise your ideas:
  - Use connectors of addition, consequence and contrast when writing your summary to ensure grammatical accuracy.