10.1 The Subjunctive Mood: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The School Council Meeting

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Every year, the school council meets to plan the summer fete, and this year's meeting was the liveliest yet. The chairperson, Wesley, began by explaining that it was essential that every class be represented on the planning committee. 'If the weather were kinder this year,' he said, 'we could hold the whole fete on the field instead of squeezing everyone into the hall.' Priya proposed that the cake stall be moved closer to the entrance, so that visitors would notice it as soon as they arrived. The treasurer reminded everyone that, were the fete to raise less money than expected, the new library books would have to wait until next term. 'It is vital that the council finish planning today,' insisted Miss Adeyemi, 'because the letters must go home to parents by Friday.' After a long discussion, the council agreed that the fete be held on the last Saturday of term, weather permitting. Wesley closed the meeting by suggesting that everybody arrive early on the day to help set up the stalls.

1 The subjunctive mood is a special verb form used in formal English for wishes, hypothetical (imagined or unreal) situations, and formal suggestions or requirements. In the subjunctive mood, 'were' replaces 'was' for hypothetical situations, even after I, he, she or it. Tick the sentence in each pair that uses the subjunctive mood correctly.

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

- ☐ A) If I was taller, I would join the school basketball team.
- ☐ B) If I were taller, I would join the school basketball team.

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

- ☐ A) She wishes she was going to the concert.
- ☐ B) She wishes she were going to the concert.

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

- ☐ A) If he was in my class, we would sit together.
- ☐ B) If he were in my class, we would sit together.

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

- [ ] A) I wish today was a school holiday.
- [ ] B) I wish today were a school holiday.

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2 Circle both examples of the subjunctive form 'were' (used instead of 'was') in the sentence below.

If the weather were kinder and the ticket price were lower, more families would come to the fete.

(2)

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3 Underline the subjunctive verb form in each sentence below.

(a) It is essential that the museum stay open later on Fridays. **(1)**

(b) The doctor recommended that he rest for a week. **(1)**

(c) The head teacher insists that every visitor sign the register. **(1)**

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4 Combine each pair of sentences below into one sentence, using the word given and the subjunctive mood.

(a) (suggest) The doctor gave some advice. He rests for a few days. **(2)**

(b) (require) The safety rule is clear. Every player wears a helmet. **(2)**

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5 Each sentence below does not use the formal subjunctive mood where it should. Find the mistake and rewrite each sentence correctly.

(a) If I was the school council chairperson, I would change the rules. **(1)**

(b) The committee proposed that the meeting starts earlier next week. **(1)**

(c) It is essential that every pupil brings a coat on the school trip. **(1)**

(d) She wishes she was chosen for the school choir. **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 10.1 The Subjunctive Mood: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) B ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **B) If I were taller, I would join the school basketball team.**

(b) B ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) She wishes she were going to the concert.**

(c) B ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) If he were in my class, we would sit together.**

(d) B ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **B) I wish today were a school holiday.**

Question 2

first were circled (weather were kinder) **B1**

second were circled (ticket price were lower) **B1**

Answer: **were, were**

Question 3

(a) stay underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **stay**

(b) rest underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **rest**

(c) sign underlined cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **sign**

Question 4

(a) suggested that used correctly to introduce the clause cao **B1**

(a) rest used correctly as the bare infinitive, not rests cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The doctor suggested that he rest for a few days.**

(b) requires that used correctly to introduce the clause cao **B1**

(b) wear used correctly as the bare infinitive, not wears cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The safety rule requires that every player wear a helmet.**

Question 5

(a) writes 'If I were the school council chairperson, I would change the rules.' cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **If I were the school council chairperson, I would change the rules.**

(b) writes 'The committee proposed that the meeting start earlier next week.' cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The committee proposed that the meeting start earlier next week.**

(c) writes 'It is essential that every pupil bring a coat on the school trip.' cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **It is essential that every pupil bring a coat on the school trip.**

(d) writes 'She wishes she were chosen for the school choir.' cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **She wishes she were chosen for the school choir.**

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