

# N5 & HIGHER ENGLISH

UAE – TONE QUESTIONS

# What is Tone?

- Tone is the attitude or emotions of the writer towards their subject matter. If the passage is read aloud, it is the voice in which it should be spoken.

# How Do You Determine tone?

Key Question 1:

- Does the author mean what they are saying, or is the opposite true?
- If yes, ask Question 2. If not, the tone is **ironic**.

For example:

Of course, now that these kill-joy bureaucrats have ruined Irn Bru forever, we can all expect the Scottish people to immediately become a race of tall, tanned stunners, complete with washboard abs and pearly white teeth.

# How Do You Determine tone?

Key Question 2:

- What are the emotions of the writer at this point in the passage?

For example:

The recent changes to the Irn Bru recipe, imposed from on high by faceless, meddling bureaucrats, is just the latest example of government infantilising its citizens by denying them freedom of choice, but it is also one of the most egregious. If your favourite fizzy drink isn't safe from the nanny-state, we must ask ourselves what is?

# How is Tone Revealed?



Tone is like the wind:  
We see it through  
How it affects other  
things:

- Word choice
- Sentence structure
- Imagery
- Other figures of speech

# UAE Answer Technique

- State tone as simply as possible.
- Use word choice answer technique to justify your response.  
OR
- Use sentence structure answer technique to justify your response.  
OR
- Use imagery answer technique to justify your response.

Check that you've answered the question.

National 5: = 2 marks  
Higher : = 1 mark

# For Example

We must stop polluting the planet. Immediately.  
We must attempt to reverse the horrendous effects that two centuries of industrialisation have had on our world. Modern man has been a plague on nature. We must change before it is too late.

How does the writer's use of tone in the above paragraph contribute to his argument about the importance of caring for the environment?

# For Example

How does the writer's use of tone in the above paragraph contribute to his argument about the importance of caring for the environment?

- Aggressive
- Repetition “We must...We must... We must”
- Emphasises that he feels that people have to act in accordance with his views.

# For Example

How does the writer's use of tone in the above paragraph contribute to his argument about the importance of caring for the environment?

- Aggressive
- “horrendous”
- Connotations of something absolutely dreadful, showing the force of his feelings towards what we have done to the environment.

# For Example

How does the writer's use of tone in the above paragraph contribute to his argument about the importance of caring for the environment?

- Aggressive
- “a plague”
- Just as a plague is a devastating health epidemic causing widespread death and destruction, so the writer feels strongly that human beings have caused devastation to the world.

# Spotting a Tone Question

- Sometimes it's easy:

*How does the writer's tone in paragraph 4 contribute to his argument about global capitalism.*

- But remember that imagery answers can also be useful for an 'open' language question:

*How does the writer's use of language in paragraph 4 contribute to his argument about global capitalism.*