

How to analyse an Arabic text or a film

When candidates study an Arabic text or film, they could explore the following elements, making possible connections between them and finding enough evidence in the text or film to justify and develop their views on them.

Characters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protagonist: (شخصية أساسية) leading character. ● Antagonist: (خصم) character, group of characters, or institution that represents the opposition against which the protagonist or protagonists must contend. ● Focal: (بوري) character that has a decisive role, but does not have to be the protagonist. ● Minor character: (شخصيه هامشية) character that is not essential to the story. ● Static and dynamic characters: Dynamic characters (الشخصيات الديناميكية) are the ones who change over the course of the story, while static characters (شخصيات ثابتة) remain the same throughout. ● Purpose, actions and goals of the characters ● Characterisation: (توصيف) ways in which character is portrayed including physical appearance and personality.
Key themes/issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why was it written / made? ● What was the purpose of it? ● Is there a moral in the story?
Social and cultural settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Historical: (الفترة التاريخية) historical period or periods that are portrayed in the story, as well as the moment in history when the text or film was made and its impact on it. ● Cultural: (ملامح ثقافية) elements of the society that are present in the text or film, either in an implicit or explicit way. ● Geographical: (موقع جغرافي) place or places where the story takes place. ● Time: (زمان) flash-back (تذكر الماضي), flash-forward (استشراف) or ellipsis (علامة الحذف). ● Author's biographical information: (معلومات السيرة الذاتية للمؤلف) this can have an effect on the story.
Styles/techniques used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linguistic elements: auto-biography (سيرة ذاتية), description (توصيف), narration (قصة), dialogue (محادثة) and monologue (مناجاة فردية). ● Rhetorical devices: () alliteration (حرفياً), allusion (تلميح), amplification (التضخيم), analogy (تشابه), antiphrasis (المفارقة التصويرية خطاب), antithesis (مقابل),

epithet (عِبارة تعبر عن نوعية الشخص), hyperbole (مُبَالَغَة), metaphor (استعارة), onomatopoeia (المحاكاة والصوتية), oxymoron (الإرداف الخلفي), personification (تَشخِيس), parallelism (تواز), simile (التشبيهات), understatement (التهوين), among others.

- **Time:** circular, cyclical (دوري), lineal (مباشر) or anachronistic (عفا عليها الزمن).
- **Plot:** (حبكة الموضوع) foreshadowing (ينذر), suspense (تَشوِيق), conflict (صِرَاع), exposition (تفسير), rising action (تساعد الإثارة), crisis (أزمة) and resolution (القرار).
- **Symbolism:** (الرَّمْزِيَّة) use of symbols to represent an idea, a feeling or another key element.
- **Point of view:** (وجهة نظر) narrator, 1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person (objective) or omniscient (عالم بكل شيء).

Styles/techniques in a text	Styles/techniques in a film
<p>Genre: (أُسْلُوب) drama (دُرَامَا), romance (قصة حب), satire (هَجَاء), tragedy (مَأْسَاء), comedy (هَزْلِيَّة), tragicomedy (كوميديا سوداء)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● fiction (خيال) and nonfiction (غير الخيالية) ● Choice of language: verbs and tenses, adjectives and nouns. ● Syntax: (بناء الجملة) structure of the text, types of sentences and punctuation. ● Imagery: (مَجَاز) use of elements to create a mental picture using visual and other senses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Genre: action (فيلم حركي), adventure (مغامرة), comedy (مَهْزَلَة), crime (جريمة) & gangster (رجل عصابة), documentary (وثائقي), drama (دُرَامَا), epics (الملاحم), historical (الفيلم التاريخي), horror (فيلم الرعب), musicals (فيلم موسيقي), dance (فيلم راقص), science fiction (الخيال العلمي), and war (فيلم الحرب). ● Visual elements: images, shapes, lines, colours, use of the camera, light, shot transitions. ● Audio elements: words, sound effects, silences, music and accents.