

8.6 Writing clear sentences

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to write sentences that are clear **under pressure** — in a timed essay.

You must be able to:

- start a sentence with the subject when time is short
- avoid the constructions that most often go wrong under pressure
- repair a sentence quickly without rewriting the paragraph
- keep clarity while writing at speed

1 Worked examples

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

■ Subject first

Under time pressure, the safest sentence begins with its subject and reaches its verb quickly. Elaborate openings are where timed writing collapses.

■ Constructions that fail under pressure

Long introductory clauses; multiple embedded qualifications; a pronoun three sentences from its noun. Each is manageable with time to check, and each fails without it.

■ Fast repair

If a sentence has gone wrong, do not rewrite the paragraph. Break it at the nearest full stop and start a new sentence with the subject. Two plain sentences beat one broken one.

2 Practice

2.1 State the safest sentence shape under time pressure.

[2]

2.2 Name two constructions that fail under pressure. [2]

2.3 A sentence has run out of control mid-paragraph.

(a) State the fastest repair. [1]

(b) State why rewriting the paragraph is the wrong move. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 In a timed essay, an elaborate opening clause is risky because [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** it is too formal
B the sentence often collapses before the verb
C it is ungrammatical
D it wastes ink

3.2 Two plain sentences instead of one broken one is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** a stylistic failure
B the correct fast repair
C a comma splice
D a concession

3.3 Rewrite as two clear sentences: “Given that the evidence, which comes from several sources including the department’s own figures that were published last year, points in one direction, it seems that the policy should change.” [4]
