

# Exercise walk-through

## Identifying claims and evidence ■ 2.3

eXercise

## You must be able to

- separate a main claim from supporting sub-claims
- attach each piece of evidence to the claim it serves
- notice evidence that supports nothing
- state the relationship between two claims in a passage

## Method — Main claim and sub-claims

A passage usually argues one thing overall and several things along the way. The **main claim** is what the passage would fail without; a **sub-claim** supports it. Ask which depends on which.

## Method — Attaching evidence

Each piece of evidence belongs to a particular claim. Mark them: this statistic supports sub-claim 2, this anecdote supports sub-claim 1. Evidence that attaches to nothing is a signal — either a gap in the reasoning or a bid for the reader's sympathy.

## Method — Relationships between claims

Two claims may be **cumulative** (each adds weight), **conditional** (the second holds only if the first does), or in **tension** (the writer is qualifying). Naming the relationship is the analysis.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State how to tell a main claim from a sub-claim.

## Solution 2.1

Method: Main claim and sub-claims

### Worked steps

the main claim is what the passage would fail without **B1**; a sub-claim exists to support it **B1**.

## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one thing unattached evidence may indicate.



## Solution 2.2

### Worked steps

a gap in the reasoning **B1**; or an appeal aimed at sympathy rather than proof **B1**.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage argues that a policy is unaffordable and separately that it is unfair.

- (a) State the relationship between the two claims.
- (b) State what the writer gains by making both.

## Solution 2.3

Method: Relationships between claims

### Worked steps

(a) cumulative — each adds independent weight **B1**. (b) a reader who rejects one may still accept the other **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A claim that holds only if an earlier one does is

**A** cumulative

**B** conditional

**C** in tension

**D** unattached

## Solution 3.1

Method: Relationships between claims

**A** cumulative

**B** conditional



**C** in tension

**D** unattached

### Worked steps

**B.** its truth depends on the earlier claim.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A vivid story that supports no stated claim most likely functions to

- A** prove the thesis
- B** engage the reader's sympathy
- C** qualify a claim
- D** define a term

## Solution 3.2

**A** prove the thesis

**B** engage the reader's sympathy



**C** qualify a claim

**D** define a term

### Worked steps

**B.** unattached vivid material usually works on feeling rather than proof.

## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage offers four statistics; three support the main claim and one supports a sub-claim.

- (a) State why marking which is which matters.
- (b) Explain how this affects an analysis of the line of reasoning.



## Solution 3.3

Method: Main claim and sub-claims

### Worked steps

(a) it shows which parts of the argument are load-bearing **B1**. (b) the reasoning can then be described as a structure **B1** rather than as a list of things the writer mentions **B1**.