

language connection

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NOTE: The following questions all come from past national exam papers:

Comment briefly on the following passage, explaining its significance to the short story from which it is taken.

Back home, the meat pieces you ate, when there was meat, were the size of half your finger. But you did not tell him that. You did not tell him either that the *dawadawa* cubes your mother cooked everything with, because curry and thyme were too expensive, had MSG, *were* MSG. He said MSG caused cancer, it was the reason he liked Chang's; Chang's didn't cook with MSG.

Discuss the importance of conversations in **three** short stories in your syllabus, focussing specifically on how they move the plot forward and how they are used as a narrative technique.

Identify the short story that in your view provides the best analysis of **resistance to oppression**, and write a short introduction to the story highlighting this aspect. Note that you first need to justify your selection through a brief comparison with the other stories in your syllabus.

[these 3 from 2020 paper]

Comment briefly on the following passage, explaining its significance to the short story from which it is taken.

Then all at once she understood. She smiled. A little dimple appeared for a moment. I had never seen that dimple before; I never saw it again. Her teeth were very small like gleaming grains of polished rice. And all the stars in the sky tumbled right into her great black eyes.

Examine the use of 'choice' in determining character development, plot advancement and / or individual emancipation with reference to **at least three** short stories prescribed in your syllabus.

Evaluate how the female characters in the prescribed short stories determine the course of their actions, making reference to their gendered reactions and relationships. Make detailed

references to **at least two** stories from your collection.

[from 2019 paper]

Comment briefly on the following passage, explaining its significance to the short story from which it is taken.

She used to read to us without pity; lies, other folks' habits, whole lives, upon us two, sitting trapped and ignorant underneath her voice. She washed us in a rivver of make-believe, burned us with a lot of knowledge we didn't necessarily need to know.

Discuss the importance of **individuality and individual choice** in three short stories in your syllabus, focusing specifically on how these themes move the plot forward and add value to the characters in these stories.

Explore how **gender and sexuality** are represented in two short stories in your syllabus, choosing one story written by a woman and another by a man. Identify and analyse differences, if any, between the approaches taken in these texts, and assess the extent to which the author's gender does not influence this difference.

Identify the short story in your syllabus that, in your view, provides the **most effective** portrayal of **failed relationships**, and write a short introduction to the story highlighting this aspect. Note that you first need to justify your selection through a brief comparison with the other stories in your syllabus.

[from 2022 paper]

Comment briefly on the following passage, explaining its significance to the short story from which it is taken.

You said no the following four days to going out with him because you were uncomfortable with the way he looked at your face, that intense, consuming way he looked at your face that made you say goodbye to him but also made you reluctant to walk away. And then, the fifth night, you panicked when he was not standing at the door after your shift. You prayed for the first time in a long time and when he came up behind you and said hey, you said yes, you would go out with him, even before he asked. You were scared he would not ask again.

Discuss the impact of **socio-economic hierarchies** in **three** short stories in your syllabus, focussing specifically on how these hierarchies move the plot forward.

Examine how **love** is portrayed in two short stories in your syllabus, choosing one written by a woman and one written by a man. Identify and analyse the differences, if any, in the representation and treatment of love in these two texts.

Identify the short story in your syllabus that, in your view, provides the best critical analysis of **womens' resistance to gender norms** and write a short introduction to the story highlighting this aspect. Note that you first need to justify your selection through a brief comparison with the other stories in your syllabus.

[from 2023 paper

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1 [short story qq] 13 June 2024