

1.3 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS commentary 阐释 • audience 受众

Objective

Build the skills to write a paragraph in which a **claim**, **evidence** and **commentary** 阐释 work together.

You must be able to:

- open a paragraph with a claim that could be disputed
- choose evidence that a doubting reader would accept
- write commentary that explains **how** the evidence supports the claim
- avoid restating the evidence in place of commentary

1 Worked examples

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

■ The three parts

Claim: the disputable statement this paragraph will support. **Evidence:** the material offered in support. **Commentary:** the sentence or two explaining why that evidence supports that claim.

■ Commentary is not restatement

Weak: “Visits fell 30%, which shows visits have dropped.” Strong: “A 30% fall over five years, in a period when the population grew, cannot be explained by fewer residents — it points to the service itself.”

■ Choosing evidence for a reader

Ask who doubts the claim and what they would accept. A sceptical council needs figures; a public meeting needs a case they recognise. The same claim may need different evidence for different audiences.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the three parts of a developed paragraph. [3]

2.2 Explain what commentary must do that restatement does not. [2]

2.3 Claim: “Our bus timetable is designed for commuters, not for residents.”

(a) State one piece of evidence that would support it. [1]

(b) Write one sentence of commentary linking your evidence to the claim. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which sentence is commentary rather than restatement? [1]

A	B
C	D

A As the data show, the figure fell by a third.

B The figure fell by a third, a drop of one-third.

C A third fewer users, in a year when fares did not rise, suggests the timetable rather than the price is the barrier.

D The figure was 30% lower.

3.2 Evidence should be selected mainly according to [1]

A	B
C	D

A how recent it is

B what the intended audience would accept

C how long it is

D how unusual it is

3.3 Write a paragraph of three to four sentences supporting this claim: “School timetables are built around adult convenience rather than adolescent sleep.” [4]
