

Exercise walk-through

Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence ■ 9.8

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency
- explain the difficulty of writing without the text
- state what the recursive process permits
- prepare a text so its evidence is available

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 — Without the text

In a literary argument essay the book is not in front of you. Evidence must be recalled accurately, which means preparing a small number of passages you know precisely rather than a general impression of the whole.

Method — Recursive

An interpretation can emerge from analysing evidence or from forming a line of reasoning and then identifying evidence. With a remembered text, the second order is usually forced — and it is legitimate.

Method — Preparation

For each text, know a handful of specific moments — a decision, an image, an exchange — well enough to describe them precisely. Precise description of a remembered scene is admissible evidence; a vague gesture at the novel is not.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

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

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain the difficulty of writing without the text.

Solution 2.2

Method: Without the text

Worked steps

the text is not available **B1**, so evidence must be recalled accurately rather than located **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Preparation makes evidence available.

- (a) State what to prepare.
- (b) State which order of the recursive process is usually forced.

Solution 2.3

Method: Recursive

Worked steps

(a) a small number of specific moments — a decision, an image, an exchange — known precisely **B2**. (b) forming the line of reasoning first and then identifying evidence **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Precise description of a remembered scene is

- A** admissible evidence
- B** never acceptable
- C** a substitute for a thesis
- D** commentary

Solution 3.1

Method: Preparation

A admissible evidence



B never acceptable

C a substitute for a thesis

D commentary

Worked steps

A. admissible.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

With a remembered text the usual order is

- A** line of reasoning first, then evidence
- B** evidence first, then reasoning
- C** neither
- D** both simultaneously

Solution 3.2

Method: Recursive

A line of reasoning first, then evidence



B evidence first, then reasoning

C neither

D both simultaneously

Worked steps

A. reasoning first.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a claim about a text you know well and name two specific moments that would defend it.

Solution 3.3

Method: Preparation

Worked steps

a claim requiring defense (B1); a first moment described precisely (B1); a second moment described precisely (B1); both related to the claim rather than listed (B1).