

Exercise walk-through

Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence ■ 4.13

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the six purposes evidence can serve
- distinguish two of them precisely
- state the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency
- choose evidence for a purpose rather than for availability

Method — Six purposes

Illustrate, clarify, exemplify, associate, amplify, or qualify. Choosing which purpose a piece of evidence serves is a decision, not a formality.

Method — Two of them

Amplify strengthens a point already made; **qualify** limits it. An essay that only amplifies sounds one-sided; one that qualifies where the text resists a claim sounds careful.

Method — Conditions

Effective: commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim.

Sufficient: quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning.

Method — Purpose over availability

The commonest fault is quoting the passage that is easiest to find. Decide what job the paragraph needs done, then find evidence that does it.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name the six purposes evidence can serve.

Solution 2.1

Method: Six purposes

Worked steps

illustrate; clarify; exemplify; associate; amplify; qualify **B3**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Distinguish amplifying from qualifying.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

amplifying strengthens a point already made **B1**; qualifying limits it **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Evidence should be chosen for a purpose.

- (a) State the commonest fault.
- (b) State the two conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency.

Solution 2.3

Method: Purpose over availability

Worked steps

(a) quoting the passage that is easiest to find **B1**. (b) effective when commentary explains the logical relationship to the claim **B1**; sufficient when quantity and quality aptly support the line of reasoning **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

To qualify a point is to

A strengthen it

B limit it

C repeat it

D ignore it

Solution 3.1

Method: Two of them

A strengthen it

B limit it



C repeat it

D ignore it

Worked steps

B. to limit.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

An essay that only amplifies sounds

- A** careful
- B** one-sided
- C** brief
- D** ungrammatical

Solution 3.2

Method: Two of them

A careful

B one-sided 

C brief

D ungrammatical

Worked steps

B. one-sided.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A passage seems to contradict your claim.

- (a) State which purpose it can serve.
- (b) Explain why using it strengthens the essay.

Solution 3.3

Method: Two of them

Worked steps

(a) qualify **B1**. (b) it shows the writer has read against their own claim **B1**, and a claim stated with its limits is harder to refute than one stated absolutely **B1**.