

Exercise walk-through

Recognizing methods of development ■ 3.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- name common methods: narration, description, definition, comparison, cause and effect, classification, problem and solution
- identify the method used in a passage or paragraph
- explain why a method suits a purpose and audience
- avoid naming a method without explaining its effect

Method — The common methods

Narration tells a sequence. **Description** builds a picture. **Definition** fixes a term. **Comparison** sets two things side by side. **Cause and effect** links events. **Classification** sorts into kinds. **Problem and solution** states a difficulty and answers it.

Method — Identifying

Ask what the paragraph is *doing*, not what it is about. A paragraph about pollution may be defining, comparing, or narrating — the subject does not tell you the method.

Method — Method and purpose

A writer arguing that a term has been misused will **define**. One arguing that a remedy is proven elsewhere will **compare**. Naming the method is only half the answer; the other half is why it fits the purpose.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Name four methods of development.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

any four of: narration, description, definition, comparison, cause and effect, classification, problem and solution **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the question to ask when identifying a method.

Solution 2.2

Method: Identifying

Worked steps

ask what the paragraph is doing, not what it is about **B1**; the subject does not determine the method **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph sets a policy in one country beside the same policy in another.

- (a) Name the method.
- (b) State the purpose it likely serves.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) comparison **B1**. (b) to argue that a remedy proven elsewhere would work here **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph that fixes the meaning of a contested term uses

A narration

B definition

C classification

D description

Solution 3.1

Method: The common methods

A narration

B definition 

C classification

D description

Worked steps

B. definition fixes a contested term.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Naming a method without explaining its effect is

- A** full analysis
- B** description rather than analysis
- C** a concession
- D** commentary

Solution 3.2

Method: Method and purpose

- A full analysis
- B description rather than analysis**
- C a concession
- D commentary



Worked steps

B. analysis requires the effect on purpose or audience.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 2 marks

A writer opens with a short story about one patient before presenting national data.

- (a) Name both methods used.
- (b) Explain why the order might have been chosen.

Solution 3.3

Method: Method and purpose

Worked steps

(a) narration **B1**; then presentation of data — cause and effect or exemplification **B1**. (b) the story engages the reader and makes the abstract concrete **B1**, so the data that follows is read as being about people rather than numbers **B1**.