

2.3 Grammar, vocabulary and checking your work

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 16 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **grammar, vocabulary and checking your work** 语法、词汇与检查 — writing accurately, choosing precise words, and finding your own errors in the minutes you have left.

You must be able to:

- use tenses, articles and subject-verb agreement accurately
- replace a vague word with a precise one
- check a piece of writing systematically rather than reading it through once

1 Worked examples

■ The errors that cost most marks

- **Subject-verb agreement:** *The list of names ~are~ **is** on the door.* The subject is *list*, not *names*.
- **Articles:** English needs *a*, *an* or *the* before most singular countable nouns. *I bought ~car~ **a car**.*
- **Tense consistency:** do not drift between past and present within one account.
- **Plural after a number:** *three ~student~ **students**, but a three-year ~courses~ **course**.*
- **Prepositions:** *depend **on**, interested **in**, arrive **at** a place, arrive **in** a city, good **at** a subject.*

■ Precision beats length

Vague	Precise
a nice place	a quiet, well-lit place
very big	enormous / spacious
said	explained / admitted / insisted
a lot of problems	three recurring problems
good at maths	confident with algebra

A precise word earns vocabulary credit. A long word used wrongly loses it — so use words you are sure of.

■ Checking, in three passes

1. **Verbs.** Is every verb in the right tense, and does it agree with its subject?
2. **Nouns.** Does every singular countable noun have an article? Are plurals marked?
3. **Full stops.** Read each sentence alone. Does it have a subject and a verb, and does it end?

Three quick passes find far more than one slow read-through, because each pass looks for one thing.

2 Practice

2.1 Correct the error in each sentence.

- (a) Each of the students have a locker. [1]

- (b) I am living here since 2019. [1]

- (c) She is very interested on history. [1]

- (d) There is many reasons to visit. [1]

- (e) He said me that the bus was late. [1]

2.2 Replace the underlined word with a more precise one.

- (a) The room was very *big*. [1]

- (b) The film was *good*. [1]

- (c) He *said* that he had not taken it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 This paragraph contains five errors. Rewrite it correctly.

[5]

Last summer I have visited my aunt in Kuala Lumpur. She live in a apartment near the station, and every mornings we walked to the market together. The food there were amazing.

3.2 A student writes: “The teacher gave us a very interesting and enjoyable and useful lesson about the environment which was good.” Rewrite the sentence more effectively and explain what you changed.

[3]

Solutions

2.1 (a) Each of the students **has** a locker. (b) I **have been living** here since 2019. (c) interested **in** history. (d) There **are** many reasons. (e) He **told** me that / He **said to** me that.

2.2 Any precise alternative: (a) spacious / enormous / cavernous. (b) gripping / moving / hilarious. (c) denied / insisted / claimed.

3.1 One mark per correction: “Last summer I **visited** my aunt in Kuala Lumpur. She **lives in an** apartment near the station, and every **morning** we walked to the market together. The food there **was** amazing.”

3.2 Rewrite, for example: “The teacher gave us an unusually useful lesson on the environment.” Changes explained: the three adjectives joined by repeated “and” are replaced by one precise adjective, which is stronger than a list; and the vague ending “which was good” adds nothing and is removed.