

3.6 Using methods of development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to **choose** a method of development for your own writing.

You must be able to:

- match a method to a purpose
- combine two methods in one essay without losing coherence
- avoid a method that suits the subject but not the argument
- justify a method choice in one sentence

1 Worked examples

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

■ Matching method to purpose

If the disagreement is over what a word covers, **define**. If it is over whether something will work, **compare** with a case where it has been tried. If it is over why something happened, use **cause and effect**.

■ Combining methods

Most essays use more than one. The risk is drift: a narration that becomes the essay rather than serving it. Keep each method subordinate to the claim it supports.

■ The wrong method

A vivid **description** of a polluted river may suit the subject and do nothing for an argument about who should pay. Method must serve the claim, not the topic.

2 Practice

2.1 State the method suited to a disagreement about what a term covers. [2]

2.2 State the risk of combining methods and one way to control it. [2]

2.3 Claim: "Congestion charging works."

(a) Name the method you would use. [1]

(b) Justify the choice in one sentence. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A disagreement over why an outcome occurred is best developed by [1]

- **A** description
- **B** cause and effect
- **C** classification
- **D** narration

3.2 A long vivid description that does not serve the claim is [1]

- **A** good style
- **B** drift away from the argument
- **C** a concession
- **D** a thesis

3.3 Write two sentences using comparison to support: "A four-day school week would not reduce learning." [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **3.6 Using methods of development** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Line of Reasoning and Methods of Development** section of the AP English Language handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 definition, because the dispute is over what the term covers rather than over the facts.

2.2 drift, where a method becomes the essay rather than serving it; keep each method subordinate to the claim it supports.

2.3 (a) comparison. (b) the claim is about whether it works, so evidence from a place where it has been tried is what a doubting reader would accept.

3.1 B. cause and effect addresses why.

3.2 B. it suits the topic but not the argument.

3.3 a genuine comparison with a named or described case; the comparison is linked explicitly to the claim.