VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society

Main characteristics of different writing styles

Personal writing:

* Creates a sense of person/personality for the writer in the reader’s mind.
* Establishes a relationship between the writer and the reader.
* Usually employs first and/or second person; subjective; informal, familiar style/register; often includes emotive language.
* Emphasises ideas, opinions, feelings and impressions, rather than factual, objective information.
* Uses the act of writing to help the author understand and unravel his/her own feelings or ideas.
* May, in certain contexts, use contracted language, such as is used in speech.

Imaginative writing:

* Uses the writer’s creativity and imagination to entertain the reader.
* Usually creates a strong sense of context (physical surroundings and atmosphere) and situation.
* Normally includes description (person, place, emotion, atmosphere), so careful selection of language such as adjectives and adverbs (or their equivalents) are important.
* Uses techniques such as variation in sentence length, juxtaposition of different sentence lengths, careful control of structure and sequencing, to add to the overall effect by creating the desired atmosphere or conveying the required emotion.
* May break normal sequencing for added impact, such as in a flashback or in a final disclosure which puts a different interpretation on preceding passages.

Informative writing:

* Aims to convey information from the writer to the reader as clearly, comprehensively and accurately as possible.
* Usually uses objective style and impersonal expressions.
* Normally has no particular point of view to convey; if a point of view is involved, the writing becomes either persuasive (aiming to convert the reader to a particular point of view or attitude in order to convince him or her to act or respond in a certain way) or evaluative (aiming to weigh two or more items/ideas in order to convince the reader rationally and objectively that a particular point of view is correct).
* Generally uses facts, examples, explanations, analogies and sometimes statistical information, quotations and references as evidence.
* Chooses language, structure and sequence to make the message clear and unambiguous, so the sequencing of information is usually logical and predictable.
* Probably uses few adjectives, adverbs and images, except as examples or analogies in explanation.