



**English Language – Question A & B**

**English – Leaving Cert**

**Quick Notes**

# English Language – Question A

## 1. Narration

- Purpose-Give a connected account of events, real or imagined.
- Most common form used.
- Fiction is imagined narrative.
- Found in biography, letters, diaries.

### Features of Narrative

- All narrative has a setting (place and time)
- Written in a coherent and logical way-chronologically
- Selects specific details to describe more:
- Creates vivid images, appeals to our senses, uses similes and metaphors, uses contrast and symbols, adjectives and adverbs.
- Informal, spontaneous language.
- Contains some comment or reflection-usually a definable tone.

## 2. Argument

- Purpose-convince readers to agree with their point of view, using reasoned evidence and illustration.
- Points are argued in a rational manner and have logical development.
- For it to succeed it must be credible and have authority.

### Rhetorical features of Argument

1. Rhetorical Questions-Used to engage a reader. Used for emphasis and includes reader in the discussion.
2. Loaded Question-Short, snappy , not as weighty as a rhetorical question.
3. Contrast-Emphasis and highlights difference. Is dramatic.
4. Irony-Used in a critical fashion and is used to mock and provoke reaction. Used when what is meant is the opposite of what is said.
5. Illustration-Provides a concrete example. Allows reader to visualise and understand. It is generally anecdotal.
6. Reference and Statistics-Provides a scientific basis. Suggests knowledge of topic and make argument more credible. Passage is more accessible to reader and becomes more engaged.
7. Quotation-Adds authority to what writer is saying, adds a sense of objectivity.
8. Direct Statement-Writer makes an assertion and is definite in the point being expressed. Displays confidence.
9. Repetition-Argument is more forceful and more emphasis.
10. Analogy-Comparison used for explanation or clarification.
11. Connectors-Make it more logical and coherent-‘However, as a result, in fact etc’
12. Distancing Phrases-Allow writer to seem detached and objective. Acknowledges different points of view. “There are many people who believe”
13. Imagery-Provides vivid description.

14. Pressure Phrases-Make the opinion seem universal. "We all realize that...". Reader is encouraged to share common view. "You surely have experienced....".
15. Inductive Reasoning-Specific to general.
16. Deductive Reasoning-General to specific.

### **3. Persuasion**

- Purpose-To influence people to act or think in a particular way.
- Find this in speeches, advertisements, informal talks.

#### **Rhetorical Features**

1. Overlap with argument-objectivity, concrete illustration, and techniques such as repetition or rhetorical questions.
2. Appeals more to our feelings than argument.
3. Words and images used for emotional effect rather than factual qualities.
4. Uses attractive aural effects-as alliteration, onomatopoeia, visual imagery and metaphors or similes.
5. More personal than argument.
6. Humour-wit or verbal cleverness.
7. Hyperbole-Exaggeration for dramatic effect and emphasis.
8. Lists-For emphasis.
9. Direct address-engages reader.
10. Anecdotal-evidence/makes concrete idea.
11. Irony-suggests frustration or ridicule.
12. Short sentence-dramatic and lend clarity.
13. Long sentence-intensity of emotion.
14. Contrast-emphasis and highlight differences.

### **4. Information**

- Purpose-To let the audience or reader know something.
- Find instructions, repair manuals, minutes of meetings, newspaper reports.

#### **Rhetorical Features**

- Content is factual.
- Tone is impersonal and objective. No point of view.
- Choice of diction is neutral.
- Points made in chronological order.
- Narration may be used to illustrate point.
- Can be used to entertain-review.

### **5. Aesthetic**

- Purpose-To give reader pleasure with beauty and to appeal to their artistic sense. No agenda.
- Find in poetry, drama and fiction.

#### **Features**

- Tells a story.
- Creates an atmosphere.

- Describes in detail

## **6. Descriptive**

### Features

- Past tense-Distance and time moving.
- Present tense-immediacy, vibrant.
- Series of detailed lists-atmosphere, detail.
- Verbs-give energy to it. (participle—ing)
- Simple syntax-makes it dramatic.
- Adjectives-clarity and creates the scene.
- Contrast-used to persuade or for emphasis.
- Anecdotal-punctuates what is going on.
- Sophisticated syntax/long sentences-creates atmosphere.
- Figurative language-provides concrete images, grabs imagination.
- Dialogue-creates sense of drama.

## **7. Humour**

### Features

1. Slapstick/Farce-exaggeration, ridiculous things, involves movements or action.
2. Irony-smart remarks and wit through the tone of something. Uses contradiction and it is verbal.
3. Displacement-wrong place and the wrong time.

# English Language Question B

- 35 Minutes
- 1 and half pages.
- Purpose, audience, context, register, form.

## Letter

- Opening/Closing
- Greeting.
- Body of Letter-each paragraph different topic.

## Report

- Title of Report
- Date
- Terms of Reference-What and why
- Research
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

## Memo

- To
- From
- Date
- Re:
- Body of memo (bullet points)
- Sign off.