

Exercise walk-through

How claims are qualified ■ 9.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- trace how a claim's scope changes across a whole text
- distinguish a narrowing argument from an inconsistent one
- state a writer's final position including all its limits
- explain the rhetorical effect of visible narrowing

Method — Scope across a text

A claim stated broadly in the introduction may be narrowed twice before the conclusion. Track it: broad claim, first limit, second limit, final position. That sequence is the argument.

Method — Narrowing against inconsistency

Narrowing is principled: each limit is introduced with a reason. **Inconsistency** is a claim that changes without acknowledgment. The presence or absence of a stated reason distinguishes them.

Method — The effect of visible narrowing

A reader who watches a writer surrender ground for stated reasons trusts what is left. Narrowing performed openly buys credibility that an unqualified claim cannot.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the four stages of tracking a claim's scope.

Solution 2.1

Method: Scope across a text

Worked steps

broad claim; first limit; second limit; final position **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what distinguishes narrowing from inconsistency.

Solution 2.2

Method: Narrowing against inconsistency

Worked steps

narrowing introduces each limit with a reason **B1**; inconsistency changes the claim without acknowledgment **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A writer's conclusion claims less than the introduction, each step given a reason.

- (a) State whether this is a weakness.
- (b) Justify your answer.

Solution 2.3

Method: Scope across a text

Worked steps

(a) no **B1**. (b) each surrender is principled, so the remaining claim is better supported and the reader trusts it **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A claim that changes without acknowledgment is

- A** narrowing
- B** inconsistency
- C** qualification
- D** concession

Solution 3.1

Method: Narrowing against inconsistency

- A narrowing
- B inconsistency
- C qualification
- D concession



Worked steps

B. unacknowledged change is inconsistency.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Visible narrowing buys the writer

- A** length
- B** credibility
- C** a thesis
- D** coherence

Solution 3.2

Method: The effect of visible narrowing

A length

B credibility 

C a thesis

D coherence

Worked steps

B. surrendering ground for reasons earns trust in what remains.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 2 marks

State a writer's final position in one sentence, given: an opening claim that a policy works, a limit to large cities, and a further limit to those with existing transport.

- (a) Write the sentence.
- (b) State what the narrowing shows about the evidence.

Solution 3.3

Method: Scope across a text

Worked steps

(a) one sentence including both limits, e.g. “The policy works in large cities that already have frequent transport” **B2**. (b) that the evidence supports the claim only under those conditions **B1**, and the writer has followed it rather than the original claim **B1**.