3.3 Varied Sentence Forms: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Ten Minutes to Go

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

"Ten minutes." The invigilator's voice cut through the hall like a dropped tray, and forty pens paused before quickening again towards a final full stop.

Amara stared at the unfinished paragraph in front of her and felt the familiar panic rise from her stomach to her throat. She had planned this essay carefully the night before: a strong opening, three balanced paragraphs, a confident conclusion. None of that mattered now. Only one thing mattered: finishing.

She crossed out a clumsy sentence, then another, tightening her prose as she went. Full stop. New sentence. Keep going. Somewhere behind her, a chair scraped, and a pencil clattered to the floor, because someone nearby had packed away too soon.

Although her hand ached, she refused to stop writing until the very last second. Amara kept her eyes fixed on the clock at the front of the hall, her fingers cramping badly with every word. Five minutes. Four. Three.

What, she wondered, would she even remember of this moment in a year's time? Would it be the panic, or the strange, fierce concentration that had somehow carried her through it?

"Pens down, please." The room exhaled as one. For the first time in two hours, Amara set down her pen, flexed her aching fingers and allowed herself to breathe.

1 Imperative sentences give a command and can address the reader directly. Which of these is an imperative sentence?

- ☐ A) A world without clocks would be chaos.
- ☐ B) Imagine a world without clocks.
- ☐ C) Would you survive without a clock?
- ☐ D) What a strange world that would be!

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

2 Move the underlined adverbial to the front of this sentence, adding the correct punctuation: 'Amara left the exam hall, finally.'

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

---

3 Section C: Self-editing. Under exam conditions, tired writers often let two independent clauses run together with only a comma. Which of these four sentences contains a comma splice?

- ☐ A) The exam had already started, Josh could not find his pen.
- ☐ B) The exam had already started, and Josh could not find his pen.
- ☐ C) Because Josh could not find his pen, the exam already felt stressful.
- ☐ D) The exam had already started; Josh could not find his pen.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

---

4 Identify and correct the comma splice in this sentence: 'The room was silent, everyone could hear the clock ticking.'

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

5 Identify the technique used in each of the sentences below. Choose from the word bank. Each technique can be used only once, and one technique in the bank will not be used.

Word bank: asyndeton | polysyndeton | anaphora | minor sentence | rhetorical question

(a) 'Tired, hungry, cold, she trudged on.' **(1)**

(b) 'He packed and locked and checked and rechecked.' **(1)**

(c) 'We will not tire. We will not falter. We will not fail.' **(1)**

(d) 'Silence. Then a crash.' **(1)**

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

---

6 Combine the two sentences into ONE sentence by turning the second sentence into a relative clause inside the first.

'The old pier collapsed in the storm. The pier had stood for a century.'

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 3.3 Varied Sentence Forms: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

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

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

Answer: Finally, Amara left the exam hall.

Question 3

A) The exam had already started, Josh could not find his pen. **B1**

Answer: A

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 room was silent, so everyone could hear the clock ticking.', oe **B1**

Answer: The room was silent, so everyone could hear the clock ticking. (Equally accepted: 'The room was silent; everyone could hear the clock ticking.' or 'The room was silent. Everyone could hear the clock ticking.')

Question 5

(a) asyndeton **B1**

(a) Answer: asyndeton

(b) polysyndeton **B1**

(b) Answer: polysyndeton

(c) anaphora **B1**

(c) Answer: anaphora

(d) minor sentence (minor sentences) **B1**

(d) Answer: minor sentence

Question 6

a relative clause beginning with 'which' or 'that' placed directly after 'pier', with the second 'the pier' removed (oe) **B1**

the sentence is grammatically complete and correctly punctuated, e.g. a pair of commas around a clause beginning 'which' (commas are not required with 'that') **B1**

Answer: The old pier, which had stood for a century, collapsed in the storm.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk