

Exercise walk-through

Using methods of development ■ 4.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- choose a method with the reader's likely objection in mind
- shift method when the argument's need changes
- keep each method subordinate to the claim
- justify a shift in one sentence

Method — Choosing against the objection

Name the objection first. If the reader will say “that would never work here”, compare. If they will say “it isn’t really a problem”, use cause and effect or data.

Method — Shifting deliberately

An essay may need to establish the problem (cause and effect), then show a remedy is possible (comparison), then answer a cost objection (classification of costs). Each shift should be traceable to what the reader still needs.

Method — Subordination

A method is a tool for the claim. When a narration runs to a page, it has stopped serving and started competing.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the first question to ask when choosing a method.

Solution 2.1

Method: Choosing against the objection

Worked steps

what objection will the reader raise **B1**; the method is chosen to answer it **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what should govern a shift from one method to another.

Solution 2.2

Method: Shifting deliberately

Worked steps

what the reader still needs at that point in the argument **B1**, not the writer's preference or the subject **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Objection: “A four-day week would never work in our schools.”

- (a) Name the method that answers it.
- (b) Justify the choice.

Solution 2.3

Method: Choosing against the objection

Worked steps

(a) comparison **B1**. (b) the objection is about feasibility, so a case where it has worked in comparable conditions is what would answer it **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The objection “it isn’t really a problem” is best answered by

- A** description
- B** cause and effect or data
- C** narration alone
- D** definition of an unrelated term

Solution 3.1

Method: Choosing against the objection

- A description
- B cause and effect or data**
- C narration alone
- D definition of an unrelated term



Worked steps

- B.** the objection denies the problem, so evidence of its effects answers it.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A narration that runs to a page in a short essay has probably

- A** served the claim well
- B** stopped serving and started competing
- C** been correctly subordinated
- D** answered an objection

Solution 3.2

Method: Subordination

- A served the claim well
- B stopped serving and started competing** 
- C been correctly subordinated
- D answered an objection

Worked steps

- B. proportion is the test of subordination.**

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Plan the method sequence for an essay arguing that a city should build a tram line.

Solution 3.3

Method: Shifting deliberately

Worked steps

a sequence of at least three methods **B2**; each tied to a reader need or objection at that point **B2**.