

# Comparison:

Assessment Objective (A03): Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.

## Comparison questions test a reader's ability to:

- compare two texts
- consider the similarities and differences between the texts
- sustain a focus on the question and stated area for comparison.

## Before answering:

1. This is the final reading question. Make sure you have left yourself enough **time**. Practise this!
2. Underline the key words in the question. You are likely to be asked to compare with a **specific** focus in mind – what is it?
3. Be sure that you understand the **focus** of the question.
4. Go through the different texts and highlight any evidence that you will use in your answer.
5. **Revisit** the question. Make sure your evidence and points will provide a clear answer to **focus**.

## Useful compare and contrast connectives:

on the other hand	like
similarly	yet
both	although
unlike	in contrast
whereas	likewise
instead	as well as
however	alternatively
conversely	while

## When writing your answer:

- be clear about which text you are referring to;
- support all points with evidence from the text;
- keep the **focus** of the question firmly in mind – reuse the words of the question to frame your answer if you need something to help you stay on track;
- keep an eye on your timing – this will be a higher tariff question so make sure you have left enough time for completion;
- you may not have the same amount to say about each text but make sure you try to give reasonably even consideration to both texts.

## TOP TIP: Use the Question

1. Use the **bullet points**. These are deliberately given to help you. **Organise** your answer with these in mind.
2. The second bullet point tells you to look at **how** the writers get their ideas across. You must compare the ways the writers do this.

## Checklist for improving your answer:

- ☑ Have you used evidence to support your answer?
- ☑ Have you responded to the focus of the question?
- ☑ Have you considered points from both texts?
- ☑ Have you made it clear which text you are referring to?

## Some examples of previous comparison questions

Both of these texts are about **tightrope walkers crossing Niagara Falls**.

Compare:

- **what** Blondin and Nik Wallenda **did** during their crossings of Niagara Falls;
- **how** the writers try to convey the **dangers** of crossing Niagara Falls. [10]

Both of these texts are about **volcanoes that have erupted**.

Compare:

- **what** the writers **could see and hear** of the erupting volcanoes;
- **how** they get their experiences across to their readers. [10]

Both of these texts give an account of **a mining rescue**.

Compare:

- **what** the writers tell us about what happened on the **day** when the miners were rescued;
- **how** the writers try to show the **drama** of the **day** of the rescues. [10]

**These questions are usually accompanied by an instruction such as:**

*You must use the text to support your comments and make it clear which text you are referring to.*

**This information is intended to help you so ensure you read it carefully.**