

English

Sample Answers

Comprehensions

(QA)

Content

This document contains sample answers to the following official SEC exam questions:

- **LC 2016 - Text 2** (H1 answer with text annotated and in-depth analysis)
- **LC 2021 - Text 1** (only first two parts of Q)
- **LC 2021 - Text 3**
- **LC 2023 - Text 3**

Quick Disclaimer:

These answers were written by me during my preparation for the 2024 Leaving Certificate. Some were marked by my teachers, while others I've reviewed and improved based on my current understanding after achieving 625 points, and a H1 in English.

While not officially corrected, I believe they reflect H1-standard work based on my experience.

These samples are intended as helpful guides, not guaranteed templates, and should be used alongside your own preparation and judgement.

Leaving Certificate 2016

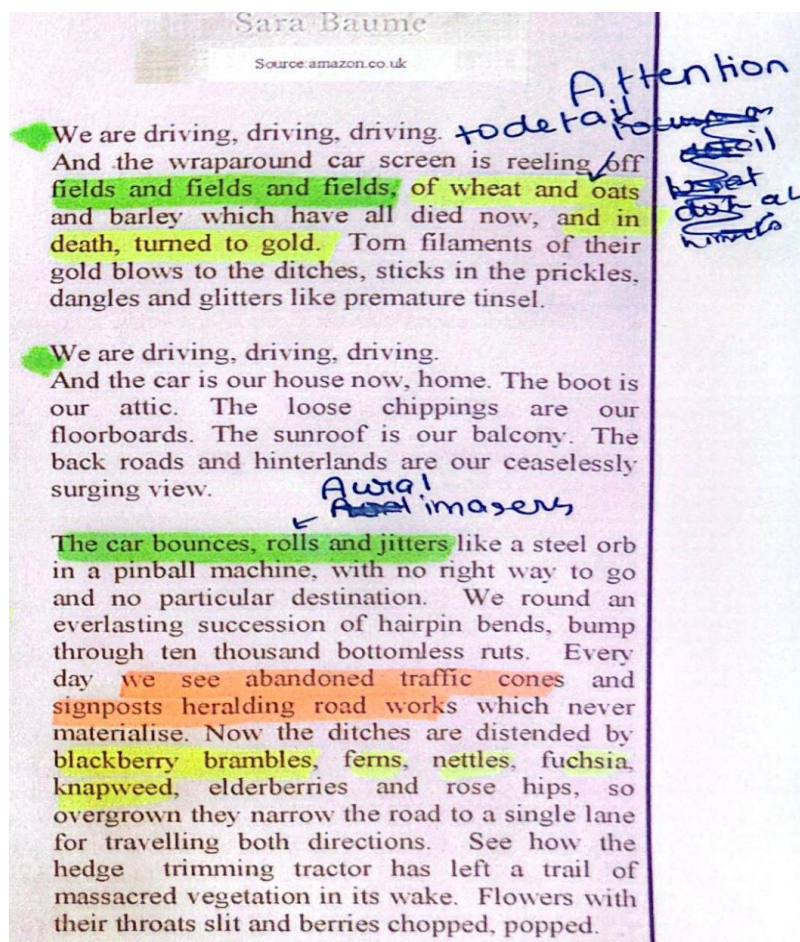
Text 2

The first thing I do before even starting my answer, is thoroughly reading the questions and the text.

I like to highlight different parts of the text that could be applicable to the different questions. I would use different colours (i.e. yellow for part 1, orange for part 2 and green for part 3 - though this is optional!)

This is a brilliant strategy to get you in the zone.

Below is an example of a paragraph I have annotated to help me with my answer:



Sample answers:

(i).

From this extract of Baume's novel, 'Spill Simmer Falter Wither', a plethora of insights into Ray's mental and emotional state are gained.

Immediately, it's lucid that Ray is terrified. His emotional state is quite tense and scared, which is explicitly portrayed by his attention to detail. Ray chooses to focus on the minute details around him, as a coping mechanism. From carefully scouting the fields of "wheat and oats" to focusing on the "blackberry bramble" and "ferns," this is Ray's method of escaping reality. This elucidates that he struggles with unresolved emotional difficulties that he chooses not to acknowledge. He believes in 'ignorance is bliss', as revealed by his following trait.

From this text, it is evident that Ray is lost in the path of life. This is notable by his constant self-doubt and uncertainty, shedding light on his emotionally scarred mind. We see that Ray is confused. He is disillusioned that "freedom from routine" will serve him well. This lack of clarity leads him to "spending too long thinking" and "[forgetting] how to breathe." It is clear that he is his own problem, which results in the next trait.

Lastly, the text reveals that Ray has a lack of self-confidence. He is a victim of society. This is prominent from the description of "countless uncanny strangers." He is afraid of interaction with people as he feels "smaller, smaller and smaller." A clear lack of self-worth.

From this text, it is clear that Ray is a troubled soul who has lost his path.

Feedback on (i):

Structure and flow:

- There is a good structure - strong introduction, 3 developed points, and a nice conclusion reaffirming the points made.
- There is a **topic sentence** at the start of each developed point (a topic sentence clearly states the direction the paragraph is taking). This is excellent.
- There is a **linking sentence** in the second and third paragraph. This is brilliant as there is a flow to the answer.

Personal interpretation and insight:

- Time has been taken to analyse Ray's character and make remarks on it.
- Interpretation feels thoughtful and personal, especially in lines like "he is his own problem" and "Ray is a troubled soul who has lost his path".
- Use of quick and snappy comments are excellent as well - show clarity in thought.

Use of quotation:

- At least two quotes have been used in each paragraph which is excellent.
- Quotes are short and well-integrated.
- However, some quotes haven't been fully elaborated on. For example "freedom from routine" doesn't have a very clear purpose in the response. But for the most part, quotations are good.

Summary:

- Overall, from my personal experiences of the Leaving Certificate, this is a H1 answer.