



**Upper Secondary
Week 5**

The Write Tribe

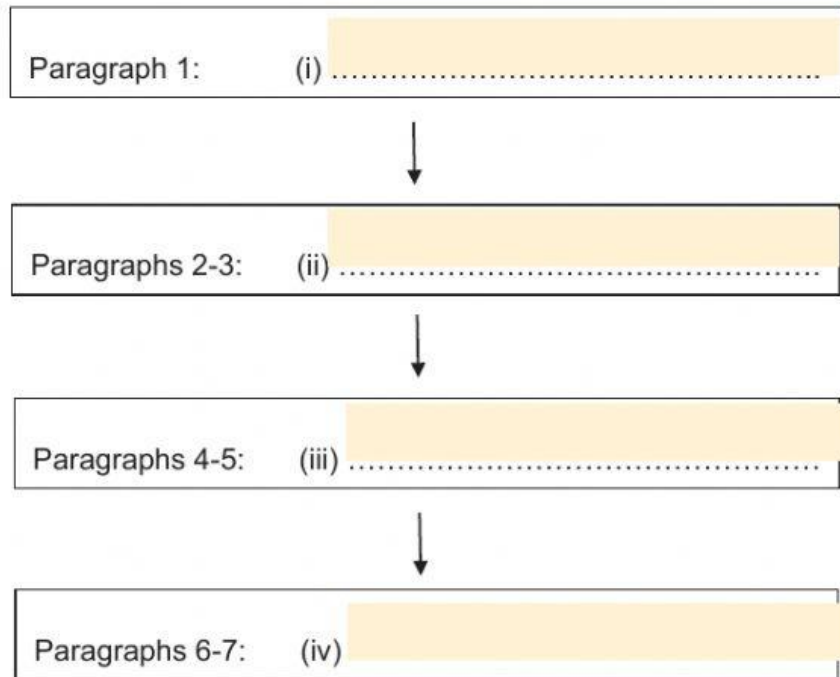
PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES SUMMARY



Ifemelu's experience

Breaking stereotypes	Ending racial discrimination	Self-reflection
Beyond help	Understanding human behaviour	
Making friends	American dream city	

Flow chart



[4]

Section C

Text 3

The article below is about why music moves us. Read it carefully and answer Questions 15-22 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 According to Leo Tolstoy, "Music is the shorthand of emotion." Music has the ability to evoke powerful emotional responses — both chills and thrills — in listeners. This capacity is universal. Why are we moved by music? How does music evoke emotion and pleasure?
- 2 Music is a kind of language of emotion, with its components and patterns representing different feelings. People who have difficulty expressing their feelings in words sometimes feel more comfortable expressing these emotions through music. Music has also the capacity to mimic emotions, where the temporal patterns of music mirror our emotional lives, such as the introduction, buildup, climax, and closure. For example, a slow tempo naturally conveys sadness, due to the fact that it has a structural resemblance with the slowness that we might expect in a disconsolate individual. 5 10
- 3 As human beings, we have the capacity and inclination to synchronize our body movement to external rhythmic stimuli, such as music. Rhythm can have a powerful effect on movement, because the auditory system has a rich connection to motor systems in the brain. These connections help explain why music often makes us want to burst into dance, and why we feel a natural inclination to tap along with music. Sounds that are loud, sudden, and fast-paced generate increases in arousal and excitement. In contrast, relaxing music can reduce feelings of anxiety. 15
- 4 Listening to music that was played a lot during a significant life event many years ago, such as a family celebration, can trigger a deeply nostalgic emotional experience. The sentiment is not in the music, but in what it reminds us of. The power of music to evoke reminiscing is demonstrated in the movie Casablanca, where the protagonist Rick forbids his bar pianist Sam ever to play "As Time Goes By", because of the unbearable feelings of grief and loss evoked by the song. 20
- 5 It is therefore not surprising that music generates emotional contagion. Emotional contagion refers to the phenomenon that perceiving an emotion can sometimes induce the same emotion. A case in point is where people display automatic frowning when observing facial expressions of fear and wretchedness. For that reason, a full music experience involves watching as well as listening, particularly since visual aspects of performance greatly influence our experiences of music — the use of facial expression in music is critically important for communicating the emotional meanings of music. Hearing a mournful cello performance may effect a genuine state of despondency in a listener. 25 30
- 6 Music often makes us feel like crying, and it may not be due to a melancholic reaction but a result of us experiencing a sense of awe and admiration. The feeling is a kind of wonder at realizing what other minds are capable of creating. Awe is described as sensitivity to greatness, accompanied by a sense of being overwhelmed by the object of greatness. In response to these sensations, we may experience goosebumps and motivation for the improvement of self and society. 35

- 7 Interestingly, the cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker has characterized music as "auditory cheesecake". In this view, music is an exquisite gourmet feast that we ingest through the ear to stimulate a mass of pleasure circuits at once. Of course, music is not a pill that, when swallowed, inevitably produces a given state of mind. However, like other rewards, such as food and money, pleasurable music activates the pleasure and reward system, so that when something catches our ear, we like it to be repeated endlessly in the song, simply because we cannot get enough of it. 40
- 8 What makes music so emotionally powerful is the creation of expectation. Research shows that anticipation is a key element in activating the reward system and provoking musical pleasure. Unexpected changes in musical features intensity and tempo is one of the primary means by which music provokes a strong emotional response in listeners. With enough exposure, the difference between expected and actual events decreases such that listeners begin to anticipate these events, which consequently causes music to become less pleasing. 45 50

Adapted from Why Are We Moved By Music by Shahram Heshmat

The Write Tribe Mock Test

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 and answer Questions 15-22.

15. In paragraph 1, which sentence states that music is a quick and simple expression of emotions?

[1]

16. From paragraph 2, why do some people prefer to use music to express themselves?

[1]

17. Why do you think some people would not want to listen to certain music, in paragraph 4?

[1]

18. "For that reason, a full music experience involves watching as well as listening..." (lines 27-28) What does "that reason" refer to?

[1]

19. From paragraph 6, what are two reasons why people cry when they listen to music? Answer in your own words.

[2]

20. Name a possible positive outcome of listening to music in paragraph 6.

[1]

21. Here is a part of a conversation between two students about music.



- (a) How can Famela explain her view of music from paragraph 7?

[1]

- (b) What are two points in paragraphs 7 and 8 that Patrick can use to support his view?

[2]

22. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the reasons why we are moved by music.

Use only information from paragraphs 2 to 5.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

One reason for why we are moved by music is

..... No. of words: [15]

-- END OF PAPER --