

## English III: Reading Strand: Module 3: Lesson 5: Style/Syntax

### Analyzing Syntactical Features of an Essay

Analyzing Forster's Use of Subordination and Coordination—Write answers in the spaces provided.

Mouse over the circles for comparison responses.

1. Copy the three shortest sentences (3 words or fewer) in the excerpt:

**A**  **B**  **C**

2. What is the purpose of these three shortest sentences? (What do they tell us?)

3. What tone does Forster create through his syntax even in just these three short sentences? And how does his syntax reinforce his meaning?

4. The last sentence of the essay is a **rhetorical fragment**—"Which is a desirable spiritual exercise." Why does Forster use a fragment to end the essay?

5. Forster's **longest sentence** (60+ words) is also the most awkward to read. Consider the content of the sentence, and explain why the construction of the sentence is awkward.

*"Most of these people one doesn't know, and some of them one doesn't like; doesn't like the color of their skins, say, or the shapes of their noses, or the way they blow them or don't blow them, or the way they talk, or their smell, or their clothes, or their fondness for jazz, or their dislike of jazz, and so on."*

6. What effect does the **polysyndeton** in the sentence have on the syntax and the meaning?

7. Why do you think Forster uses **no periodic sentences** but uses instead **loose sentences**?

## English III: Reading Strand: Module 3: Lesson 5: Style/Syntax

### Analyzing Syntactical Features of an Essay

Mouse over the circles for comparison responses.

8. Forster creates two sentences that each use both a semicolon and a colon to join its clauses. Why? Explain one of the sentences in the space provided.

“Love is a great force in private life; it is indeed the greatest of all things: but love in public affairs does not work.”

A

“Don’t try to love them: you can’t; you’ll only strain yourself.”

B

9. Forster uses two dashes. What is different about what follows his dashes and what follows his colons?

9

10. Forster’s most important reason for writing this essay appears in the fourth paragraph. His two main points are expressed **antithetically** in back-to-back sentences. In your own words, what is Forster opposed to and what is he in favor of?

10