

Comment briefly on the communicative purpose (modality) of the following text and on how language has been used to achieve it. If you feel there are several purposes, say so, and substantiate your argument with text-based examples. But there is no need to provide a detailed stylistic analysis : only highlight those elements that support your argument.

*And let me remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that the world is not an ivory tower where there are no problems, no dangers, no human weaknesses. The world is full of temptations -- temptations of the flesh. And what could be more calculated -- more coldly, more callously, more unscrupulously calculated -- to arouse temptation and inflame the appetites than passages such as this ?*

*«... Her hungry eyes met his as, ever so slowly, she turned to reveal the warm, full curves of breast and leg. He watched, fascinated, as the covering fell away from the soft white skin. Eagerly, he bent forward. An instant later, lips parted, her head thrown back, Estella surrendered to the moment's sudden succulence, the firm warm flesh that brought the secret juices welling from within her. All too soon they were replete, exhausted. On Sundays, they always bought too big a chicken. ...»*

Richard Mayne, *Encounter n° 137*.

In terms of modality, five aims are being pursued -- four by the character who is speaking, and one by Mayne as an author :

- a. To convince (we are apparently dealing with a plea to the jury in an obscenity trial. Not a sermon : this is not religious language (not a single ref. to divinity!)); The point the lawyer seeks to make is that there is no objective standard of morality of a text :
- b. To confuse the minds of his addressees by using equivocal language : “temptations”, “flesh”, “breast”, “secret juices” etc. here have an alimentary, not sexual connotation.
- c. To suggest salacity by using narrative terms susceptible to a reading connoting sexual attraction, foreplay and intercourse.
- d. To mock those members of the audience who imagined the passage was about sex, not eating, thereby proving (cf. a ) that “pornography”, if any, is in the eye of the beholder.
- e. Mayne's own aim, by giving this passage to read, must be to amuse his readership. (5x2)