

6.13 Control over the elements of composition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS sentence structure 句子结构

Objective

Build the skills to control **sentence structure** 句子结构.

You must be able to:

- state what coordination and subordination illustrate
- explain how sentence structure carries an argument
- state what punctuation conveys
- revise a sentence to reflect its meaning

1 Worked examples

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

■ Two structures

Writers may use coordination to illustrate a balance or equality between ideas or subordination to illustrate an imbalance or inequality. The grammar states the relation.

■ Structure and argument

Writers convey their ideas in a sentence through strategic selection and placement of phrases and clauses. A subordinated clause is marked as less important, so subordinating your main point argues against yourself.

■ Punctuation

Punctuation conveys relationships between and among parts of a sentence. A semicolon claims a balance a comma does not.

■ Revising

Ask which idea in a sentence is the main one, and check that it sits in the main clause. If the point is in a subordinate clause, the sentence is telling the reader to weight it less than you intend.

2 Practice

2.1 State what coordination and subordination illustrate. [2]

2.2 Explain how subordinating a main point argues against yourself. [2]

2.3 Punctuation conveys relationships.

(a) Give an example. [2]

(b) State the revision question. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Subordination illustrates [1]

- A an imbalance or inequality between ideas
- B a balance
- C a rhyme
- D a quotation

3.2 A clause placed in a subordinate position is marked as [1]

- A less important
- B more important
- C equal
- D unrelated

3.3 A student’s key claim sits in an “although” clause.

(a) State the problem. [1]

(b) Explain the fix. [2]

Solutions

2.1 coordination illustrates a balance or equality between ideas; subordination illustrates an imbalance or inequality.

2.2 a subordinated clause is marked as less important, so placing the main point there tells the reader to weight it less than intended.

2.3 (a) a semicolon claims a balance between two clauses that a comma does not. (b) which idea is the main one, and does it sit in the main clause.

3.1 A. imbalance.

3.2 A. less important.

3.3 (a) the grammar weights the claim as concessive rather than central. (b) move the claim into the main clause and subordinate the concession instead.