

Exercise walk-through

Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence ■ 3.9

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the six purposes evidence can serve
- state when evidence is effective
- state when evidence is sufficient
- explain what 'recursive' means for the writing process

Method — Six purposes

Writers use evidence strategically and purposefully to illustrate, clarify, exemplify, associate, amplify, or qualify a point. Six, and they are not the same job.

Method — Effective

Evidence is effective when the writer uses commentary to explain a logical relationship between the evidence and the claim. Effectiveness is a property of the pairing, not of the quotation.

Method — Sufficient

Evidence is sufficient when its quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning. Both quantity and quality — many weak quotations are not sufficient.

Method — Recursive

Developing an interpretation is a recursive process: an interpretation can emerge from analysing evidence and then forming a line of reasoning, or from forming a line of reasoning and then identifying relevant evidence. Either order is legitimate.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Name four of the six purposes evidence can serve.

Solution 2.1

Method: Six purposes

Worked steps

any four of: illustrate; clarify; exemplify; associate; amplify; qualify **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State when evidence is effective and when it is sufficient.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

effective when commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim **B1**; sufficient when quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The process is recursive.

- (a) State the two orders the CED permits.
- (b) State why many weak quotations are not sufficient.

Solution 2.3

Method: Sufficient

Worked steps

(a) analysing evidence then forming a line of reasoning **B1**; forming a line of reasoning then identifying evidence **B1**. (b) sufficiency requires quality as well as quantity **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Effectiveness is a property of

- A** the quotation alone
- B** the pairing of evidence and commentary
- C** the length of the essay
- D** the number of quotations

Solution 3.1

Method: Effective

- A the quotation alone
- B the pairing of evidence and commentary** 
- C the length of the essay
- D the number of quotations

Worked steps

- B. the pairing.**

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Sufficiency depends on quantity and

A quality

B font

C page count

D genre

Solution 3.2

A quality



B font

C page count

D genre

Worked steps

A. quality.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

An essay quotes eight times and explains none of them.

- (a) State which criterion fails.
- (b) Explain why quantity does not compensate.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) effectiveness **B1**. (b) unexplained evidence establishes no relationship to any claim **B1**, so adding more of it adds no support **B1**.