

Exercise walk-through

Developing commentary ■ 6.11

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a line of reasoning
- state how it is communicated
- explain what sustaining it over a long text requires
- test whether the claims are in the right order

Method — Definition

The logical sequence of claims that work together to defend the overarching thesis statement.

Method — Communication

Through commentary that explains the logical relationship between the thesis and the claims and evidence within the body.

Method — Sustaining it

Over a long text, the risk is that each paragraph makes a good local point and the points do not add up. Each claim must be shown to follow from the last and to advance the thesis.

Method — The order test

Try swapping two paragraphs. If nothing breaks, they were not in a sequence — they were a list, and the essay has claims but no line of reasoning.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a line of reasoning and state how it is communicated.

Solution 2.1

Method: The order test

Worked steps

the logical sequence of claims defending the thesis **B1**, communicated through commentary explaining the relationship between thesis, claims and evidence **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the risk in a long-text essay.

Solution 2.2

Method: Sustaining it

Worked steps

each paragraph may make a good local point **B1** while the points do not add up to a defense of the thesis **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The order can be tested.

- (a) State the test.
- (b) State what each claim must be shown to do.

Solution 2.3

Method: Sustaining it

Worked steps

(a) swap two paragraphs and see whether anything breaks **B2**. (b) that it follows from the last and advances the thesis **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

If two paragraphs can be swapped with nothing breaking, the essay has

A a list rather than a line of reasoning

B a strong sequence

C no claims

D no evidence

Solution 3.1

Method: The order test

A a list rather than a line of reasoning



B a strong sequence

C no claims

D no evidence

Worked steps

A. a list.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A line of reasoning is communicated through

A commentary

B quotation

C summary

D the title

Solution 3.2

Method: The order test

A commentary



B quotation

C summary

D the title

Worked steps

A. commentary.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

An essay's four paragraphs each make a good point about a novel.

- (a) State what has not yet been established.
- (b) Explain how to establish it.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) that the four points form a sequence defending one thesis **B1**. (b) write each topic sentence so it names how this claim follows from the previous one **B1** and what it adds to the thesis **B1**.