Your notes

KS3 English: revision notes

Reading non-fiction

Contents

1. Types of non-fiction
2. Fact, opinion and bias
3. Features and techniques
4. Comparing texts
5. Key terms
6. Quick questions
7. What to do next

Types of non-fiction

- Newspaper articles, reports, letters, speeches, travel writing, autobiographies (a person's life written by themselves), biographies (written by someone else), diaries, leaflets, reviews and blogs.
- Think about PAF: **Purpose** (to inform, persuade, argue, advise, entertain or explain), **Audience** (who it is for) and **Form** (the type of text).

Fact, opinion and bias

- A **fact** can be proved true. An **opinion** is someone's view.
- A biased text gives a one-sided view. Check who wrote it and why.
- Summarising means giving the main points briefly, in your own words.

Features and techniques

- Presentation: headlines, subheadings, bullet points, pictures and captions.
- Techniques: statistics, expert **opinions**, **anecdotes** (short personal stories), **rhetorical questions**, direct address ("you"), emotive language, superlatives and exaggeration.
- Always explain why the writer uses a technique and its effect on the reader.

Comparing texts

- Compare the writers' viewpoints (what they think) and methods (how they show it).
- Use comparative connectives: similarly, likewise, whereas, however, on the other hand.

Key terms

Purpose	Why a text was written, such as to inform or persuade.

Audience	The people a text is written for.
Form	The type of text, such as a letter or article.
Fact	Something that can be proved true.
Opinion	Someone's view or belief.
Bias	A one-sided view.
Anecdote	A short personal story used to make a point.
Rhetorical question	A question asked for effect, without expecting an answer.
Direct address	Speaking to the reader as "you".
Summary	The main points of a text, written briefly.

Your notes

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is the main purpose of an advert?
2. Which of these is a fact?
3. What does "audience" mean when talking about a text?
4. What is a headline?
5. What is bias?
6. What is an anecdote?
7. What is a rhetorical question?
8. What is an autobiography?

Answers

1. To persuade
2. London is the capital of England
3. The people it is written for
4. The title of a news story, in large print
5. Giving a one-sided view
6. A short personal story used to make a point
7. A question asked for effect, without expecting an answer
8. A book about someone's life, written by that person

What to do next

Practise 12 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.