Structure is the way art organises the experience that is being described.

How many parts are there?

❒ Two
  ➢ Parts divided by Time’s appearance
  ➢ Antigonus notes that, ‘The storm begins’ (III,iii,48)
  ➢ The fourth century Greek critic Evanthius said that comedy begins with tempest (sometimes literally in Shakespeare), and tragedy ends with it.
  ➢ The Shepherd’s ‘thou mets’t with things dying, I with things new-born’ (III,iii,109-10) also suggests the end of the undesirable world of tragedy and the beginning of a new comic action.
  ➢ Time says, ‘I turn my glass’, thus taking us into the second half of the play with a balancing / mirroring image.

❒ Three
  ➢ Sections determined by location:
    Indoors / outdoors / indoors

❒ Five
  ➢ The Acts - each with its own integral theme

How else can we view structure?

❒ What are the crucial moments in the play?
  ➢ Leontes’ accusation, the oracle being read…

❒ Moments of climax are part of the dramatic rhythm (an aspect of structure).

❒ As well as action, structure can be concerned with language and tone.

(Students may have different ways of describing this, perhaps in terms of Leontes’ behaviour.)