

NOVEL RESPONSE

Past year's questions

2008	Based on the novel that you have studied, describe what happens at the end of the story. Explain why you find the ending either happy or sad.
2009	Write about a difficult decision made by one of the characters. Do you think this was the right decision?
2010	Write about an important incident that you remember. Give reasons why you remember the incident.
2011	Which part of the story do you like most? Give reasons for your choice.
2012	Write about an event that makes you angry. Give reasons why the event makes you feel this way.
2013	Write about an important decision made by one of the characters. Explain how it affects the other character(s).
2014	"One has to struggle to improve one's life." How far is this true of the novel you have studied?
2015	Suggest one character in the novel you have read who you think is a good role model for teenagers. Give reasons for your choice with close reference to the text.
2016	Based on the novel that you have studied, describe a scene that makes you either happy or sad. Give reasons why the scene makes you happy or sad, with close reference to the text.
2017	Based on the novel you have studied, write about a value that is important to one of the characters in the novel. Give reasons why it is so, with close reference to the text.

Novel response marking scheme

MARK RANGE	CONTENT	MARK RANGE	LANGUAGE
9 – 10	A consistently relevant convincing response to the task with detailed and well developed textual evidence.	5	The language is accurate and is very well organised.
7 – 8	Response is relevant to the task with some developed textual evidence.	4	The language is largely accurate and well organised.
5 – 6	Response is intermittently relevant to the task with little textual evidence.	3	Meaning is never in doubt but errors are frequent and is fairly well organised.
3 – 4	Response of little relevance to the task with little textual evidence.	2	Frequent errors with some blurring in meaning and is poorly organised.
1 – 2	Response has no relevance to the task.	1	Makes little or no sense at all and lacks organisation.

Useful Notes

THEMES	LESSONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close family ties/ Siblings rivalry • Gender discrimination/ Gender bias/ Gender inequality • Emancipation of women • The right to education • Life struggle • Poverty/ Social injustice/ Exploitation of the poor • Hope • Knowledge versus ignorance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone deserves an equal right to education. • In order to get what we want, we have to work hard for it. • Not everything that we wish is meant for us. • Education is the way out from poverty. • Treat others equally regardless their social status and gender. • It takes courage to stand up for your right. • Family should be there for each other. • No matter what we are going through, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Do not lose hope. 			
VALUES				
Love Courage Honesty Loyalty Gratitude	Responsibility Patience Kindness Perseverance Appreciation	Sacrifice Friendship Determination Empathy Confidence	Bravery Concern Tolerance Obedience Discipline	

PRACTICE

Read each chapter and write notes about each of the characters below. Find the evidence to support your description.

** Look up for what the characters said or did in the novel.*

CHARACTER	PERSONALITY	EVIDENCE
DAWAN	1) _____ 2) _____	- She went to see the head monk to persuade him to talk to her Father even though Bao reminded her that the monk would not speak for her and persuade her father. - _____ _____ _____
KWAI	3) _____ 4) _____	- He said he would not goto the city school even if his father ordered him to go because father had no 'right' to forbid her and Dawan was the one who won the scholarship. - _____ _____ _____
FATHER	5) _____ 6) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

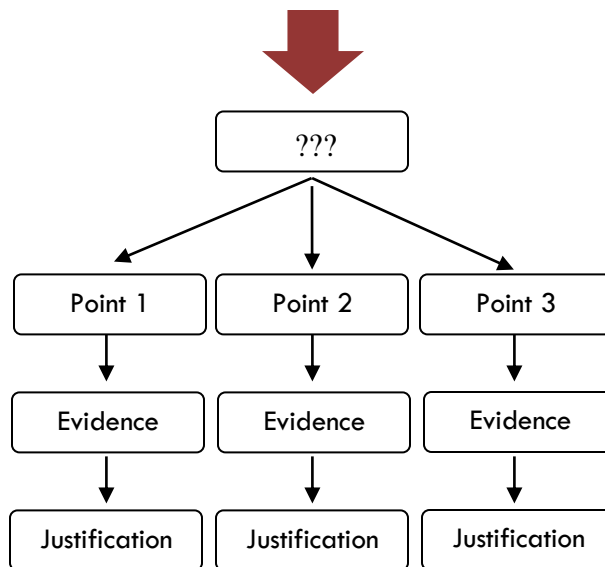
MOTHER	7) _____ 8) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
GRANDMOTHER	9) _____ 10) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
NOI	11) _____ 12) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

<i>GHAN</i>	13) _____ 14) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<i>HEAD MONK</i>	15) _____ 16) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<i>TEACHER</i>	17) _____ 18) _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

WRITING NOVEL RESPONSE

Answering the question on the novel is not like doing essay writing. However, the question requires you to use your higher order thinking skills (HOTS). So, you need to be systematic and organised in your approach.

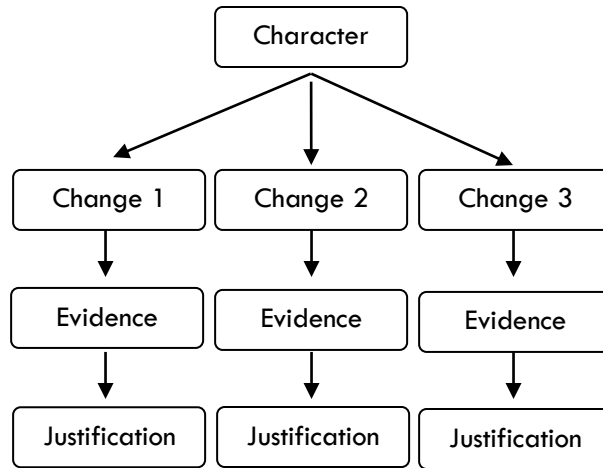
PARAGRAPH	CONTENT
INTRODUCTION	
BODY 1	TOPIC SENTENCE 1 + EVIDENCE + JUSTIFICATION
BODY 2	TOPIC SENTENCE 2 + EVIDENCE + JUSTIFICATION
BODY 3	TOPIC SENTENCE 3 + EVIDENCE + JUSTIFICATION
CONCLUSION	



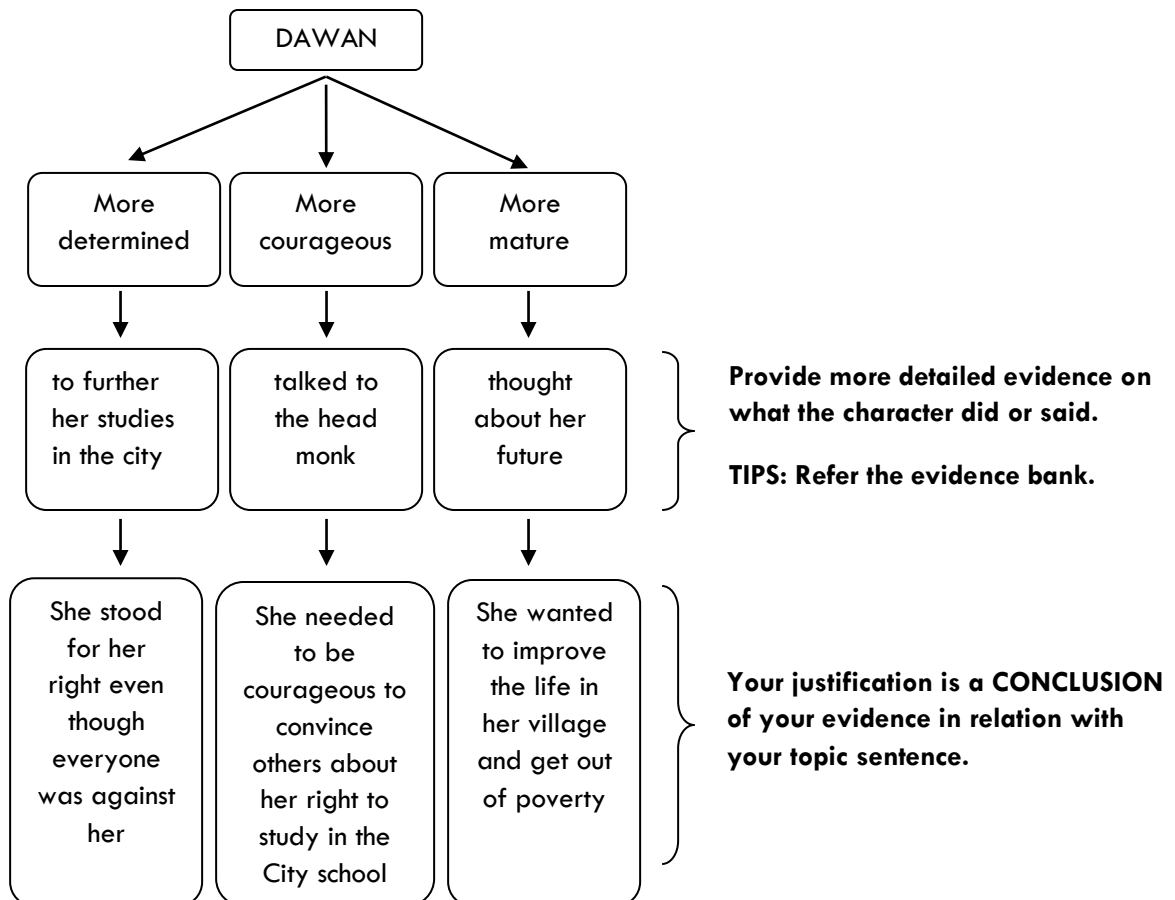
NOTE: As you read the question, highlight/underline the key words.

EXAMPLE:

Choose **ONE character** that has undergone **some major changes in his/her life**. Describe the changes and support each change with evidence from the novel.



EXAMPLE:

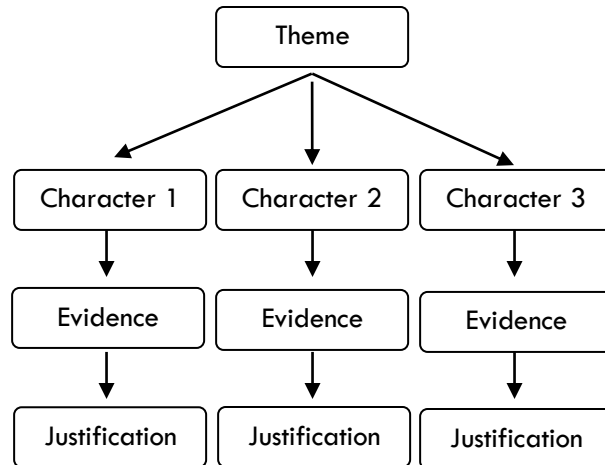


Based on the given points, try to write your answer. The introduction paragraph is already done for you.

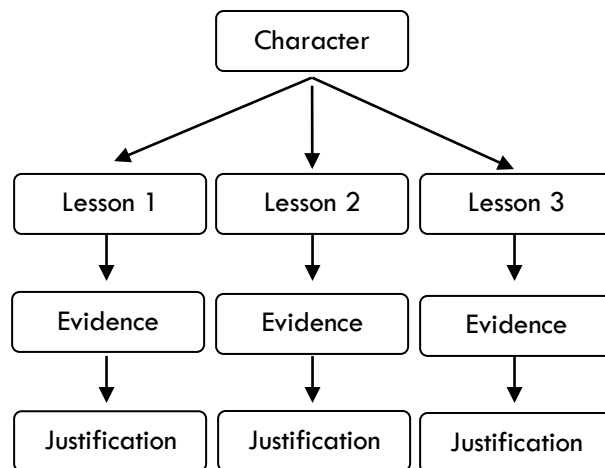
INTRODUCTION	Based on the novel “Sing to the Dawn” by Minfong Ho, the character that has undergone some major changes in his/her life is Dawan. These are some major changes that was faced by Dawan.
BODY 1	<p>Firstly, Dawan after winning the scholarship, Dawan became more determined to further her studies in the City school.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
BODY 2	<p>Secondly, from a timid village girl, Dawan became more courageous as the story progressed.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
BODY 3	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
CONCLUSION	<p>To conclude,</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

PRACTICE

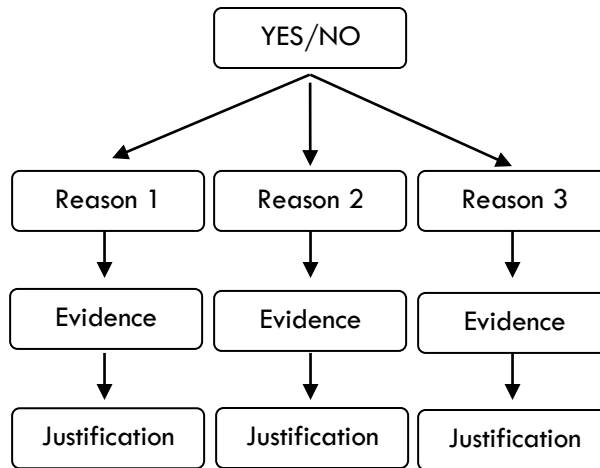
- 1) Write about ONE important theme in the story. Relate the theme to some of the characters in the story.



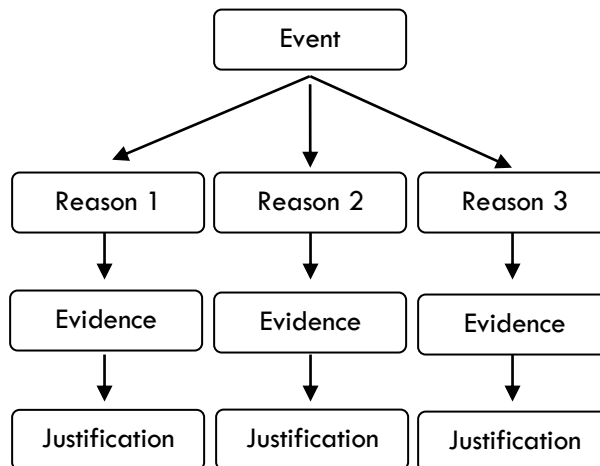
- 2) What lessons have you learnt from one of the characters in the novel?



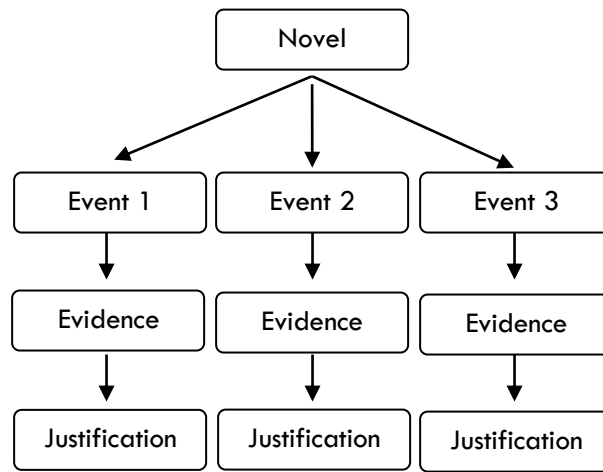
3) Did you enjoy reading the novel? Support your answer with evidence from the text.



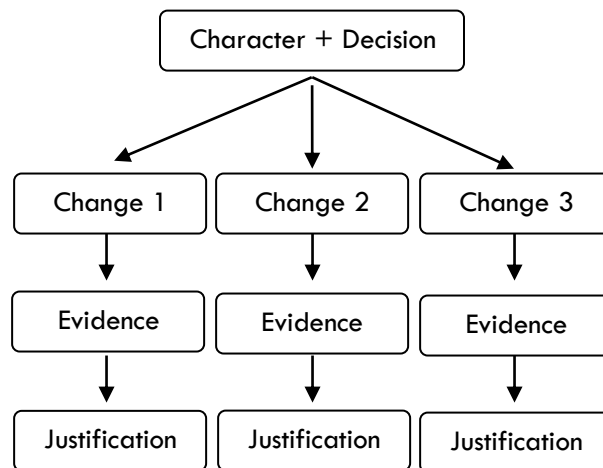
4) State ONE event which you feel should not have happened. Explain why you think so.



- 5) Describe THREE events in the novel that have touched your feelings. Give reasons for your choices.



- 6) State an important decision made by one of the main characters. Show how the decision changed his/her life.



PRACTICE

Write about the challenges faced by one of the characters in the novel that you have studied.

Provide your answer with close reference to the text.

INTRODUCTION	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
BODY 1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
BODY 2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
BODY 3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
CONCLUSION	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

SAMPLE ANSWER

I have studied the novel Sing To The Dawn written by Minfong Ho. One character who faced challenges in the story is Dawan. I have concrete reasons to support my answer.

Firstly, **Dawan faced challenges** when she and her mother went to Cousin Noi's house. They wanted to get her help to persuade her father to let her go to the city to further her study. Surprisingly, they didn't expect that Noi would talk about the bad side of the city. Noi did not agree with Dawan to go to the city. She suggested Dawan to stay in the village. Dawan argued that things would not change if she was not even given a chance. Dawan was still determined to go to the city.

Another reason that shows **challenges faced by Dawan is** when Dawan met the head monk to ask help from him to convince her father. The monk claimed that everything that she needed to learn about life was **all in the temple**. It is more important to learn the **Holy's One** truth. Dawan could not agree with him. The head monk again stressed that nothing much can be done by **a mere school girl**. Listening to that, Dawan was dissatisfied and **left the head monk** feeling bitter.

Last but not least, the event which shows **challenges Dawan faced** is when Dawan had to **convince her father**. Her father was angry with her because he believed that she grabbed her own brother's chance to study at the city. She urged her father to be fair to both herself and Kwai. Father disagreed with her decision because he believed that a girl did not need fancy education. Bravely, she told father that she would never be capable if she was not given the chance. He finally let her go.

In conclusion, Dawan is a character who faced a lot of challenges throughout the story in convincing her family and the head monk of her right to study in the City school. From Dawan, I have learned to be determined in pursuing my ambition even though I have to face a lot of challenges. I learned that to achieve greatness in life, sacrifice is necessary.