

5.3 Organization, unity, and coherence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 11 marks**

KEY WORDS unity 统一 • coherence 连贯 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to test a text for **unity** 统一 and **coherence** 连贯.

You must be able to:

- define unity and coherence and tell them apart
- test a paragraph for unity in one step
- identify a coherence failure that is not a unity failure
- reorganise a passage that has both problems

1 Worked examples

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

■ **Two different properties**

Unity: everything in the unit belongs to one claim. **Coherence:** the parts are ordered and connected so the reader can follow. A paragraph can be unified and incoherent — all on one claim, in an order nobody can follow.

■ **Testing unity**

Write the claim of the paragraph in one sentence. Any sentence that does not serve it breaks unity. This takes seconds and finds most problems.

■ **Coherence failures**

Sentences in a defensible order but with no signalled relationship; pronouns whose referents are unclear; a shift of subject without warning. Each leaves the reader assembling the argument themselves.

2 Practice

2.1 Define unity and coherence. [2]

2.2 State the one-step test for unity. [2]

2.3 A paragraph's sentences all support one claim but appear in an order that jumps.

(a) State which property is intact. [1]

(b) State which fails. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A paragraph containing one sentence on an unrelated point fails on [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A** unity
B coherence
C both equally
D neither

3.2 Unclear pronoun reference is primarily a failure of [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A** unity
B coherence
C thesis
D evidence

3.3 A passage's paragraphs are individually unified but appear in an order that makes the argument hard to follow.

(a) State the failure. [1]

(b) Explain how you would repair it. [2]