

3.10 Control over the elements of composition

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

KEY WORDS conventional control 规范

Objective

Build the skills to write with **conventional control** 规范.

You must be able to:

- state what grammar and mechanics allow a writer to do
- explain why this is a communication issue rather than an etiquette one
- identify the errors that most obscure meaning
- proofread for meaning rather than for rules

1 Worked examples

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

■ What they allow

Grammar and mechanics that follow established conventions of language allow writers to clearly communicate their interpretation of a text. The stated purpose is clarity of interpretation.

■ Not etiquette

The CED does not say correct writing is polite or expected; it says it lets the interpretation reach the reader. An error matters in proportion to what it obscures.

■ The worst errors

Unclear pronoun reference (which character?), a misplaced modifier (who did what?), and a sentence with no main verb. Each of these hides the claim, which is the one thing the essay exists to make.

■ Proofreading for meaning

Read each sentence asking whether a stranger could say who did what to whom. That test finds the errors that cost marks and ignores the ones that do not.

2 Practice

2.1 State what grammar and mechanics allow a writer to do. [2]

2.2 Name two errors that most obscure meaning. [2]

2.3 An error matters in proportion to what it obscures.

(a) State the test to apply when proofreading. [2]

(b) State the CED’s stated purpose for conventions. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED’s stated purpose for grammar and mechanics is [1]

- A

B

C

D

A politeness

B clear communication of an interpretation

C tradition

D length

3.2 Unclear pronoun reference obscures [1]

- A

B

C

D

A which character is meant

B the page number

C the genre

D the title

3.3 A sentence leaves it unclear whose motive is being described.

(a) State the error type. [1]

(b) Explain why it costs more than a spelling slip. [2]
