

Comparison Essay Question – P.E.E.E.

EXAMPLE QUESTION: Comment on the way in which voices and instruments are used in Queen’s ‘Killer Queen’ and the Beach Boys’ ‘God Only Knows’. You should ensure that you reference any valid points made. (12 marks)

Introduction	<i>When were these pieces composed? Are they from the same era? Are they the same kind of piece? Write one sentence about how you are going to set out your answer.</i>
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POINT	<i>Example: In Killer Queen, Queen use backing vocals...</i>	The point – what you are going to discuss for this paragraph – related to the question
EXAMPLE	<i>...throughout the piece, an example is in the choruses.</i>	Give a specific example – bar number or reference a point in the structure.
EXPLANATION	<i>-They are singing chords – this was achieved through overdubbing -Use of portamento on ‘Queen’</i>	Explain and give detail into your point
EVALUATE	<i>The backing vocals provide harmonic support and produce a richer homophonic texture, also reflects Queen theatrical influence.</i>	Evaluate your point and its effectiveness. Context is good here – link to style or influences or other pieces you know which may do a similar thing.

NOW COMPARE THE SAME POINT TO THE NEXT PIECE. – Follow this same structure

POINT	<i>The Beach Boys similarly use backing vocals in God Only Knows</i>	The same point as before but now for the next piece – use comparison words
EXAMPLE	<i>...they are less apparent than in Killer Queen and found from bar...in the middle 8 section..</i>	Give a specific example – still compare to first piece
EXPLANATION	<i>Unlike Killer Queen, I this song the backing vocals create a polyphonic texture rather than homophonic.</i>	Give detail and explain – is it similar or different?
EVALUATE	<i>... Similar to Queen though, they hark to some theatre influence through the use of vocables and polyphonic texture.</i>	Compare the effectiveness and the context – influences/style

Follow the same format to fully answer the question with other points – in this example, I would go on to discuss use of instruments and finally the soloists.

Conclusion	<i>What are your conclusions? Did you find more differences or more similarities? Did you find one more interesting than the other? In your judgement, do the differences and/or similarities suggest that they are typical of their genre/period/style or not?</i>
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