

4.6 Using methods of development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to use a method of development **deliberately** in your own argument.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ Subordination

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

2 Practice

2.1 State the first question to ask when choosing a method. [2]

2.2 State what should govern a shift from one method to another. [2]

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

(a) Name the method that answers it. [1]

(b) Justify the choice. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The objection “it isn’t really a problem” is best answered by [1]

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

3.2 A narration that runs to a page in a short essay has probably [1]

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

3.3 Plan the method sequence for an essay arguing that a city should build a tram line. [4]

Solutions

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

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

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

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

3.2 B. proportion is the test of subordination.

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