

Brighter Thinking

1

Read the text carefully: try to see, feel, hear, smell or taste the events just as they are described.

At the end of a paragraph, check your understanding:

WHAT have I found out?

Then either re-read, or go on.

2

Before you answer any questions about the text, work out:

WHO is the writer?

WHO is the audience?

WHAT is the purpose? (instruct, explain, inform, narrate, describe, advise, argue, persuade)

You need to know this to be able to explain the writer's choices in your answers.

3

Read the question at least twice and underline its key words. Work out:

WHAT exactly have you got to do?

WHAT is relevant (what is not?)

HOW can you earn **ALL** the marks?

Does a detail + explaining **WHAT + HOW + WHY** = 2 marks?

4

Earn **ALL** the marks:

Find **ALL** the relevant information – check the whole text

If you are asked for an answer '**in your own words**' = **NEVER quote**

If you are asked for '**examples**' '**evidence**' or told to '**refer to the text**' then **quote**

Make your short, apt quotation part of the sentence you are writing.

When you explain, tell the examiner **WHAT**, **HOW** and **WHY**.

5

Develop your explanations by asking yourself a chain of questions about the detail you've chosen:

WHAT does this word / phrase / image / colour / size / position mean / show?

WHAT does this word / phrase / image / colour / size / position suggest?

HOW will this suggestion affect readers?

HOW does creating this effect on readers help the writer achieve their purpose?

6

Remember: the writer makes every choice, and crafts every detail to have an effect on readers that will help achieve the text's purpose.

Explain **WHAT** the writer does and **HOW / WHY** it affects the reader, helping the text achieve its purpose.

7

CHECK that your answer:

Answers **ALL** the parts of the question

Makes sense

Earns **ALL** the available marks

