

8.5 Clauses and relationships between ideas

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

KEY WORDS expectations 期待 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to use clause structure to manage a reader’s **expectations** 期待.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a subordinate clause can do to an objection. [2]

2.2 Explain why a conditional structure suits a qualified claim. [2]

2.3 “Although the scheme works, it is expensive.”

(a) State which idea the structure emphasises. [1]

(b) State whether it suits an advocate of the scheme. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The emphasised idea belongs in the [1]

- **A** subordinate clause
- **B** main clause
- **C** first clause always
- **D** shortest clause

3.2 “If the funding continues” makes the claim [1]

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

3.3 Rewrite so the structure supports the writer’s position: “Although attendance rose, the programme cost more than expected.” (The writer supports the programme.) [4]

Solutions

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

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

2.3 (a) the expense. (b) no.

3.1 B. main-clause position carries the weight.

3.2 B. a stated condition is a real qualification.

3.3 cost subordinated; the rise in attendance placed in the main clause; one grammatical sentence.