

IroniC Family — Three-Cousin Key & Explanations

IR IroniC · SA Satirical · SD Sardonic

Q	A	Q	A	Q	A	Q	A	Q	A
1	IR	11	IR	21	SD	31	IR	41	SA
2	SA	12	SD	22	IR	32	SA	42	SD
3	SD	13	IR	23	SA	33	SD	43	IR
4	IR	14	SA	24	SD	34	IR	44	SA
5	SA	15	SD	25	IR	35	SA	45	SD
6	SD	16	IR	26	SA	36	SD	46	IR
7	SA	17	SA	27	SD	37	IR	47	SA
8	IR	18	SD	28	IR	38	SA	48	SD
9	SD	19	IR	29	SA	39	SD	49	IR
10	IR	20	SA	30	SD	40	IR	50	SD

IR · IRONIC 18

SA · SATIRICAL 15

SD · SARDONIC 17

Distribution roughly balanced across the three cousins. Each Q rewards a one-line evidence read — the contradiction (IR), the absurd institutional action (SA), or the bitter contempt (SD). Discuss disagreements in class with the question open and the cue word(s) circled.

SECTION 1 · TWO-LINER EXPLANATIONS

Q 1-50

- IR** — IroniC. Surface praise + opposite reality. CUE: scare-quotes "quick service" + '40 minutes late' = pure contradiction → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Institutional absurdity to expose bureaucracy. CUE: 'reduce paperwork' by adding 'six forms' = system-level satire → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Bitter contempt for collective folly. CUE: 'memory loss is a national talent' — scorn for citizens themselves → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Self-contradicting school policy. CUE: 'encourages independent thinking by punishing' = surface vs reality → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Institutional self-cannibalism, no bitterness, just absurd ridicule. CUE: 'another committee to determine why previous committees failed' → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Bitter cynicism toward corporate cant. CUE: 'concern... evident from... cancel weekends' = scornful weariness → SD.
- SA** — Satirical. Mocks a system through absurd renaming. CUE: 'solved pollution... by renaming polluted zones' → SA.
- IR** — IroniC. Author-staged contradiction. CUE: 'anti-corruption rally sponsored by leaders under investigation' = clean contradiction → IR.
- SD** — Sardonic. Cynical commentary on a population's character. CUE: 'outrage disappears... free gifts' = contempt for voters → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Internal contradiction in the action. CUE: 'reducing screen addiction through an online webinar' → IR.
- IR** — IroniC. Surface claim vs literal opposite act. CUE: 'celebrated transparency by withholding records' = no bitterness, only contradiction → IR.
- SD** — Sardonic. Bitter view of unemployment policy as cosmetic. CUE: 'teaching graduates how to remain optimistic while jobless' = scornful → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Self-defeating school action. CUE: 'improve classroom interaction' by 'installing cameras' = contradiction → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Institutional hypocrisy attacked through ridicule. CUE: 'environmental summit' + 'thousands of plastic banners' → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Bitter weariness with collective optimism. CUE: 'despite decades of evidence to the contrary' = cynical → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Surface policy vs lived reality, no contempt. CUE: "'work-life balance" requiring 24-hour availability' → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Mocks an institution's misplaced response. CUE: 'declining reading... increasing motivational posters' → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Cynical resignation. CUE: 'ensuring that disappointment remains consistent' = world-weary contempt → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Contradiction in policy design. CUE: 'prison reform conference excluded former prisoners' → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Mocks an institution celebrating against reality. CUE: 'celebrated reduced congestion while citizens remained trapped' → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Contempt for consumer gullibility. CUE: 'happiness in three easy installments' = cynical → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Action defeats its own claim. CUE: 'rewarded punctuality by delaying salaries' → IR.
- SA** — Satirical. Mocks ministerial hypocrisy through exaggeration. CUE: 'praised simplicity... convoy of twenty luxury vehicles' → SA.
- SD** — Sardonic. Bitter inversion. CUE: 'values truth so deeply that misinformation spreads faster' = scornful diagnosis → SD.
- IR** — IroniC. Self-contradictory event. CUE: "'silent retreat" + 'posting updates online' → IR.

- Q26. **SA** — Satirical. Institutional absurdity. CUE: 'anti-noise campaign featured loudspeakers' = system ridicule → SA.
- Q27. **SD** — Sardonic. Cynical view of voter behaviour. CUE: 'endlessly fascinated by leaders who repeatedly fail them' → SD.
- Q28. **IR** — Ironic. Contradiction in HR claim vs action. CUE: 'reduced employee stress by increasing reviews' → IR.
- Q29. **SA** — Satirical. Mocks an institution exposing its own corruption. CUE: 'corruption awareness campaign disappeared after funding irregularities' → SA.
- Q30. **SD** — Sardonic. Bitter scorn for human folly at scale. CUE: 'most dangerous achievements' = contempt for collective faith → SD.
- Q31. **IR** — Ironic. University self-contradiction. CUE: 'promoted open discussion by disabling comment sections' → IR.
- Q32. **SA** — Satirical. Institutional ridicule via absurd action. CUE: 'fitness campaign offered free desserts' → SA.
- Q33. **SD** — Sardonic. Cynical observation about human contradiction. CUE: 'expect privacy from apps that literally track every movement' → SD.
- Q34. **IR** — Ironic. Self-undermining media act. CUE: 'hour-long debate on sensationalism' → IR.
- Q35. **SA** — Satirical. Mocks rural-mission ineffectiveness. CUE: 'literacy mission distributed unread instruction manuals' → SA.
- Q36. **SD** — Sardonic. Contempt for elite hypocrisy. CUE: 'condemns greed every year during award ceremonies sponsored by billionaires' → SD.
- Q37. **IR** — Ironic. Contradiction in corporate behaviour. CUE: 'promised transparency while deleting negative reviews' → IR.
- Q38. **SA** — Satirical. Institutional irony at policy level — environmental destruction in name of clean city. CUE: 'cutting down trees to build parking spaces' = absurd policy → SA.
- Q39. **SD** — Sardonic. Bitter cynicism about civic apathy. CUE: 'proudly defend freedoms they rarely bother to exercise' → SD.
- Q40. **IR** — Ironic. Self-discrediting article. CUE: 'condemned fake news in an article containing multiple inaccuracies' → IR.
- Q41. **SA** — Satirical. Mocks bureaucratic response to stress. CUE: 'compulsory happiness workshops' = absurd ministerial response → SA.
- Q42. **SD** — Sardonic. Cynical diagnosis of modern consumer mind. CUE: 'confuse convenience with freedom and advertising with choice' → SD.
- Q43. **IR** — Ironic. Self-contradicting camp. CUE: "digital detox" + 'online registration and hourly social media updates' → IR.
- Q44. **SA** — Satirical. Mocks bureaucratic ineffectiveness with situational absurdity. CUE: 'flood-prevention conference postponed because the venue was flooded' → SA.
- Q45. **SD** — Sardonic. Cynical view of human learning curve. CUE: 'remarkable resistance to learning' = contempt → SD.
- Q46. **IR** — Ironic. Contradiction in university stance. CUE: 'promoted academic honesty by ignoring widespread plagiarism' → IR.
- Q47. **SA** — Satirical. Mocks national-day pageantry through opposing detail. CUE: 'environmental awareness day with fireworks and plastic decorations' → SA.
- Q48. **SD** — Sardonic. Bitter view of citizen complicity. CUE: 'complain endlessly... while voluntarily surrendering their data' → SD.
- Q49. **IR** — Ironic. Apology that contradicts itself in form. CUE: 'apologised for delays through a pre-recorded message that arrived late' → IR.
- Q50. **SD** — Sardonic. Bitter cultural diagnosis. CUE: 'patience is now considered weakness' = scornful generational verdict → SD.

Teacher's Notes

Five things the paper tested on the Ironic family. Lead the discussion before students attempt the next set.

- The three-cousin ladder is intensity, not subject.** All three may attack the same target (a minister, a policy, a public). What changes is flavour: IR is cool contradiction, SA is humorous social criticism, SD is bitter scorn. Decide flavour before you mark.
- Irony is a sentence-shape, not a topic.** Look for surface-praise + opposite-reality inside one sentence or pair: "celebrated transparency by withholding records" (Q11), "encourages independent thinking by punishing" (Q4). If you can re-write the sentence as X claims Y but does ~Y, mark IR.
- Satire targets a system, not a feeling.** SA usually exposes an institution doing the absurd: "anti-noise campaign featured loudspeakers" (Q26), "literacy mission distributed unread manuals" (Q35). The criticism is structural; the writer is not yet bitter, only ridiculing.
- Sardonic is the bitter cousin.** Look for the writer's verdict on human folly at large: "memory loss is a national talent" (Q3), "remarkable resistance to learning" (Q45), "voluntarily surrendering their data" (Q48). The mood is weariness and contempt — not laughter.
- Scare-quotes signal IR or SD, almost never SA.** ""quick service"" (Q1), ""work-life balance"" (Q16), ""silent retreat"" (Q25), ""digital detox"" (Q43) — the author has put the actor's own word in quotes because the action contradicts it. SA usually doesn't need quote marks; the absurdity speaks for itself.