

9.1 How claims are qualified

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS sustained argument 持续论证

Objective

Build the skills to analyse qualification in a **sustained argument** 持续论证.

You must be able to:

- trace how a claim’s scope changes across a whole text
- distinguish a narrowing argument from an inconsistent one
- state a writer’s final position including all its limits
- explain the rhetorical effect of visible narrowing

1 Worked examples

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

■ Scope across a text

A claim stated broadly in the introduction may be narrowed twice before the conclusion. Track it: broad claim, first limit, second limit, final position. That sequence is the argument.

■ Narrowing against inconsistency

Narrowing is principled: each limit is introduced with a reason. **Inconsistency** is a claim that changes without acknowledgment. The presence or absence of a stated reason distinguishes them.

■ The effect of visible narrowing

A reader who watches a writer surrender ground for stated reasons trusts what is left. Narrowing performed openly buys credibility that an unqualified claim cannot.

2 Practice

2.1 State the four stages of tracking a claim’s scope. [2]

2.2 State what distinguishes narrowing from inconsistency. [2]

2.3 A writer’s conclusion claims less than the introduction, each step given a reason.

(a) State whether this is a weakness. [1]

(b) Justify your answer. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A claim that changes without acknowledgment is [1]

A	B
C	D

- A narrowing
- B inconsistency
- C qualification
- D concession

3.2 Visible narrowing buys the writer [1]

A	B
C	D

- A length
- B credibility
- C a thesis
- D coherence

3.3 State a writer’s final position in one sentence, given: an opening claim that a policy works, a limit to large cities, and a further limit to those with existing transport.

(a) Write the sentence. [2]

(b) State what the narrowing shows about the evidence. [2]
