

Exercise walk-through

Describing the line of reasoning ■ 5.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- trace reasoning that is interrupted by a digression or a long example
- describe reasoning that runs from effect back to cause
- identify a reasoning move that is made by structure rather than by a stated claim
- separate the order of presentation from the order of dependence

Method — Presentation against dependence

A passage may present C, then A, then B while B depends on A and A on C. The line of reasoning is the **dependence**, not the page order. Say so where they differ.

Method — Reasoning backwards

Some arguments begin from a visible effect and work back: this is happening, so something must be producing it. That is a legitimate line of reasoning and should be described in its own direction.

Method — Structural moves

Placing two paragraphs side by side can assert a parallel without any sentence claiming it. Naming that as a reasoning move — an implied comparison — is a strong observation.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between the order of presentation and the order of dependence.

Solution 2.1

Method: Presentation against dependence

Worked steps

presentation is the order on the page **B1**; dependence is which claims must be accepted before others can be made **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how an argument can reason from effect to cause.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

it begins from a visible effect **B1** and infers what must be producing it **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Two paragraphs are placed side by side with no stated connection.

- (a) State what the placement may assert.
- (b) State how you would describe it.

Solution 2.3

Method: Structural moves

Worked steps

(a) an implied comparison or parallel **B1**. (b) as a reasoning move made by structure rather than by a stated claim **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A line of reasoning is best described as the order of

- A** paragraphs on the page
- B** dependence between claims
- C** sentences by length
- D** evidence by date

Solution 3.1

A paragraphs on the page

B dependence between claims 

C sentences by length

D evidence by date

Worked steps

B. dependence, not sequence, defines the reasoning.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

An argument that begins with an observed effect and infers a cause is

- A** invalid by definition
- B** a legitimate line of reasoning
- C** a summary
- D** a concession

Solution 3.2

- A invalid by definition
- B a legitimate line of reasoning**
- C a summary
- D a concession



Worked steps

- B. inference from effect to cause is a standard argumentative move.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage interrupts its argument with a two-paragraph anecdote.

- (a) State one legitimate function the interruption may serve.
- (b) Explain how you would show it does or does not serve the reasoning.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) making an abstract claim concrete, or securing attention before a difficult step **B1**. (b) test whether the argument would still hold without it **B1**: if the following claim depends on it, it serves the reasoning; if not, it is a digression **B1**.