

9.2 Qualifying a claim

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks**KEY WORDS** concede 让步

Objective

Build the skills to qualify a claim across an **entire essay**.

You must be able to:

- plan where each limit will be introduced
- give each limit a reason drawn from the evidence
- keep the final claim strong enough to be worth making
- write a conclusion that states the narrowed position

1 Worked examples

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

■ Planning the limits

Before drafting, list the objections you expect and decide which you will meet with a limit and which with evidence. Limits belong where the objection would first occur to the reader.

■ Reasons from the evidence

Each limit should be introduced by what forced it: “the two rural districts show no effect, so the claim holds only where services are frequent.” The limit then reads as honesty rather than retreat.

■ Keeping the claim worth making

Ask at the end: does anyone disagree with what is left? If not, the qualifications have gone too far, and one should be argued rather than granted.

■ The conclusion

State the narrowed claim in full — with its conditions — and say what follows from it. A conclusion that restates the original broad claim contradicts the essay.

2 Practice

2.1 State where a limit belongs in an essay. [2]

2.2 State the test of whether qualification has gone too far. [2]

2.3 An essay narrows its claim three times and concludes with the original broad claim.

(a) Name the fault. [1]

(b) State the fix. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A limit reads as honesty rather than retreat when it is introduced by [1]

A	B
C	D

A an apology

B the evidence that forced it

C a rhetorical question

D a transition of addition

3.2 If nobody would disagree with the final claim, the essay has [1]

A	B
C	D

A succeeded

B qualified it out of existence

C conceded correctly

D found the thesis

3.3 Plan a qualified argument for: “Universities should drop standardised admissions tests.”

(a) State your claim and two limits. [2]

(b) State the reason for each limit. [2]
