6.2 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 17 marks**

KEY WORDS synthesize • summarize • cite ( ) • complicate • exception • lower-achieving

Objective

Build the skills to **synthesize** sources in a paragraph: combining evidence from several sources with your own commentary, not summarizing them one by one.

You must be able to:

- tell synthesis from summary of sources
- combine two sources to support one point
- keep your own voice in control of the sources

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Summary or synthesis?

summary (weak)	synthesis (strong)
"Source A says... Source B says... Source C says..."	"Both a teacher survey (Source A) and test results (Source C) suggest... though students (Source B) see a cost."
sources control the paragraph	the writer's claim controls the paragraph

■ A synthesis paragraph

1. **Your** claim (the topic sentence).
2. Evidence from one source, cited.
3. Evidence from another source that agrees, adds to or complicates it, cited.
4. Commentary that explains how the sources together support your claim.

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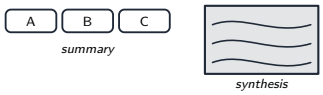
■ **Worked example**

Task: combine "Teachers report fewer distractions after a phone ban (Source A)" and "Test scores rose 6% in schools with bans (Source C)."

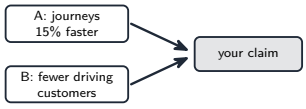
Answer: "A phone ban seems to help learning: teachers report fewer distractions (Source A), and schools with bans saw test scores rise about 6% (Source C). The two sources describe the same change from different sides, what teachers observe and what tests measure, so the effect is unlikely to be imagined."

2 Practice

2.1 Explain the difference between summarizing sources and synthesizing them. [2]



2.2 Source A says a city's new bus lanes cut journey times by 15%. Source B says shop owners on the bus routes reported fewer car-driving customers. Write one sentence that synthesizes both sources, and explain how they relate. [3]



2.3 Explain why a synthesis paragraph should begin with the writer's own claim rather than with a source. [3]



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3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Read the three sources about banning phones during the school day (composite sources written for practice).

> **Source A** (a teacher survey): "Eight in ten teachers said phones were the main distraction in class."
>
> **Source B** (a student editorial): "Phones are how we reach our parents in an emergency."
>
> **Source C** (a study of 90 schools): "After bans, average test scores rose about 6%, most for lower-achieving students."

(a) Identify the source that gives the student perspective. [1]

A: teachers: phones the main distraction | B: students: emergency contact | C: 90 schools: scores up about 6%

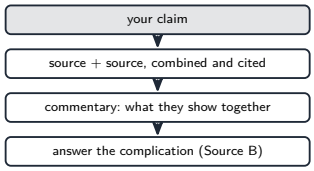
(b) Identify one way Source C adds to Source A. [1]

(c) Explain how Source B complicates the case for a ban. [1]

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3.2 Use Sources A, B and C in Question 3.1.

Write one synthesis paragraph that takes a position on banning phones during the school day. Use at least two of the sources, cite them, and make sure your claim, not the sources, controls the paragraph. [6]



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