

1.2 Understanding connections between ideas

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **understanding connections between ideas** 理解观点之间的联系 — seeing how one sentence follows from another, and using that to answer questions the text never states directly.

You must be able to:

- recognise the linking words that signal contrast, cause, addition and example
- follow a pronoun back to the noun it stands for
- work out the relationship between two parts of a text when no linking word is given

1 Worked examples

■ The four relationships, and the words that signal them

- **Contrast** — *however, although, whereas, on the other hand, despite, but*
- **Cause and effect** — *because, since, therefore, as a result, so, this means that*
- **Addition** — *also, moreover, in addition, furthermore, as well as*
- **Example** — *for example, such as, for instance, including*

If a question asks *why*, look for a cause word. If it asks how two ideas differ, look for a contrast word.

■ Following a pronoun

The council closed the old bridge last year. **This** angered many residents, who now travel an extra ten kilometres.

This does not mean the bridge. It means **the closing of the bridge**. When a question asks what a word refers to, the answer is often a whole action, not a single noun.

■ When there is no linking word

The library has reduced its opening hours. Fewer students are using it.

No word connects these, but the reader is meant to see cause and effect. In an exam, say what the connection is and which words in the text support it.

2 Practice

Read the text, then answer the questions.

Ten years ago, Meadow Street was a row of small shops. Today only two remain. Most owners say the same thing: rents doubled while customer numbers fell, and they could not survive both changes at once.

The council disagrees. It points out that a new shopping centre opened nearby in the same period, and argues that shoppers simply chose the shorter walk and the free parking. Whatever the cause, the effect is not disputed. Meadow Street now has fourteen empty units, and the two remaining shops report that passing trade has almost stopped.

There is, however, one sign of change. A group of residents has begun renting three of the empty units for a Saturday market. It has run for four months, and although it does not yet pay for itself, the two remaining shopkeepers say their Saturday takings have risen sharply.

2.1 What does “both changes” refer to? [2]

2.2 Give the reason the council offers for the shops closing. [1]

2.3 The writer uses the word “however” twice. Explain what each one is contrasting. [2]

2.4 What does “It” refer to in the phrase “It has run for four months”? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which word best describes the relationship between the two sentences below?

The market does not yet pay for itself. The shopkeepers want it to continue.

- A cause
- B example
- C contrast
- D addition

3.2 Explain how the writer’s attitude to the Saturday market differs from the council’s attitude to Meadow Street. Use evidence from the text. [3]

3.3 Rewrite this sentence so that the connection between the two ideas is stated with a linking word: “The rents doubled. The shops closed.” [1]

Solutions

2.1 The rents doubling and customer numbers falling. *Both are needed; one alone earns one mark.*

2.2 Shoppers chose the new shopping centre because of the shorter walk and free parking.

2.3 The first “however” contrasts the council’s explanation with the shop owners’ explanation. The second contrasts the bleak picture of empty units with the one hopeful development, the Saturday market.

2.4 The Saturday market. *Not the group of residents — the market is what has run for four months.*

3.1 C. The two facts pull in opposite directions: it loses money, yet they want it to continue.

3.2 The council is defensive and shifts responsibility, arguing that shoppers simply chose a better option. The writer treats the market as genuinely promising, calling it “one sign of change” and citing the sharp rise in Saturday takings. The contrast is between explaining a decline and reporting a recovery.

3.3 Any correct linking word joining the two, for example: “The rents doubled, **so** the shops closed” or “**Because** the rents doubled, the shops closed”.