Answers to questions on prose non-fiction should refer to the text and to such relevant features as ideas, use of evidence, stance, style, selection of material, narrative voice . . .

Specimen Paper

7. Choose a piece of travel writing in which the writer’s use of language engages your interest in his/her portrayal of a country or culture. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer uses language to successfully engage your interest in this portrayal.

8. Choose a work of biography or autobiography in which the writer’s description of an emotional experience creates a powerful impression. With reference to appropriate techniques, briefly explain the emotional experience and then discuss how the writer’s description of this experience creates this powerful impression.

9. Choose a piece of journalism in which the writer persuades his or her reader to a point of view by effective use of language. With reference to appropriate techniques, briefly explain the writer’s point of view, and then discuss how the writer’s use of language is effective in persuading the reader.

2015

1. . Choose a non-fiction text which recreates a moment in time. Discuss how the description effectively recreates this moment and show how important this is to your appreciation of the text as a whole.
2. Choose a non-fiction text which is structured in a particularly effective way. Explain how the structure enhances the impact of the writer’s message.
3. Choose a non-fiction text which made you consider your views about a social or political or ethical issue. Explain what the issue is and how the writer uses language effectively to engage you.

2016

1. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer engages your interest in a place or culture. Discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, how the writer successfully engages your interest in this place or culture.

2. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer describes a traumatic or rewarding experience. Discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, how the writer conveys the traumatic or rewarding nature of the experience.

3. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer attempts to influence the reader’s opinion on a person or an issue. Discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, how the writer attempts to influence the reader’s opinion on the person or the issue.

2017

1.Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer reports on aspects of war or injustice or human suffering. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer engages your interest in these aspects of war or injustice or human suffering.

2. Choose a non-fiction text which gives you a detailed insight into a place or a person’s life. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer successfully engages your interest in the place or the person’s life.

 3. Choose a non-fiction text which makes effective use of humour to make a significant point. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer uses humour to make the significant point.

2018

1. Choose a non-fiction text which has an emotional and/or intellectual appeal for the reader. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer has created this emotional and/or intellectual appeal.

 2. Choose a non-fiction text which has made you think differently about an important moral or social issue. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer has caused you to view the issue differently.

 3. Choose a non-fiction text which provides fresh understanding of a group of people, or a way of life, or an important figure. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer has provided this insight.

2019

1.Choose a non-fiction text which presents a distinctive account of a place or an event or a person. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the account effectively creates a sense of the place or the event or the person.

2. Choose a non-fiction text which provokes a strong reaction in the reader. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer creates this reaction.

3. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer challenges beliefs or assumptions or opinions. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer presents this challenge.

2021

1. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer gives a vivid impression of an aspect of society or the natural world. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer creates a vivid impression of this aspect of society or the natural world.

2. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer gives you an insight into a joyful or challenging or disturbing experience. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer successfully engages your interest in the joyful or challenging or disturbing nature of this experience.

3. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer effectively presents a strong opinion on an issue which you feel is significant. With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer presents this opinion in an effective way.

2022

1. Choose a non-fiction text which effectively presents the reader with difficult or thought-provoking ideas. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer presents these difficult or thought-provoking ideas in an effective way.

2. Choose a non-fiction text which makes clear the writer’s stance on an important issue. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain what the issue is and discuss how the writer makes clear their stance.

3. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer’s use of description is an important feature. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer’s use of description contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

2023

1. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer creates a clear impression of a person or place. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer effectively creates a clear impression of the person or place.
2. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer is trying to persuade or shock or entertain the reader. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer makes this text persuasive or shocking or entertaining.
3. Choose a non-fiction text which explores an important moral or social or environmental issue. By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the writer explores this important moral or social or environmental issue.