

## Exercise walk-through

How claims are qualified ■ 7.3

eXercise

## You must be able to

- identify the qualifying word, clause or structure
- state what the qualification excludes
- distinguish a qualification from a hedge and from a concession
- explain the effect of qualification on credibility

## Method — Where qualification lives

In a **word** (often, typically, largely), a **clause** (where transport allows), a **modal** (may, can, might), or a **structure** (a subordinate clause carrying the exception). Point to the actual language.

## Method — What it excludes

A qualification is informative in proportion to what it rules out. “In cities over one million” excludes a great deal; “in some circumstances” excludes nothing.

## Method — Three different moves

A **qualification** limits the claim's scope. A **hedge** weakens the writer's commitment without limiting scope. A **concession** grants a separate point to the other side. They look similar and do different work.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name three places qualification can appear in a sentence.

## Solution 2.1

Method: Three different moves

### Worked steps

any three of: a qualifying word; a limiting clause; a modal verb; a subordinate structure carrying the exception **B3**.

## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between a qualification and a hedge.



## Solution 2.2

Method: Three different moves

### Worked steps

a qualification limits the claim's scope (B1); a hedge weakens the writer's commitment without limiting anything (B1).

## Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

“This holds in cities over one million; elsewhere the effect reverses.”

- (a) State what the qualification excludes.
- (b) State its effect on credibility.

## Solution 2.3

Method: What it excludes

### Worked steps

(a) all cities under one million, where the effect is said to reverse **B1**. (b) it raises credibility, since the writer states where the claim fails **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“In some circumstances” is best described as

**A** an informative qualification

**B** a hedge

**C** a concession

**D** a thesis

## Solution 3.1

Method: What it excludes

**A** an informative qualification

**B** a hedge 

**C** a concession

**D** a thesis

### Worked steps

**B.** it weakens commitment without excluding any case.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A qualification is informative in proportion to

- A** its length
- B** what it rules out
- C** where it appears
- D** the writer's tone

## Solution 3.2

Method: What it excludes

- A its length
- B what it rules out
- C where it appears
- D the writer's tone



### Worked steps

- B. what is excluded is what makes it informative.

## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage qualifies its central claim three times in one paragraph.

- (a) State one possible reason.
- (b) Explain the risk.



## Solution 3.3

Method: Three different moves

### Worked steps

(a) the audience is expert or hostile and will test the claim **B1**. (b) repeated qualification can leave the reader unsure what is being claimed **B1**, so the argument loses force even as it gains accuracy **B1**.