4.6 Complex Clause Analysis: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Last Ferry

Written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). This short narrative extract was composed specifically for this worksheet as a source for clause-level grammar analysis.

When the last coach had rattled away from the harbour car park, Priya locked the ticket office and walked down towards the jetty, listening to the gulls that circled above the fish market roof. The ferry, which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years, sat low in the water, its engine idling patiently. Marcus, who had been the skipper since Priya was a child, leaned out of the wheelhouse window and called down that the tide would turn within the hour. Having checked the ropes twice, Priya climbed aboard and settled into the small cabin that smelled of diesel and salt. She knew that the crossing would be rough because the forecast, pinned to the noticeboard since breakfast, had warned of a rising wind. The lighthouse, its beam sweeping steadily across the black water, offered the only light beyond the harbour wall. Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland, Marcus kept the boat steady, correcting the wheel with small, unhurried movements. Priya, gripping the rail and trying not to think about the crossing that had capsized a smaller boat two winters before, watched the harbour lights shrink behind them. 'We have done this a thousand times,' Marcus shouted over the engine, grinning as though the weather were nothing more than a light drizzle. By the time the ferry reached the far jetty, the wind had dropped and the sky, scrubbed clean by the storm, had begun to clear. Priya, who had spent the whole crossing gripping the rail, stepped onto

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22 the harbour steps and breathed out slowly, relieved that the night's last

23 crossing was finally over.

1 Look at the following sentence from lines 1 to 3: 'When the last coach had rattled away from the harbour car park, Priya locked the ticket office and walked down towards the jetty, listening to the gulls that circled above the fish market roof.'

(a) Identify the subordinate clause that opens this sentence. **(1)**

(b) Identify the main clause of this sentence. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

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2 Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction of your choice: 'The tide turned. Marcus steered the ferry back towards the harbour.'

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Identify and correct the punctuation error in this sentence: 'The wind was rising fast, Marcus checked the ropes one more time.'

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Add the missing commas to this sentence: 'The ferry which was over forty years old rarely broke down.'

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Look at line 9: 'She knew that the crossing would be rough because the forecast... had warned of a rising wind.' Explain how you can tell that 'that the crossing would be rough' is a noun clause rather than a relative clause.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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6 Look at this sentence: 'Marcus kept the boat steady although the waves grew rough.'

(a) Rewrite the sentence with the subordinate clause fronted (moved to the start), punctuated correctly. **(1)**

(b) Explain one effect this reordering has on the reader. **(2)**

(Total for Question 6 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.6 Complex Clause Analysis: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) When the last coach had rattled away from the harbour car park (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: When the last coach had rattled away from the harbour car park

(b) Priya locked the ticket office and walked down towards the jetty (oe, accept up to 'jetty'; the trailing participle phrase 'listening to...' need not be included) **B1**

(b) Answer: Priya locked the ticket office and walked down towards the jetty

Question 2

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

resulting sentence is grammatically correct and correctly punctuated (comma after a fronted subordinate clause, or no comma if the subordinate clause is placed at the end), cao **B1**

Answer: Once the tide had turned, Marcus steered the ferry back towards the harbour.

Question 3

identifies the error as a comma splice: two main clauses are joined only by a comma **B1**

gives a correctly punctuated rewrite, e.g. a full stop and capital letter, a semicolon, or a comma plus coordinating conjunction, oe/cao **B1**

Answer: The wind was rising fast, so Marcus checked the ropes one more time. (Also accept: 'The wind was rising fast; Marcus checked the ropes one more time.' or 'The wind was rising fast. Marcus checked the ropes one more time.')

Question 4

identifies that 'which was over forty years old' is non-defining (there is only one ferry, so the clause only adds extra information) and so needs commas **B1**

both commas correctly inserted, immediately before 'which' and immediately after 'old', cao **B1**

Answer: The ferry, which was over forty years old, rarely broke down.

Question 5

identifies that the clause functions as the direct object of 'knew' (it answers 'what did she know?'), occupying a noun's role in the sentence **B1**

identifies that there is no specific noun directly before 'that' for the clause to describe, unlike a relative clause, which always modifies a preceding noun (oe) **B1**

Answer: The clause functions as the direct object of 'knew' (it answers 'what did she know?'), taking the place of a noun rather than describing one, and there is no specific noun immediately before 'that' for it to modify, which is what a relative clause would need to do.

Question 6

(a) Although the waves grew rough, Marcus kept the boat steady (comma after the fronted clause), cao **B1**

(a) Answer: Although the waves grew rough, Marcus kept the boat steady.

(b) identifies a straightforward effect, e.g. fronting the danger builds tension or suspense before the reader learns the outcome (oe) **1 mark**

(b) develops this, e.g. delaying the reassurance of Marcus's control until after the threat is stated sharpens the contrast between danger and his calm competence (oe) **1 mark**

(b) Answer: Fronting the danger creates tension by making the reader confront the rough waves before learning that Marcus stays in control, sharpening the contrast between threat and his calm competence once the main clause arrives.

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