Higher/Intermediate 2
Close Reading Formulas

Imagery Question
1. Identify the image (what is being compared to what?)
2. Give the <u>literal meaning</u> of the **image**.
3. Explain the connection between the two. (This suggests that...)

Context Question
1. Give the meaning of the word.
2. Quote a word or phrase from the context.
3. Explain how this word/phrase helps you understand the meaning of the original word.

NOTE: It is good practice to do steps 2 and 3 again for another word/phrase especially if the question is worth more than 2 marks.

Linking Sentence Question
1. Quote the words that link back to the previous paragraph.
2. Explain what the argument in that paragraph is.
3. Quote the words that move the argument forward.
4. Explain what the author is now talking about.

Word Choice Question
1. Quote a word/phrase.
2. Explain the connotations of the word/phrase (what it makes you think of/what you associate with the word).
3. Explain what this suggests about what the writer is describing.

NOTE: You may be required to do this for 2 or 3 words/phrases depending on how many marks the question is for.

Sentence Structure Question
To help you find relevant features to comment on, follow these steps:

1. What type of sentence(s) is/are being used?
   - Statement
   - Question/rhetorical question
   - Exclamation
   - Command
   - Minor sentence

2. How is the punctuation used to divide up the sentence?
- Colons
- Semi-colons
- Parenthesis

3. Is there anything unusual about the structure of the sentence?
- Inversion
- Repetition
- Climax or anti-climax
- Antithesis

4. Do the sentences form a pattern?
- Repetitive or balanced structure
- Contrast between complex and short sentences

NOTE: You get no marks for identifying a relevant feature. You must explain how this adds to your understanding or to the effect the writer was trying to achieve.

Language Question
1. Identify the language feature you will be dealing with. It could be:
- Word choice
- Imagery
- Punctuation
- Sentence structure
2. Quote.
3. Follow the formula for that type of feature (i.e. imagery question, word choice question, etc) to explain its effect.

Effective as a Conclusion Question
1. Does it sum up the main points? Quote and explain what they are and quote or summarise where they were made earlier on in the passage.
2. Does it restate the writer's point to view? Quote and explain what it is, then quote from earlier in passage and explain the link.
3. Does it link back to the introduction? How? Quote and explain.
4. Does it use word choice/imagery begun in the introduction or used throughout passage? Quote and explain from both the conclusion and from earlier in the passage.