

7.4 Qualifying a claim

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS qualification 限定

Objective

Build the skills to **qualify your own claim** without losing it.

You must be able to:

- add a limiting clause that names a real condition
- place the qualification where it does most good
- decide how much qualification the audience requires
- avoid stacking qualifications until nothing is claimed

1 Worked examples

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

■ A real condition

Write the condition you could actually name: “where the school controls its own timetable”, not “in appropriate cases”. If you cannot state the condition, you do not yet have a qualification.

■ Placement

Qualifying **after** the claim lets the claim land first; qualifying **before** it protects a hostile reader from rejecting it outright. Choose by audience.

■ How much

One qualification that excludes something real usually beats three that do not. Ask what the reader will actually challenge and answer that.

■ Stacking

“This may, in certain circumstances and subject to funding, sometimes help.” Nothing has been claimed. Stacking is the standard failure and is easy to spot in your own drafts.

2 Practice

2.1 State the test of whether you have a real qualification. [2]

2.2 State how placement of a qualification depends on the audience. [2]

2.3 Claim: “Free public transport increases use.”

(a) Add a real qualifying clause. [2]

(b) State what your clause excludes. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “In appropriate cases” fails as a qualification because it [1]

A	B
C	D

A is too long

B names no condition

C is placed late

D concedes too much

3.2 Placing a qualification before the claim is most useful with [1]

A	B
C	D

A a sympathetic audience

B a hostile audience likely to reject it outright

C an expert audience only

D no audience

3.3 Rewrite to remove stacking, keeping one real qualification: “This might, under some conditions and possibly, occasionally reduce delays.” [4]
