

4.13 Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to use evidence **purposefully** 有目的地.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ Six purposes

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

■ 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.

■ Conditions

Effective: commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim.
Sufficient: quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the six purposes evidence can serve. [3]

2.2 Distinguish amplifying from qualifying. [2]

2.3 Evidence should be chosen for a purpose.

(a) State the commonest fault. [1]

(b) State the two conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 To qualify a point is to [1]

- **A** strengthen it
- **B** limit it
- **C** repeat it
- **D** ignore it

3.2 An essay that only amplifies sounds [1]

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

3.3 A passage seems to contradict your claim.

(a) State which purpose it can serve. [1]

(b) Explain why using it strengthens the essay.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.13 Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 illustrate; clarify; exemplify; associate; amplify; qualify.

2.2 amplifying strengthens a point already made; qualifying limits it.

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

3.1 B. to limit.

3.2 B. one-sided.

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