

# 1.3 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 14 marks

**KEY WORDS** commentary 阐释 • audience 受众

## Objective

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Build the skills to write a paragraph in which a **claim**, **evidence** and **commentary** 阐释 work together.

**You must be able to:**

- open a paragraph with a claim that could be disputed
- choose evidence that a doubting reader would accept
- write commentary that explains **how** the evidence supports the claim
- avoid restating the evidence in place of commentary

## 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ The three parts

**Claim:** the disputable statement this paragraph will support. **Evidence:** the material offered in support. **Commentary:** the sentence or two explaining why that evidence supports that claim.

### ■ Commentary is not restatement

Weak: “Visits fell 30%, which shows visits have dropped.” Strong: “A 30% fall over five years, in a period when the population grew, cannot be explained by fewer residents — it points to the service itself.”

### ■ Choosing evidence for a reader

Ask who doubts the claim and what they would accept. A sceptical council needs figures; a public meeting needs a case they recognise. The same claim may need different evidence for different audiences.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** Name the three parts of a developed paragraph. [3]

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**2.2** Explain what commentary must do that restatement does not. [2]

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**2.3** Claim: “Our bus timetable is designed for commuters, not for residents.”

(a) State one piece of evidence that would support it. [1]

(b) Write one sentence of commentary linking your evidence to the claim. [2]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Which sentence is commentary rather than restatement? [1]

- **A** As the data show, the figure fell by a third.
- **B** The figure fell by a third, a drop of one-third.
- **C** A third fewer users, in a year when fares did not rise, suggests the timetable rather than the price is the barrier.
- **D** The figure was 30% lower.

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**3.2** Evidence should be selected mainly according to [1]

- **A** how recent it is
- **B** what the intended audience would accept
- **C** how long it is
- **D** how unusual it is

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**3.3** Write a paragraph of three to four sentences supporting this claim: “School timetables

are built around adult convenience rather than adolescent sleep.”

[4]

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## Solutions

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**2.1** claim; evidence; commentary.

**2.2** commentary explains **how** the evidence supports the claim; restatement only repeats the evidence in other words.

**2.3** (a) e.g. services run only at peak hours, with no midday buses. (b) commentary must connect: e.g. a timetable with no midday service cannot be used by anyone whose journey is not to and from work, which is precisely the residents' complaint.

**3.1 C.** it explains what the figure implies and rules out a rival explanation.

**3.2 B.** evidence persuades only if the intended reader accepts it.

**3.3** claim stated and disputable; relevant evidence; commentary linking evidence to claim; paragraph unified around the one claim.