

# CARTOONS

## 1) Description

### a) Picture(s) and their elements

Mention all (and only those!) details that help to create the message!

- How many separate drawings/frames does the cartoonist use? What effect does this have (e.g. ... shows development / contrast/before and after ....)?
- Who are the people, (current) events, or institutions depicted? (Brief summary; Source of this information?) What *is happening*?
- What (different) size are the characters and objects shown in the drawings? What colours are used (contrasts)?
- What is in the background/foreground/centre?

### b) Words/bubbles:

- Does the cartoonist use labels/speech bubbles/captions to help to get his/her ideas across? What do they say?
- What words are in bold letters? (⇒ for emotions e.g. EEK, YUK.)
- What words are made up to convey sound?



## c) Symbols / Stylistic devices/ Bias:

- What symbols (colours!) are used? What do they represent?
- How do the symbols help to convey the message?
- Look for exaggeration, puns, irony and juxtaposition!
- Who looks nice, kind, helpful, ...? - Who looks ugly, cruel, stupid, ...?
- What gestures/facial features are used to convey expressions e.g.:  
*happiness, meanness, annoyance, surprise?*
- Does the cartoonist take sides?

## 2) Interpretation → Message:

What does the cartoon say/express? *Topic sentence of your interpretation.*

What do the frames/element, bubbles stand for/ express?

What ideas does the cartoonist want us to think about/criticize?

What do you think about the issue/do you agree/disagree?

You can also (it helps to avoid repetitions) combine steps 1 and 2!

- **Describe and immediately interpret every relevant element** of the cartoon and then
- **Formulate the overall message** of the cartoon (and e.g. if you agree)

