11.3 Adverbs of Possibility: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Sports Day Forecast

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Mrs Adeyemi checked the weather app on the classroom screen and frowned. 'It will probably rain during first break,' she said, 'but the forecast might change by lunchtime.' Zara was certain the sun would come out in time for the relay race; she had definitely seen a patch of blue sky earlier that morning. Tom was less hopeful. 'We could possibly get soaked before the egg-and-spoon race even starts,' he muttered, tightening the laces on his trainers. At registration, the head teacher announced that Sports Day would perhaps be moved indoors if the rain continued, though nobody wanted that to happen. By ten o'clock the clouds had thinned, and Mrs Adeyemi admitted that the afternoon events would maybe go ahead as planned after all. Zara's team, the Red Kites, had trained every lunchtime that week, so they were surely in with a strong chance of winning the relay. As the children lined up for the first race, the sky cleared completely, and the sun shone for the rest of the day.

1 Write three sentences of your own about your weekend plans. Each sentence must include a different adverb of possibility, and each sentence must use a different verb.

(3)

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2 Think about two situations: one where you feel completely sure something good will happen, and one where you are far less sure.

(a) Write two sentences about the two situations. In your first sentence, use an adverb of possibility that shows you are completely sure. In your second sentence, use a different adverb of possibility that shows you are far less sure. **(2)**

(b) Explain how your choice of adverbs changes the reader's impression of each situation. **(1)**

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3 In the passage, the writer describes Zara's team as surely in with a strong chance of winning the relay, rather than perhaps or possibly. Explain the effect of this word choice on the reader.

(2)

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4 Each sentence below uses a verb in the present perfect form (has/have). Rewrite the sentence with the adverb of possibility given in brackets placed correctly, straight after has or have.

(a) The team has worked hard this term. (certainly) **(1)**

(b) She has forgotten her keys again. (probably) **(1)**

(c) They have finished the project already. (possibly) **(1)**

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5 Each sentence below has an adverb of possibility in the wrong position. Rewrite the sentence with the adverb moved to straight after the first auxiliary verb (has/have).

(a) The bus has arrived probably by now. **(1)**

(b) The parcel has been probably delivered already. **(1)**

6 A student wrote this sentence: 'The trip will maybe possibly be cancelled if it rains.' Explain why using two adverbs of possibility together like this reads awkwardly, then rewrite the sentence using just ONE adverb of possibility.

(2)

7 Choose a fronted adverbial of possibility from the box to begin each sentence below. Remember to add a comma after the adverbial.

Word bank: Perhaps, | Surely, | Without doubt,

(a) ___ the rain will stop before lunchtime. **(1)**

(b) ___ she has already left for school, because her coat is gone from the hook. **(1)**

8 Tick the sentence in each pair that places the adverb of possibility correctly.

(a) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) She is right probably about the time.
- ☐ B) She is probably right about the time.

(b) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) The plane will land probably on time.
- ☐ B) The plane will probably land on time.

(c) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) We could possibly visit the museum on Saturday.
- ☐ B) We could visit possibly the museum on Saturday.

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9 Some of these sentences use both a modal verb and an adverb of possibility together. Tick the ADVERB of possibility in each sentence (not the modal verb).

(a) It might possibly rain later this afternoon. **(1)**

- ☐ A) might
- ☐ B) rain
- ☐ C) possibly

(b) The bus should probably arrive on time today. **(1)**

- ☐ A) should
- ☐ B) probably
- ☐ C) arrive

(c) They could perhaps join us later at the park. **(1)**

- ☐ A) could
- ☐ B) perhaps
- ☐ C) join

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10 Underline the MODAL VERB that shows possibility in each sentence below.

(a) It may snow before the weekend. **(1)**

(b) The parcel could arrive tomorrow morning. **(1)**

(c) She must have left her coat on the bus. **(1)**

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11 Complete the table below. For each level of certainty described, write your own adverb of possibility that matches it. Use a different adverb in each row.

Level of certainty	Your adverb of possibility
almost completely sure	
fairly likely, more likely than not	
real doubt, only a small chance	

(3)

12 The adverbs below can be sorted by how certain they make something sound. Sort them into the table: those that show something is very likely or certain, and those that show something is only possible, not certain.

Word bank: definitely | certainly | probably | perhaps | maybe | possibly

Shows something is very likely or certain	Shows something is only possible, not certain

(6)

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13 Rewrite each sentence, adding the adverb of possibility given in brackets in the correct position.

(a) It will rain tomorrow. (probably) **(1)**

(b) She is the best swimmer in the school. (definitely) **(1)**

(c) The concert starts at seven o'clock. (certainly) **(1)**

(d) We will be late for the bus. (possibly) **(1)**

(e) He forgot his PE kit again. (probably) **(1)**

(f) They are on their way home. (surely) **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 11.3 Adverbs of Possibility: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

first sentence uses a correctly formed and correctly positioned adverb of possibility with a sensible verb **B1**

second sentence uses a different adverb of possibility, correctly positioned, with a different verb **B1**

third sentence uses a different adverb of possibility, correctly positioned, with a different verb **B1**

Answer: **Example: We will probably visit my grandad on Saturday. I might possibly finish my model kit by Sunday. Perhaps we will walk to the park if the weather stays fine.**

Question 2

(a) both sentences use an appropriate, correctly positioned adverb of possibility that matches the stated level of certainty (1 mark for each sentence) **B2**

(a) Answer: **Certain example: Our team will definitely win the quiz because we have practised every answer. Less sure example: Our team will perhaps win the quiz, but the other team also has some strong players.**

(b) gives a valid explanation of how the two adverbs create contrasting impressions of certainty (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **The strong adverb makes the reader believe the outcome is almost guaranteed, while the weaker adverb makes the reader expect the result could go either way, even though both sentences are about the same event.**

Question 3

identifies that surely shows strong personal confidence, close to certainty, stronger than perhaps or possibly which would suggest real doubt **B1**

identifies an effect on the reader, e.g. makes the reader share Zara's confidence and builds anticipation before the race (oe) **B1**

Answer: **It shows Zara's strong personal confidence, almost certainty, based on the team's hard work, which makes the reader share her expectation and builds anticipation before the relay race.**

Question 4

(a) certainly placed directly after has cao, e.g. The team has certainly worked hard this term **B1**

(a) Answer: **The team has certainly worked hard this term.**

(b) probably placed directly after has cao, e.g. She has probably forgotten her keys again **B1**

(b) Answer: **She has probably forgotten her keys again.**

(c) possibly placed directly after have cao, e.g. They have possibly finished the project already **B1**

(c) Answer: **They have possibly finished the project already.**

Question 5

(a) probably moved to directly after has cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The bus has probably arrived by now.**

(b) probably moved to directly after has, before been, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The parcel has probably been delivered already.**

Question 6

valid explanation that maybe and possibly both express a similar idea, so using both together is repetitive and unclear rather than more precise (oe) **B1**

a grammatically correct rewrite using only ONE adverb of possibility, correctly positioned, e.g. The trip will possibly be cancelled if it rains. (oe) **B1**

Answer: **maybe and possibly both show a similar level of doubt, so using them together is repetitive rather than clearer. Better: The trip will possibly be cancelled if it rains.**

Question 7

(a) Perhaps, chosen and comma used (oe, any adverbial from the box that makes sense with a comma) **B1**

(a) Answer: **Perhaps, the rain will stop before lunchtime.**

(b) Surely, chosen and comma used (oe, any adverbial from the box that makes sense with a comma) **B1**

(b) Answer: **Surely, she has already left for school, because her coat is gone from the hook.**

Question 8

(a) B ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **B) She is probably right about the time.**

(b) B ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) The plane will probably land on time.**

(c) A ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **A) We could possibly visit the museum on Saturday.**

Question 9

(a) C ticked (possibly) cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **C) possibly**

(b) B ticked (probably) cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) probably**

(c) B ticked (perhaps) cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) perhaps**

Question 10

(a) may underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **may**

(b) could underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **could**

(c) must underlined cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **must**

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Question 11

a sensible adverb of possibility given for 'almost completely sure', e.g. undoubtedly, definitely, certainly (oe, any adverb showing near-certainty not already used elsewhere in the pack)	**B1**
a sensible adverb of possibility given for 'fairly likely, more likely than not', e.g. probably (oe)	**B1**
a sensible adverb of possibility given for 'real doubt, only a small chance', e.g. perhaps, maybe, possibly (oe)	**B1**

Answer: **Example: almost completely sure - undoubtedly; fairly likely - probably; real doubt, only a small chance - perhaps.**

Question 12

definitely sorted as very likely/certain cao	**B1**
certainly sorted as very likely/certain cao	**B1**
probably sorted as very likely/certain cao	**B1**
perhaps sorted as only possible, not certain cao	**B1**
maybe sorted as only possible, not certain cao	**B1**
possibly sorted as only possible, not certain cao	**B1**

Answer: **Very likely/certain: definitely, certainly, probably. Only possible, not certain: perhaps, maybe, possibly.**

Question 13

(a) probably placed between will and the main verb rain cao, e.g. It will probably rain tomorrow (also accept the adverb at the start of the sentence: Probably it will rain tomorrow)	**B1**

(a) Answer: **It will probably rain tomorrow.**

(b) definitely placed directly after is cao, e.g. She is definitely the best swimmer in the school (also accept the adverb at the start of the sentence)	**B1**

(b) Answer: **She is definitely the best swimmer in the school.**

(c) certainly placed before the main verb starts cao, e.g. The concert certainly starts at seven o'clock (also accept the adverb at the start of the sentence)	**B1**

(c) Answer: **The concert certainly starts at seven o'clock.**

(d) possibly placed between will and be cao, e.g. We will possibly be late for the bus (also accept the adverb at the start of the sentence)	**B1**

(d) Answer: **We will possibly be late for the bus.**

(e) probably placed before the main verb forgot cao, e.g. He probably forgot his PE kit again (also accept the adverb at the start of the sentence)	**B1**

(e) Answer: **He probably forgot his PE kit again.**

(f) surely placed directly after are cao, e.g. They are surely on their way home (also accept Surely they are on their way home, the most natural position for surely)	**B1**

(f) Answer: **They are surely on their way home.**

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