

5.11 Control over the elements of composition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS transitional elements 过渡

Objective

Build the skills to use **transitional elements** 过渡.

You must be able to:

- define transitional elements in the CED's terms
- name the forms they can take
- state what they do
- distinguish a real transition from a filler word

1 Worked examples

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

■ Definition

Transitional elements are words or other elements — phrases, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs — that assist in creating coherence between sentences and paragraphs by showing relationships between ideas.

■ Forms

The CED's list runs from a word to a whole paragraph. A transitional *paragraph* is a legitimate device in a long essay.

■ What they do

They **show relationships between ideas**. The relationship must exist first; the transition names it.

■ Real and filler

“Furthermore” before an unrelated point names a relationship that is not there. Test each transition by asking what relationship it claims and whether the two ideas actually stand in it.

2 Practice

2.1 Define transitional elements in the CED’s terms. [2]

2.2 Name the forms they can take. [2]

2.3 A transition names a relationship.

(a) State what must be true first. [1]

(b) State the test for a filler transition. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Transitional elements create coherence by [1]

- **A** showing relationships between ideas
- **B** adding length
- **C** repeating quotations
- **D** naming the author

3.2 The CED’s list of forms includes words, phrases, clauses, sentences and [1]

- **A** paragraphs
- **B** titles
- **C** footnotes
- **D** margins

3.3 An essay uses “furthermore” between two unrelated points.

(a) State the problem. [1]

(b) Explain the fix.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 words or other elements that assist in creating coherence between sentences and paragraphs by showing relationships between ideas.

2.2 words, phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs.

2.3 (a) the relationship must actually exist. (b) ask what relationship the transition claims and whether the two ideas stand in it.

3.1 A. showing relationships.

3.2 A. paragraphs.

3.3 (a) it claims an additive relationship that does not hold. (b) either establish the relationship the transition names or replace it with one that describes the actual link between the points.