

Exercise walk-through

Using methods of development ■ 3.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- match a method to a purpose
- combine two methods in one essay without losing coherence
- avoid a method that suits the subject but not the argument
- justify a method choice in one sentence

Method — Matching method to purpose

If the disagreement is over what a word covers, **define**. If it is over whether something will work, **compare** with a case where it has been tried. If it is over why something happened, use **cause and effect**.

Method — Combining methods

Most essays use more than one. The risk is drift: a narration that becomes the essay rather than serving it. Keep each method subordinate to the claim it supports.

Method — The wrong method

A vivid **description** of a polluted river may suit the subject and do nothing for an argument about who should pay. Method must serve the claim, not the topic.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the method suited to a disagreement about what a term covers.

Solution 2.1

Method: Matching method to purpose

Worked steps

definition **B1**, because the dispute is over what the term covers rather than over the facts **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the risk of combining methods and one way to control it.

Solution 2.2

Method: Combining methods

Worked steps

drift, where a method becomes the essay rather than serving it **B1**; keep each method subordinate to the claim it supports **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Claim: “Congestion charging works.”

- (a) Name the method you would use.
- (b) Justify the choice in one sentence.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) comparison **B1**. (b) the claim is about whether it works, so evidence from a place where it has been tried is what a doubting reader would accept **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A disagreement over why an outcome occurred is best developed by

A description

B cause and effect

C classification

D narration

Solution 3.1

Method: Matching method to purpose

- A description
- B cause and effect**
- C classification
- D narration



Worked steps

B. cause and effect addresses why.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A long vivid description that does not serve the claim is

- A** good style
- B** drift away from the argument
- C** a concession
- D** a thesis

Solution 3.2

Method: The wrong method

- A good style
- B drift away from the argument
- C a concession
- D a thesis



Worked steps

- B. it suits the topic but not the argument.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write two sentences using comparison to support: “A four-day school week would not reduce learning.”

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

a genuine comparison with a named or described case **B2**; the comparison is linked explicitly to the claim **B2**.