

Exercise walk-through

Clauses and relationships between ideas ■ 8.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- use a subordinate clause to answer an objection in passing
- use a conditional structure to limit a claim precisely
- place the emphasised idea in the main clause
- diagnose a sentence whose structure fights its meaning

Method — Objections in passing

“Although the trial was small, the effect was consistent across all three sites.” The objection is granted and disposed of in six words, and the main clause carries the point.

Method — Conditionals

“If the funding continues, the scheme pays for itself by year four” states a precise limit. The condition is visible and testable, which is what a qualified claim requires.

Method — Structure fighting meaning

“Although the scheme works, it is expensive” tells the reader that expense is the point. If the writer supports the scheme, the structure argues against them.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a subordinate clause can do to an objection.

Solution 2.1

Method: Objections in passing

Worked steps

grant it and dispose of it in passing **B1**, leaving the main clause to carry the argument **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why a conditional structure suits a qualified claim.

Solution 2.2

Method: Conditionals

Worked steps

it names the condition explicitly **B1**, so the limit is visible and testable **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

“Although the scheme works, it is expensive.”

- (a) State which idea the structure emphasises.
- (b) State whether it suits an advocate of the scheme.

Solution 2.3

Method: Structure fighting meaning

Worked steps

(a) the expense **B1**. (b) no **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The emphasised idea belongs in the

A subordinate clause

B main clause

C first clause always

D shortest clause

Solution 3.1

A subordinate clause

B main clause 

C first clause always

D shortest clause

Worked steps

B. main-clause position carries the weight.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“If the funding continues” makes the claim

- A** vaguer
- B** precisely limited and testable
- C** unqualified
- D** hedged

Solution 3.2

Method: Conditionals

A vaguer

B precisely limited and testable



C unqualified

D hedged

Worked steps

B. a stated condition is a real qualification.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Rewrite so the structure supports the writer's position: "Although attendance rose, the programme cost more than expected." (The writer supports the programme.)

Solution 3.3

Method: Structure fighting meaning

Worked steps

cost subordinated **B2**; the rise in attendance placed in the main clause **B1**; one grammatical sentence **B1**.