4.6 Complex Clause Analysis: 30-minute Pack

about 30 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 12 to 14: 'Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland, Marcus kept the boat steady, correcting the wheel with small, unhurried movements.'

(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 Which type of sentence is this: 'The ferry, which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years, sat low in the water.'?

- ☐ A) Simple sentence
- ☐ B) Compound sentence
- ☐ C) Complex sentence
- ☐ D) Compound-complex sentence

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Combine these two simple sentences into one sentence using a defining relative clause: 'The rope had frayed badly. The rope was holding the smaller boat.'

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Identify and correct the punctuation error in this sentence: 'Because the tide was turning. Marcus called the crew back aboard.'

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Look at the following two sentences from the source text.

Sentence 1 (lines 3-5): 'The ferry, which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years, sat low in the water.'

Sentence 2 (lines 5-6): '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.'

(a) Identify the relative clause in Sentence 1. **(1)**

(b) Identify the relative pronoun used in Sentence 1. **(1)**

(c) Identify the relative clause in Sentence 2. **(1)**

(d) Identify the relative pronoun used in Sentence 2. **(1)**

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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6 Here are five relative clauses taken from the source text.

A. 'that circled above the fish market roof' (describing the gulls)

B. 'which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years' (describing the ferry)

C. 'who had been the skipper since Priya was a child' (describing Marcus)

D. 'that smelled of diesel and salt' (describing the cabin)

E. 'that had capsized a smaller boat two winters before' (describing the crossing)

Which TWO of these relative clauses are non-defining - that is, they add extra information that could be removed without changing which ferry, cabin, gulls, crossing or person is being talked about?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D
- ☐ E

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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7 Explain one effect of opening the passage with the fronted subordinate clause 'When the last coach had rattled away from the harbour car park' (lines 1-2).

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

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8 Which underlined clause below is a noun clause acting as the direct object of a verb?

- ☐ A) '...called down that the tide would turn within the hour' (the clause 'that the tide would turn within the hour')
- ☐ B) '...the gulls that circled above the fish market roof' (the clause 'that circled above the fish market roof')
- ☐ C) 'Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland...' (the clause 'Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland')
- ☐ D) '...Marcus kept the boat steady, correcting the wheel with small, unhurried movements' (the clause 'correcting the wheel with small, unhurried movements')

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

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9 Write a short paragraph (approximately 80-100 words) describing a moment when sudden bad weather affects a journey. Your writing must include: one fronted subordinate (adverbial) clause, one relative clause (defining or non-defining, correctly punctuated), one non-finite (participle) clause, and one embedded/parenthetical clause. Underline and label each of these four features in your answer.

(Total for Question 9 is 10 marks)

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10 Here are three non-finite clauses from the source text.

A. 'Having checked the ropes twice' (line 7)

B. 'scrubbed clean by the storm' (line 20)

C. 'gripping the rail and trying not to think about the crossing that had capsized a smaller boat two winters before' (lines 14-16)

(a) State the type of non-finite clause used in A. **(1)**

(b) State the type of non-finite clause used in B. **(1)**

(c) State the type of non-finite clause used in C. **(1)**

(Total for Question 10 is 3 marks)

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11 Focusing on lines 12 to 19 (from 'Although the waves grew steeper' to 'a light drizzle'), analyse how the writer's use of a range of clause types creates a shift in mood from danger to reassurance.

(Total for Question 11 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.6 Complex Clause Analysis: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland

(b) Marcus kept the boat steady (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: Marcus kept the boat steady

Question 2

C) Complex sentence **B1**

Answer: C

Question 3

correct relative pronoun used to replace the repeated noun (that/which) **B1**

no commas used, since the clause is defining (it identifies which rope), and the sentence is grammatically correct, cao **B1**

Answer: The rope that was holding the smaller boat had frayed badly.

Question 4

identifies that 'Because the tide was turning' is a subordinate clause wrongly punctuated as a complete sentence (a sentence fragment) **B1**

gives a correctly punctuated rewrite joining it to the main clause with a comma, cao **B1**

Answer: Because the tide was turning, Marcus called the crew back aboard.

Question 5

(a) which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: which had carried passengers across the strait for almost forty years

(b) which (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: which

(c) who had been the skipper since Priya was a child (cao) **B1**

(c) Answer: who had been the skipper since Priya was a child

(d) who (cao) **B1**

(d) Answer: who

Question 6

B selected (non-defining relative clause giving extra information about the one ferry, marked off by commas in the source) **B1**

C selected (non-defining relative clause giving extra information about Marcus, a named individual, marked off by commas in the source) **B1**

Answer: B and C are non-defining. A, D and E are defining relative clauses: they identify which gulls, which cabin and which crossing are meant, so removing them would leave the reference unclear, and none of them is marked off by commas in the source text.

Question 7

identifies a straightforward effect, e.g. it establishes that the harbour has emptied of everyday visitors and it is now late/quiet (oe) **B1**

develops this with reference to language/structure, e.g. the verb 'rattled' suggests noise fading into silence, marking the shift from the ordinary daytime world into Priya's solitary night shift before her name is even mentioned (oe) **B1**

Answer: Opening with this fronted clause establishes that the harbour has emptied of ordinary visitors and that it is now late and quiet; the verb 'rattled' suggests noise fading into silence, marking a shift from the everyday world into Priya's solitary night shift before she is introduced.

Question 8

A **B1**

Answer: A

Question 9

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple description of the journey and weather; little sense of a controlled narrative voice or organisation. **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant, engaged description of the sudden weather; an attempt at a consistent narrative voice; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing description of the journey and weather in a consistent, well-judged narrative voice; well organised with a genuine sense of atmosphere. **5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (range of clause types) (AO6)

Level 1 Limited accuracy; the four required clause types are mostly missing or used incorrectly. **1**

Level 2 Most of the four required clause types are present and mostly accurate, with occasional errors. **2-3**

Level 3 All four required clause types are present, clearly identified and used accurately and effectively, alongside a controlled range of other sentence forms. **4**

Indicative content:

- First or third person narrative, past tense, describing a journey interrupted by sudden weather
- A fronted subordinate (adverbial) clause opens or interrupts a sentence, correctly followed by a comma
- A relative clause (defining or non-defining) is used accurately, with commas only where the clause is non-defining
- A non-finite participle clause (present or past) adds detail or action without a second full sentence
- An embedded/parenthetical clause interrupts a main clause, correctly marked off by a pair of commas (or dashes/brackets)
- Sense of atmosphere and the effect of the sudden weather on the writer or character, appropriate to a descriptive register

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Question 10

(a) present participle clause (oe: -ing clause, perfect participle clause) **B1**

(a) Answer: present participle clause

(b) past participle clause (oe: -ed clause) **B1**

(b) Answer: past participle clause

(c) present participle clause (oe: -ing clause) **B1**

(c) Answer: present participle clause

Question 11

Level 1 Simple, limited identification of clause types, with little or no use of subject terminology. Comments on effect, if present, are undeveloped. **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant identification of clause types, with some use of subject terminology. Some attempt to comment on effect on the reader, with limited textual support. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear explanation of the writer's use of clause types, using relevant terminology accurately. Clear explanation of effect on the reader, supported by well-chosen textual detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Detailed and perceptive analysis of the writer's use of clause types, using sophisticated terminology precisely. Explores subtlety and the shift in mood in depth, with sustained textual support. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- The fronted adverbial clause 'Although the waves grew steeper beyond the headland' opens with concession and danger, delaying the reassurance that follows and building tension before the main clause arrives.
- The short, simple main clause 'Marcus kept the boat steady' provides a controlled, confident contrast to the longer, more complex clauses surrounding it, mirroring his composure.
- The present participle clause 'correcting the wheel with small, unhurried movements' adds a calm, ongoing action alongside the main clause, reinforcing his quiet competence without a second full sentence.
- The long chain of non-finite and relative clauses describing Priya ('gripping the rail and trying not to think about the crossing that had capsized a smaller boat two winters before') interrupts the main action, structurally embodying her spiralling anxiety through its length and complexity.
- The shift to direct speech and the participle clause 'grinning as though the weather were nothing more than a light drizzle' deflates the built-up tension with humour, the casual comparison ('a light drizzle') undercutting the danger just described.
- Overall, the contrast between short, simple main clauses and long, subordinated or non-finite clause chains maps directly onto the shift from danger to reassurance across this section.

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