4.1 Sentence Variety for Effect: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Nightfall on the Ridge

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Written specifically for this worksheet as a short narrative extract for sentence-variety practice.

By four o'clock the light had already begun to fail. Cloud rolled in from the west, thick and slow, swallowing the tops of the hills one by one. Mia checked her watch, then her map, then the darkening sky. Two hours to the car. Maybe less if she hurried.

Although she had walked this ridge a hundred times before, in sunshine and in drizzle, with friends and completely alone, she had never walked it with the wind rising like this. Should she turn back now, while the path was still visible, or press on and risk the last steep section in the dark?

Somewhere below, a dog barked twice and fell silent. The silence that followed was worse than the barking had been.

Rain arrived first as a fine mist, then as proper drops, then, without warning, as a hard, driving sheet that stung her face and turned the path to a thin brown river. She pulled her hood tight; she quickened her pace; she did not look back.

When the rain finally eased, Mia checked her phone, but there was no signal at all. At the final gate, soaked and shaking, she allowed herself one small, triumphant laugh. She had made it. The car, when she reached it, felt like the safest place in the world.

1 Look at these four sentences from the source text. Identify whether each one is a simple, compound, complex or compound-complex sentence.

(a) 'Cloud rolled in from the west, thick and slow, swallowing the tops of the hills one by one.' **(1)**

(b) 'She pulled her hood tight; she quickened her pace; she did not look back.' **(1)**

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(c) 'Although she had walked this ridge a hundred times before, in sunshine and in drizzle, with friends and completely alone, she had never walked it with the wind rising like this.' **(1)**

(d) 'When the rain finally eased, Mia checked her phone, but there was no signal at all.' **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Which term best describes 'Two hours to the car.' as it is used in the source text?

- ☐ A) A simple sentence
- ☐ B) A minor sentence, with no main verb
- ☐ C) A compound sentence
- ☐ D) A relative clause

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Which term best describes 'Gone. Just like that.' when used deliberately as a piece of narrative writing?

- ☐ A) A compound sentence
- ☐ B) A complex sentence
- ☐ C) Two minor sentences, each with no main verb
- ☐ D) A relative clause

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

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4 Identify and correct the comma splice in this sentence: 'The queue grew longer, nobody complained.'

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Move the adverbial 'carefully' to the front of this sentence, adding the correct punctuation: 'The guard checked every ticket, carefully.'

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

6 Look again at 'Two hours to the car. Maybe less if she hurried.' Explain one effect created by using these short, incomplete sentences at this point in the text.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Identify the technique used to open each of these three sentences.

(a) 'Without hesitation, she raised her hand.' **(1)**

(b) 'Since the museum had just reopened, tickets sold out within minutes.' **(1)**

(c) 'Exhausted but triumphant, the runners crossed the line together.' **(1)**

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

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8 Identify the technique used to open each of these three sentences from the source text.

(a) 'Somewhere below, a dog barked twice and fell silent.' **(1)**

(b) 'Although she had walked this ridge a hundred times before...she had never walked it with the wind rising like this.' **(1)**

(c) 'At the final gate, soaked and shaking, she allowed herself one small, triumphant laugh.' **(1)**

(Total for Question 8 is 3 marks)

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9 Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence, using a subordinating conjunction of your choice: 'The path grew steeper. Mia slowed her pace.'

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

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10 Look at these two simple sentences: 'The rain eased. The wind did not.'

(a) Join them into a compound sentence using a coordinating conjunction. **(2)**

(b) Now join the same two sentences into a compound sentence using a semicolon instead of a conjunction. **(2)**

(Total for Question 10 is 4 marks)

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11 Add the extra detail given in brackets to this sentence as a parenthesis, marked off by a pair of commas: 'Mia kept walking.' (extra detail: her boots soaked through)

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

12 This sentence is a fragment used by accident, not for deliberate effect: 'Because the light was fading fast.' Rewrite it so that it forms a correctly complete sentence.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

13 Write three sentences about a weather event of your own choice (for example a heatwave, a snowstorm or a thunderstorm): one simple sentence, one compound sentence and one complex sentence. Label each sentence with its type.

(Total for Question 13 is 3 marks)

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14 Look at this sentence: 'He ran and he stumbled and he fell and he lay still.' Explain one effect created by repeating 'and' throughout the sentence (polysyndeton) rather than using commas.

(Total for Question 14 is 2 marks)

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15 Look at this sentence: 'The delay frustrated the passengers.'

(a) Rewrite the sentence in the passive voice. **(1)**

(b) Explain one effect of using the passive voice here rather than the active voice. **(2)**

(Total for Question 15 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 Sentence Variety for Effect: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) Simple sentence **B1**

(a) Answer: Simple sentence

(b) Compound sentence **B1**

(b) Answer: Compound sentence

(c) Complex sentence **B1**

(c) Answer: Complex sentence

(d) Compound-complex sentence **B1**

(d) Answer: Compound-complex sentence

Question 2

B) A minor sentence, with no main verb **B1**

Answer: B

Question 3

C) Two minor sentences, each with no main verb **B1**

Answer: C

Question 4

identifies that two independent clauses have been wrongly joined by a comma alone (a comma splice) **B1**

correct rewrite using a full stop, a semicolon, or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction, e.g. 'The queue grew longer, but nobody complained.', oe **B1**

Answer: The queue grew longer, but nobody complained. (Equally accepted: 'The queue grew longer; nobody complained.' or 'The queue grew longer. Nobody complained.')

Question 5

the adverbial 'Carefully' is moved to the start of the sentence **B1**

a comma is correctly placed after the fronted adverbial, cao **B1**

Answer: Carefully, the guard checked every ticket.

Question 6

identifies a plausible effect, e.g. the short sentences create urgency, tension or a clipped, breathless quality (oe) **B1**

develops the effect with reference to the character or moment, e.g. the fragments mimic Mia's quick, anxious thoughts as she calculates the time she has left before dark (oe) **B1**

Answer: The short, verbless sentences create a sudden, clipped, urgent rhythm; they mimic Mia's quick, anxious calculations about time, making the reader feel her rising tension as the light begins to fail.

Question 7

(a) a fronted adverbial (of manner), oe **B1**

(a) Answer: A fronted adverbial (of manner)

(b) a fronted subordinate clause, introduced by the subordinating conjunction 'Since', oe **B1**

(b) Answer: A fronted subordinate clause

(c) a fronted adjectival phrase describing the runners, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: A fronted adjectival phrase

Question 8

(a) a fronted adverbial (of place), oe **B1**

(a) Answer: A fronted adverbial (of place)

(b) a fronted subordinate clause, introduced by the subordinating conjunction 'Although', oe **B1**

(b) Answer: A fronted subordinate clause

(c) a fronted adverbial (of place), followed by a fronted adjectival phrase describing Mia, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: A fronted adverbial of place ('At the final gate'), followed by a fronted adjectival phrase ('soaked and shaking')

Question 9

an appropriate subordinating conjunction is used to join the two clauses (e.g. as, because, when, since), oe **B1**

resulting sentence is grammatically correct and correctly punctuated (a comma after a fronted subordinate clause), cao **B1**

Answer: As the path grew steeper, Mia slowed her pace.

Question 10

(a) an appropriate coordinating conjunction is used (e.g. but, yet), oe **B1**

(a) a comma is correctly placed before the coordinating conjunction, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: The rain eased, but the wind did not.

(b) the two independent clauses are joined using a semicolon **B1**

(b) no coordinating conjunction is added and no capital letter follows the semicolon, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: The rain eased; the wind did not.

Question 11

the extra detail 'her boots soaked through' is correctly inserted after the subject 'Mia' **B1**

a comma is correctly placed both before and after the inserted detail, cao **B1**

Answer: Mia, her boots soaked through, kept walking.

Question 12

identifies that the original is only a subordinate clause with no main clause attached **B1**

correct rewrite that attaches a main clause, correctly punctuated, e.g. 'Because the light was fading fast, Mia quickened her pace.', oe **B1**

Answer: Because the light was fading fast, Mia quickened her pace.

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Question 13

a correctly formed and accurately punctuated simple sentence, correctly labelled **B1**

a correctly formed and accurately punctuated compound sentence, correctly labelled **B1**

a correctly formed and accurately punctuated complex sentence, correctly labelled **B1**

Answer: Sample answer (indicative, not the only acceptable response): Simple - 'The snow fell steadily all afternoon.' Compound - 'The roads froze overnight, and the buses stopped running.' Complex - 'Although the forecast had promised sunshine, the sky stayed grey and heavy all day.'

Question 14

identifies a plausible effect, e.g. the repeated 'and' creates a breathless, relentless or panicked rhythm that mimics events unfolding rapidly, one after another (oe) **B1**

develops the effect with reference to the content, e.g. this momentum makes the sudden stillness of the final clause 'he lay still' feel more abrupt and shocking by contrast (oe) **B1**

Answer: Repeating 'and' gives the sentence a breathless, tumbling momentum that mimics the events happening in rapid succession, which makes the sudden stillness of the final clause, 'he lay still', land as an abrupt and shocking contrast.

Question 15

(a) The passengers were frustrated by the delay, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: The passengers were frustrated by the delay.

(b) identifies a valid reason, e.g. to emphasise the passengers rather than the delay, or to create a more impersonal, reportage tone (oe) **B1**

(b) links the reason to an effect on meaning or the reader, e.g. the focus stays on the people affected rather than on the cause, drawing more sympathy towards them (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: The passive voice shifts the focus onto the passengers and how they were affected, rather than onto the delay itself, which can make the reader feel more sympathy for the people caught up in it.

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