

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 1.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- open a paragraph with a claim that could be disputed
- choose evidence that a doubting reader would accept
- write commentary that explains **how** the evidence supports the claim
- avoid restating the evidence in place of commentary

Method — The three parts

Claim: the disputable statement this paragraph will support. **Evidence:** the material offered in support. **Commentary:** the sentence or two explaining why that evidence supports that claim.

Method — Commentary is not restatement

Weak: “Visits fell 30%, which shows visits have dropped.” Strong: “A 30% fall over five years, in a period when the population grew, cannot be explained by fewer residents — it points to the service itself.”

Method — Choosing evidence for a reader

Ask who doubts the claim and what they would accept. A sceptical council needs figures; a public meeting needs a case they recognise. The same claim may need different evidence for different audiences.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name the three parts of a developed paragraph.

Solution 2.1

Method: The three parts

Worked steps

claim **B1**; evidence **B1**; commentary **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what commentary must do that restatement does not.

Solution 2.2

Method: Commentary is not restatement

Worked steps

commentary explains **how** the evidence supports the claim (B1); restatement only repeats the evidence in other words (B1).

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Claim: “Our bus timetable is designed for commuters, not for residents.”

- (a) State one piece of evidence that would support it.
- (b) Write one sentence of commentary linking your evidence to the claim.

Solution 2.3

Method: The three parts

Worked steps

(a) e.g. services run only at peak hours, with no midday buses **B1**. (b) commentary must connect: e.g. a timetable with no midday service cannot be used by anyone whose journey is not to and from work, which is precisely the residents' complaint **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Which sentence is commentary rather than restatement?

- A** As the data show, the figure fell by a third.
- B** The figure fell by a third, a drop of one-third.
- C** A third fewer users, in a year when fares did not rise, suggests the timetable rather than the price is the barrier.
- D** The figure was 30% lower.

Solution 3.1

- A** As the data show, the figure fell by a third.
- B** The figure fell by a third, a drop of one-third.
- C** A third fewer users, in a year when fares did not rise, suggests the timetable rather than the price is the barrier. 
- D** The figure was 30% lower.

Worked steps

- C.** it explains what the figure implies and rules out a rival explanation.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Evidence should be selected mainly according to

- A** how recent it is
- B** what the intended audience would accept
- C** how long it is
- D** how unusual it is

Solution 3.2

- A how recent it is
- B what the intended audience would accept** 
- C how long it is
- D how unusual it is

Worked steps

- B. evidence persuades only if the intended reader accepts it.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph of three to four sentences supporting this claim: “School timetables are built around adult convenience rather than adolescent sleep.”

Solution 3.3

Method: The three parts

Worked steps

claim stated and disputable (B1); relevant evidence (B1); commentary linking evidence to claim (B1); paragraph unified around the one claim (B1).