**NATIONAL 5 – CLOSE READING SKILLS: IMAGERY**

*Connotative language*: ‘the connotations of a particular word are the ideas of qualities that it makes you think of’, Collins Cobuild *Advanced Learners’ English Dictionary*, page 294.

*Denotative language*: the actual thing that a word represents.

When answering an imagery question you should –

* Identify the object of the image (the literal root)
* Discuss the points of similarity of the image and any connotations the object itself may have
* Explain how it helps you to imagine better the original idea

e.g.

**‘The beautiful Argentinian countryside has been left scarred with miles and miles of concrete motorway.’**

The object of the image is – scarred/a scar

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| road | scar |
| grey long never ending unattractive permanent  | ugly leaves a mark doesn’t go awaynoticeable  |

Answer – **Just as** a scar is unsightly, leaves a permanent mark on something which was once attractive, **so too** the road spoils the countryside and is a permanent mark on the land.

Now repeat the above steps for each of the following images answering the question ‘How effective do you find the image’ at the end of the process:

1. ‘On the sandbanks the rabbits sat as quietly as little grey, sculptured stones.’

The object of the image is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| rabbits |  |
|  |   |

Answer - Just as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So too\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ‘His arms did not swing at his sides, but hung loosely and only moved because the heavy hands were pendula.’ (look up pendula/pendulum in the dictionary)

 The object of the image is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| arms |  |
|  |   |

Answer - Just as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So too\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ‘A water-snake glided smoothly up the pool, twisting its periscope head from side to side:’

The object of the image is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| Water-snake’s head |  |
|  |   |

Answer - Just as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So too\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“ ‘Don’t you go yellin’,’ he said, and he shook her; and her body flopped like a fish.”

The object of the image is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| The lifeless body of Curley’s wife |  |
|  |   |

Answer - Just as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So too\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

‘The light climbed on out of the valley, and as it went, the tops of the mountains **seemed to blaze with increasing brightness**.’

The object of the image is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Points of similarity/connotations |
| Mountains  |  |
|  |   |

Answer - Just as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So too\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_