

9.8 Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS from memory 凭记忆取证

Objective

Build the skills to marshal evidence **from memory** 凭记忆取证.

You must be able to:

- state the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency
- explain the difficulty of writing without the text
- state what the recursive process permits
- prepare a text so its evidence is available

1 Worked examples

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

■ Conditions

Effective: commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim.

Sufficient: quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning.

■ Without the text

In a literary argument essay the book is not in front of you. Evidence must be recalled accurately, which means preparing a small number of passages you know precisely rather than a general impression of the whole.

■ Recursive

An interpretation can emerge from analysing evidence or from forming a line of reasoning and then identifying evidence. With a remembered text, the second order is usually forced — and it is legitimate.

■ Preparation

For each text, know a handful of specific moments — a decision, an image, an exchange — well enough to describe them precisely. Precise description of a remembered scene is admissible evidence; a vague gesture at the novel is not.

2 Practice

2.1 State the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency. [2]

2.2 Explain the difficulty of writing without the text. [2]

2.3 Preparation makes evidence available.

(a) State what to prepare. [2]

(b) State which order of the recursive process is usually forced. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Precise description of a remembered scene is [1]

- **A** admissible evidence
- **B** never acceptable
- **C** a substitute for a thesis
- **D** commentary

3.2 With a remembered text the usual order is [1]

- **A** line of reasoning first, then evidence
- **B** evidence first, then reasoning
- **C** neither
- **D** both simultaneously

3.3 Write a claim about a text you know well and name two specific moments that would

defend it.

[4]

Solutions

2.1 effective when commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim; sufficient when quantity and quality aptly support the line of reasoning.

2.2 the text is not available, so evidence must be recalled accurately rather than located.

2.3 (a) a small number of specific moments — a decision, an image, an exchange — known precisely. (b) forming the line of reasoning first and then identifying evidence.

3.1 A. admissible.

3.2 A. reasoning first.

3.3 a claim requiring defense; a first moment described precisely; a second moment described precisely; both related to the claim rather than listed.