3.1 SPaG Technical Accuracy: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Here are eight statements about grammar and technical accuracy. Choose the FOUR statements that are TRUE.

A. A sentence written entirely in the passive voice always states clearly who or what performed the action.

B. A singular subject must be followed by a singular form of the verb.

C. In Standard English, using a double negative such as 'I didn't do nothing' is considered grammatically acceptable for emphasis.

D. A non-defining relative clause, usually marked off by commas, adds extra information about a noun without changing its core meaning.

E. Verb tenses within a single piece of continuous writing should generally stay consistent unless there is a clear reason for a shift.

F. An apostrophe should be added before the final 's' of every plural noun, regular or irregular.

G. A fronted adverbial that opens a sentence is usually followed by a comma.

H. Two complete, independent clauses can always be correctly joined using a comma alone.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D
- ☐ E
- ☐ F
- ☐ G
- ☐ H

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Rewrite this sentence in Standard English: 'I never done nothing wrong.'

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(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Identify and correct the error in this sentence: 'The list of items for the school trip were pinned to the noticeboard.'

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Identify and correct the error in this sentence: 'She opened the letter, reads the first line, and then sat down.'

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Read the sentence below, then choose its correct classification.

'Although the rain had stopped, the pavements were still slippery, so the runners chose a different route.'

- ☐ A) simple sentence
- ☐ B) compound sentence
- ☐ C) complex sentence
- ☐ D) compound-complex sentence

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

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6 'A local newspaper has reported that a well-known author believes mobile phones should be banned in all secondary schools.'
Write a letter to the newspaper's editor giving your point of view on this statement.
(8 marks are available for the content and organisation of your answer, and 8 marks for the technical accuracy of your writing.)

(Total for Question 6 is 16 marks)

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7 Choose the correct verb to complete the sentence: 'Neither the manager nor the assistants ___ available to help this afternoon.'

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

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8 Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence, using a subordinating conjunction of your choice: 'The council closed the road. Repair work could begin safely.'

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

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9 Write one sentence of your own for each part below, correctly using the feature named. Do not copy any sentence used earlier in this pack.

(a) Write one complex sentence of your own, using a subordinating conjunction of your choice. **(2)**

(b) Write one sentence of your own that correctly uses the passive voice. **(2)**

(c) Write one sentence of your own that correctly uses a semicolon to join two independent clauses. **(2)**

(Total for Question 9 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 SPaG Technical Accuracy: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

B selected (true) **B1**

D selected (true) **B1**

E selected (true) **B1**

G selected (true) **B1**

Answer: B, D, E and G are true. A is false (the passive voice can omit the agent entirely, e.g. 'The window was broken.'); C is false (a double negative is a non-standard form, not accepted in Standard English); F is false (simple plurals never take an apostrophe); H is false (a comma alone joining two independent clauses is a comma splice, a punctuation error).

Question 2

corrects the verb form, e.g. 'did', or 'have never done' (accept 'I did nothing wrong') **B1**

removes the double negative, e.g. 'never ... anything' or 'did nothing', oe **B1**

Answer: I never did anything wrong.

Question 3

identifies the subject-verb agreement error (the true subject is the singular 'list', not the plural 'items') **B1**

correct rewrite: 'The list of items for the school trip was pinned to the noticeboard.', cao **B1**

Answer: The list of items for the school trip was pinned to the noticeboard.

Question 4

identifies the tense shift (the present tense 'reads' breaks the past-tense narrative of 'opened' and 'sat') **B1**

correct rewrite: 'She opened the letter, read the first line, and then sat down.', cao **B1**

Answer: She opened the letter, read the first line, and then sat down.

Question 5

D **B1**

Answer: D

Question 6

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple, limited vocabulary. Little sense of organisation, register or the demands of a persuasive letter. **1-2**

Level 2 Some attempt to match register, form and purpose. Some organisation, though ideas may not always follow logically; a developing sense of persuasive technique. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear organisation with a range of persuasive techniques used with some success; consistently matched to the register, form and purpose of a letter to a newspaper editor. **5-6**

Level 4 Convincing, well-controlled communication; sophisticated vocabulary and a range of persuasive techniques used for deliberate effect; secure and effective organisation across the whole letter. **7-8**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 1 Occasional accurate spelling and punctuation. Simple sentence structures with limited variety. Frequent errors of Standard English. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate spelling and punctuation. Some control of a range of sentence structures. Some appropriate use of Standard English, with noticeable errors. **3-4**

Level 3 Mostly accurate spelling and punctuation across a range of vocabulary. A good range of sentence structures used accurately. Standard English used consistently, with only occasional errors. **5-6**

Level 4 Consistently high accuracy in spelling and punctuation. A wide range of grammatical structures, including varied clause types and a full punctuation range, used precisely and for effect. Confident, consistent Standard English throughout. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- A clear opening that states the writer's overall position on banning mobile phones in secondary schools
- Counterargument acknowledged and rebutted, e.g. safety, emergency contact with parents, or use in lessons for research
- A point about enforcement or fairness, e.g. whether a total ban is realistic or whether targeted rules would work better
- Reference to the wider debate about attention, distraction or wellbeing, developed in the writer's own words
- Deliberate use of a range of sentence forms and a full punctuation range (commas, semicolons, colons, apostrophes) to support technical accuracy
- A confident, clearly signposted concluding position appropriate to a persuasive letter

Question 7

B) are **B1**

Answer: B

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Question 8

a subordinating conjunction (e.g. 'so that', 'because', 'until') correctly shows the logical relationship between the two ideas **B1**

both clauses remain grammatically complete and the sentence retains the original meaning, cao **B1**

Answer: The council closed the road so that repair work could begin safely.

Question 9

(a) a subordinate clause is correctly introduced by a subordinating conjunction (e.g. because, although, since, while) **B1**

(a) both clauses are grammatically complete and the sentence makes clear sense, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: Sample answer (indicative, not the only acceptable response): 'Because the storm had knocked out the power, the whole street relied on candles for the evening.'

(b) a correct passive construction: a form of 'to be' plus a past participle **B1**

(b) the sentence is grammatically complete and clearly shows what receives the action, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: Sample answer (indicative, not the only acceptable response): 'The winning design was chosen by a panel of three judges.'

(c) a semicolon joins two independent (main) clauses, without a coordinating conjunction directly after it **B1**

(c) both clauses are grammatically complete and closely related in meaning, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: Sample answer (indicative, not the only acceptable response): 'The queue outside the bakery stretched around the corner; the new sourdough loaf had sold out by nine.'

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