

## Exercise walk-through

Describing the line of reasoning ■ 3.3

eXercise

## You must be able to

- state a line of reasoning as a sequence of claims, not topics
- explain why the order of claims matters
- identify where a passage turns or qualifies
- distinguish a line of reasoning from a summary

## Method — Sequence of claims

A line of reasoning is the order in which claims build toward the thesis. Describe it as *first he establishes A, which lets him claim B, and only then does C become plausible* — not as *he talks about A, then B, then C*.

## Method — Why order matters

Some claims can only be made once another is accepted. Establishing that a problem exists must precede arguing about the remedy. Naming that dependency is the analysis.

## Method — The turn

Most arguments have a point where they concede, qualify or pivot — “and yet”, “of course”, “granted”. Locating it identifies the argument’s own sense of where it is weakest.

## Method — Not a summary

A summary says what a passage contains. A line of reasoning says how one part makes the next possible.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between a summary and a line of reasoning.

## Solution 2.1

Method: Not a summary

### Worked steps

a summary says what the passage contains **B1**; a line of reasoning says how each part makes the next possible **B1**.



## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why the order of claims can matter.

## Solution 2.2

### Worked steps

some claims can only be made once another is accepted **B1**; e.g. a remedy can only be argued after a problem is established **B1**.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage argues that a policy is necessary, then that it is affordable, then that it is fair.

- (a) State why “necessary” comes first.
- (b) State what a reader who rejects the first claim will do with the rest.

## Solution 2.3

Method: Sequence of claims

### Worked steps

(a) affordability and fairness are only worth arguing if the policy is needed **B1**. (b) they will treat the rest as irrelevant **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“First he shows the harm is real, which allows him to argue about the cost” describes

- A** a summary
- B** a line of reasoning
- C** a method of development
- D** a thesis

## Solution 3.1

Method: Sequence of claims

**A** a summary

**B** a line of reasoning 

**C** a method of development

**D** a thesis

### Worked steps

**B.** it states a dependency between claims.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The word “granted” most often marks

- A** the thesis
- B** a concession or qualification
- C** the exigence
- D** the first claim

## Solution 3.2

Method: The turn

- A the thesis
- B a concession or qualification 
- C the exigence
- D the first claim

### Worked steps

- B. it signals a point being granted.



## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage places its concession immediately before its strongest claim.

- (a) State the likely effect.
- (b) Explain why the placement matters.

## Solution 3.3

### Worked steps

- (a) the concession disarms the objection just before the claim it would weaken **B1**.
- (b) an objection answered in advance cannot interrupt the strongest claim **B1**, so the reader meets it already satisfied **B1**.