

7.5 Clauses and relationships between ideas

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS clause structure 从句结构

Objective

Build the skills to analyse how **clause structure** 从句结构 encodes a relationship between ideas.

You must be able to:

- distinguish coordination from subordination
- state what subordination does to the relative weight of two ideas
- identify the relationship a subordinating conjunction asserts
- explain the effect of a chosen structure

1 Worked examples

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



■ Coordination and subordination

Coordination joins clauses of equal weight (and, but, or). **Subordination** makes one clause depend on another (because, although, while, if), and the subordinate clause carries less emphasis.

■ What the choice does

“The scheme costs more, but it works” gives both equal standing. “Although the scheme costs more, it works” demotes the cost. Same facts, different argument.

■ Naming the relationship

Because: cause. **Although:** concession. **If:** condition. **While:** contrast or simultaneity. The conjunction is the writer’s claim about how the ideas relate.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between coordination and subordination. [2]

2.2 Explain what subordination does to the two ideas joined. [2]

2.3 Compare: “It is expensive, but it works” and “Although it is expensive, it works.”

(a) State the difference in emphasis. [1]

(b) State which better serves an advocate of the scheme. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “Although” signals [1]

- **A** cause
- **B** concession
- **C** condition
- **D** addition

3.2 A subordinate clause carries [1]

- **A** more emphasis than the main clause
- **B** less emphasis than the main clause
- **C** equal emphasis
- **D** no meaning

3.3 Rewrite so the cost is demoted and the benefit emphasised: “The programme is slow to start. It reaches the people who need it most.” [4]

Solutions

2.1 coordination joins clauses of equal weight; subordination makes one depend on the other, with less emphasis.

2.2 it demotes the subordinate idea and places the argumentative weight on the main clause.

2.3 (a) the second demotes the cost into a subordinate clause. (b) the second.

3.1 B. it grants a point while placing the weight elsewhere.

3.2 B. subordination reduces emphasis.

3.3 joins the two ideas in one sentence; subordinates the cost with an appropriate conjunction; the benefit stands in the main clause.