

Exercise walk-through

Recognizing methods of development ■ 4.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- identify a method and state what it does to the reader's response
- explain why a writer chose one method over an available alternative
- notice a shift of method within a passage
- avoid treating the method as a label

Method — Method and reader response

Narration makes an abstraction concrete and secures attention. **Classification** makes a subject feel manageable. **Cause and effect** makes a problem seem tractable. Each method acts on the reader as well as organising the material.

Method — The road not taken

A writer who narrates could have quantified. Asking why the alternative was rejected is the sharpest form of this analysis: perhaps the figures are weak, or the audience distrusts them.

Method — Shifts

A passage may narrate, then define, then compare. A shift usually marks a change in what the writer needs from the reader. Locating it explains the structure.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the effect on a reader of opening with narration.

Solution 2.1

Method: Method and reader response

Worked steps

it makes an abstraction concrete **B1** and secures attention before the argument begins **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what asking “why not the alternative method?” reveals.

Solution 2.2

Method: The road not taken

Worked steps

it reveals the writer's judgment of the audience and the evidence **B1**: the rejected method would have failed with this reader or with this material **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage shifts from comparison to cause and effect halfway through.

- (a) State what the shift likely signals.
- (b) State how you would cite it.

Solution 2.3

Method: Shifts

Worked steps

(a) a change in what the writer needs from the reader — from accepting a parallel to accepting a mechanism **B1**. (b) quote the sentence where the shift occurs and name both methods **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A writer who narrates rather than quantifies may be doing so because

- A** narration is always better
- B** the audience distrusts figures or the figures are weak
- C** narration is shorter
- D** figures are unavailable in all cases

Solution 3.1

Method: The road not taken

- A narration is always better
- B the audience distrusts figures or the figures are weak** 
- C narration is shorter
- D figures are unavailable in all cases

Worked steps

B. method choice reflects audience and available evidence.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Naming a method without stating its effect on the reader is

- A** analysis
- B** labelling
- C** commentary
- D** a concession

Solution 3.2

Method: Method and reader response

A analysis

B labelling 

C commentary

D a concession

Worked steps

B. a label is not an account of effect.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage classifies a problem into three kinds before proposing a remedy.

- (a) State the effect of the classification.
- (b) Explain how it prepares the remedy.

Solution 3.3

Method: Method and reader response

Worked steps

(a) it makes the problem feel manageable **B1**. (b) once sorted into kinds, a remedy can be matched to each **B1**, so the proposal looks proportionate rather than sweeping **B1**.