

## Structure

The structure of a text is how it is organised and how its parts fit together. Writers structure their texts deliberately to have an effect on the reader.

Exam questions ask you to comment on how writers structure their texts to interest the reader. You should use terminology and show that you understand how structural features introduce and prioritise information in a text.

### Structural features

Feature	Purpose	Effect on the reader
openings	The start of a text must interest the reader.	Comment on how the writer introduces ideas and raises questions.
focus	This is what the writer focuses on as the text develops.	Analyse what is implied, eg a gloomy landscape implies an unhappy situation - what is causing that unhappiness? What will happen next?
shifts	Changes in ideas and perspectives, eg outside to inside.	Comment on how this change is effective, eg creates contrast.
contrast	The differences between two things.	Comment on the effect a drastic difference produces.
repetition or patterns	When words, phrases or ideas are repeated for effect.	Repetitive features can highlight key meanings, indicate a development or show a lack of change.
pace	The feeling of speed in the writing – are events and ideas revealed to the reader slowly or quickly?	Ask what effect is created by altering the pace, eg a slow pace builds tension or suggests boredom, a quicker pace may suit a piece about things happening at speed.
temporal references	References to time.	Comment on how time is used to speed up or slow down the pace of the text.
order of events	This could be chronological or writers might choose to start at the end, in the middle, or with flashbacks / flash forwards.	Comment on how the order of events introduces and prioritises key ideas – and how this engages the reader.
endings	The conclusion of a text may be neat or leave us with questions.	Think about how the reader feels at the end. Have their feelings changed since the opening?
withholding information	Clues and hints are given without revealing everything at once.	Analyse what is implied by hints – how does this build the reader's expectations?
dialogue	Conversations and speech.	How does dialogue move the text forward?
headings, subheadings and questions	Divides the content of texts into topics and sub topics, can signal the start of new points.	How do they guide readers through a text?
bullets	Bullets can summarise and simplify a range of ideas.	Why does the writer summarise certain points?
sentence structures	Varied types of sentences, eg simple, compound and complex.	Comment on how sentence structures affect the fluency of the text, eg a sudden short sentence could reveal shocking information.
paragraph lengths	These vary like sentences eg, to highlight significant points or to provide a detailed account.	Comment on how paragraph lengths affect the development of the text, eg a final paragraph might summarise key points in an argument.