

4.14 Control over the elements of composition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write with **coherence** 连贯.

You must be able to:

- state the three levels at which coherence occurs
- state what writers achieve coherence through
- name the devices that indicate relationships
- test a draft for coherence

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three levels

In a sentence, the idea in one clause logically links to an idea in the next. In a paragraph, the idea in one sentence logically links to an idea in the next. In a text, the ideas in one paragraph logically link to the ideas in the next.

■ What achieves it

Writers achieve coherence when the arrangement and organization of reasons, evidence, ideas or details is logical. Coherence is a property of the arrangement, not of the connecting words.

■ Devices

Transitions, repetition, synonyms, pronoun references, or parallel structure indicate relationships between and among reasons, evidence, ideas and details.

■ The test

Read the first sentence of each paragraph in order. If they form an argument, the essay is coherent at the text level. If they are a list of topics, the arrangement has not been thought through.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three levels at which coherence occurs. [3]

2.2 Name three devices that indicate relationships. [3]

2.3 Coherence is a property of arrangement.

(a) State what this means about transitions. [2]

(b) State the test for coherence at the text level. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Coherence occurs in a sentence, a paragraph and [1]

- **A** a text
- **B** a title
- **C** a footnote
- **D** a margin

3.2 Writers achieve coherence when the arrangement of ideas is [1]

- **A** logical
- **B** alphabetical
- **C** chronological only
- **D** decorative

3.3 An essay is full of transitions and still hard to follow.

(a) State the likely problem. [1]

(b) Explain how to fix it.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.14 Control over the elements of composition** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 in a sentence, between clauses; in a paragraph, between sentences; in a text, between paragraphs.

2.2 any three of: transitions; repetition; synonyms; pronoun references; parallel structure.

2.3 (a) transitions signal a relationship but cannot create one where the arrangement is not logical. (b) read the first sentence of each paragraph in order and see whether they form an argument.

3.1 A. a text.

3.2 A. logical.

3.3 (a) the arrangement is not logical, so the transitions are labelling connections that do not exist. (b) reorder the paragraphs so each claim follows from the last, then rewrite the transitions to name the real relationships.