

6.1 Identifying claims and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 17 marks**

KEY WORDS contested or selective 有选择的

Objective

Build the skills to identify claims and evidence where the evidence is **contested or selective** 有选择的.

You must be able to:

- notice what evidence a passage does not mention
- assess whether evidence is representative
- identify a source and judge its standing
- state what a fuller body of evidence would change

1 Worked examples

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

■ Absent evidence

A passage arguing a scheme succeeded that never mentions cost has left something out. Naming the omission is a legitimate and strong critical observation.

■ Representativeness

Three examples chosen by the writer are not a sample. Ask whether the cases could have been chosen for fitting the claim; if so, they cannot test it.

■ Sources

Who produced the figure matters: a body with an interest in the answer is not disqualified, but its standing is part of the evidence. Say who, not only what.

2 Practice

2.1 State why noticing absent evidence is a legitimate criticism. [2]

2.2 State the question to ask about a writer’s chosen examples. [2]

2.3 A figure is attributed to an industry association arguing for its own sector.

(a) State whether the figure is disqualified. [1]

(b) State what should be said about it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Three examples selected by the writer to support a claim [1]

A	B
C	D

- A constitute a representative sample
- B cannot test the claim they were chosen to fit
- C prove the claim
- D are irrelevant

3.2 Naming the source of a statistic matters because [1]

A	B
C	D

- A long names are impressive
- B the producer’s interest is part of the evidence
- C sources are always unreliable
- D it lengthens the essay

3.3 A passage arguing a policy succeeded gives outcomes but no costs.

(a) Name the weakness. [1]

(b) Explain what a full evaluation would need. [2]

3.4 Full free-response task. A think-tank report claims that a city’s new cycle lanes have “made the roads safer”, citing a 40% fall in reported cycle collisions in the year after installation. The report does not state how many people cycled before or after, and the collision figure counts only incidents reported to the police.

Marked on the AP 6-point rubric: **Row A — Thesis (1), Row B — Evidence and Commentary (4), Row C — Sophistication (1).**