# 8.1 Main and Subordinate Clauses: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Identify and correct the punctuation error in each sentence below.

**(a)** Before we left home we checked the weather forecast. **(1)**

**(b)** The pupils who had finished early, went outside to play. **(1)**

**(c)** Since the museum was closed we visited the park instead. **(1)**

**2** Each sentence below uses a subordinating conjunction that does not make sense. Identify the conjunction that is wrong and rewrite the sentence with a more suitable one.

**(a)** Although it was raining, we brought an umbrella. **(1)**

**(b)** We stayed indoors because the sun was shining. **(1)**

**(c)** Unless you arrive early, you will get a good seat. **(1)**


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**3** Write your own complex sentence for each situation below, using the subordinating conjunction given. Punctuate your sentence correctly.

**(a)** (because) - about doing your homework **(1)**

**(b)** (although) - about the weather or a sports event **(1)**

**(c)** (if) - about revising for a test or exam **(1)**

**(d)** (when) - about arriving somewhere **(1)**

**4** Write two of your own sentences, each containing a relative clause. Sentence 1 should be about a person, using who or whose. Sentence 2 should be about a thing or place, using which or that.

**(a)** Sentence 1 (about a person: who / whose) **(1)**

**(b)** Sentence 2 (about a thing or place: which / that) **(1)**

**5** Which one of these is a subordinate clause?

- ☐ A) The rain stopped.
- ☐ B) Since the rain stopped
- ☐ C) The rain stopped, and we went outside.
- ☐ D) We went outside.


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**6** Write a short paragraph (approximately 80-100 words) about a day that did not go to plan. Your paragraph must include: a complex sentence with the subordinate clause at the front, correctly followed by a comma; a complex sentence with the subordinate clause at the end; and at least one relative clause (using who, which, that or whose). Underline each subordinate or relative clause you use.

(8)

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**7** Each sentence below contains a subordinate clause. Write down the subordinating conjunction that begins it.

**(a)** Before the sun rose, the fishing boats set out to sea. **(1)**

**(b)** The football match was postponed because the pitch was flooded. **(1)**

**(c)** Unless you finish your homework, you cannot watch television. **(1)**

**(d)** While the kettle boiled, Aisha packed her school bag. **(1)**

**(e)** The crowd cheered as the runner crossed the finish line. **(1)**


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**8** Here is a word bank of subordinating conjunctions.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **although** | **because** | **before** | **if** | **since** |
| unless | when | where | whereas | wherever |

Complete each sentence below with the conjunction from the word bank that fits best. Each word may be used once only; you will not need every word.

**(a)** ___ the school bell rings at half past three, lessons end for the day. **(1)**

**(b)** ___ the play lasted over three hours, the audience stayed until the very end. **(1)**

**(c)** You cannot enter the exam hall ___ your name is on the register. **(1)**

**(d)** Zara enjoys drama club, ___ her brother prefers the chess club. **(1)**

**(e)** The treasure was buried ___ two old oak trees stood side by side. **(1)**


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**9** Each sentence below is complex. Write out the main clause only (the part that could stand alone as a complete sentence).

**(a)** Although the rain hammered the roof, the children continued their game. **(1)**

**(b)** The scientist recorded her results after the experiment had finished. **(1)**

**(c)** Because the bridge was closed, drivers took a longer route to the city. **(1)**

**(d)** The team celebrated wildly when the final whistle blew. **(1)**

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**10** Combine each pair of simple sentences into one complex sentence, using the subordinating conjunction given in brackets. You may place the subordinate clause first or last; if it comes first, remember the comma.

**(a)** The alarm sounded. Everyone left the building. (When) **(1)**

**(b)** It started to rain heavily. The match continued. (Although) **(1)**

**(c)** You practise every day. You will improve quickly. (If) **(1)**

**(d)** We returned our library books. The library closed for the holidays. (Before) **(1)**


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# Mark scheme · 8.1 Main and Subordinate Clauses: 30-minute Pack

## Question 1

(a) comma added immediately after the fronted subordinate clause 'Before we left home', cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **Before we left home, we checked the weather forecast.**

(b) unnecessary comma removed; the relative clause 'who had finished early' is essential to the meaning and should not be separated from the main clause by a comma, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The pupils who had finished early went outside to play.**

(c) comma added immediately after the fronted subordinate clause 'Since the museum was closed', cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **Since the museum was closed, we visited the park instead.**

## Question 2

(a) 'Although' replaced with a conjunction that shows reason, e.g. Because/Since, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **Because it was raining, we brought an umbrella.**

(b) 'because' replaced with a conjunction that shows contrast, e.g. although/even though, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **We stayed indoors although the sun was shining.**

(c) 'Unless' replaced with 'If', cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **If you arrive early, you will get a good seat.**

## Question 3

(a) accept any grammatically correct, sensible complex sentence that uses 'because' appropriately and is correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: **I finished my homework quickly because I wanted to watch the football match.**

(b) accept any grammatically correct, sensible complex sentence that uses 'although' appropriately and is correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **Although it was raining heavily, the match went ahead as planned.**

(c) accept any grammatically correct, sensible complex sentence that uses 'if' appropriately and is correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: **If you revise a little every day, you will feel more confident in the exam.**

(d) accept any grammatically correct, sensible complex sentence that uses 'when' appropriately and is correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(d) Answer: **When I arrived at the station, the train had already left.**

## Question 4

(a) accept any grammatically correct sentence with a relative clause about a person, correctly introduced by who/whose and correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: **My grandmother, who taught me to bake, lives near the coast.**

(b) accept any grammatically correct sentence with a relative clause about a thing or place, correctly introduced by which/that and correctly punctuated (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **The park that we visit every summer has a new adventure playground.**

## Question 5

B **B1**

Answer: **B**

## Question 6

**Level 0** No attempt, or the paragraph shows no evidence of subordinate or relative clauses; sentence demarcation is frequently inaccurate. **0**

**Level 1** Attempts one or two of the required clause types; frequent errors in punctuation or clause boundaries limit accuracy. **1-3**

**Level 2** Most of the required clause types are present and mostly used accurately; sentence demarcation is generally secure with occasional errors in comma placement. **4-6**

**Level 3** All required clause types are present, clearly used and accurately punctuated; secure, effective control of main and subordinate clauses gives the paragraph a fluent, varied structure throughout. **7-8**

**Indicative content:**

- Paragraph is coherent and describes a day that did not go to plan, in Standard English
- A complex sentence with a fronted subordinate clause, correctly followed by a comma
- A complex sentence with the subordinate clause placed at the end of the sentence
- At least one relative clause correctly introduced by who, which, that or whose
- Sentence demarcation (capital letters and end punctuation) is accurate throughout
- A range of clause types is used to vary sentence length and structure for effect

## Question 7

(a) Before **B1**

(a) Answer: **Before**

(b) because **B1**

(b) Answer: **because**

(c) Unless **B1**

(c) Answer: **Unless**

(d) While **B1**

(d) Answer: **While**

(e) as **B1**

(e) Answer: **as**


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## Question 8

(a) When, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **When**

(b) Although, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Although**

(c) unless, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **unless**

(d) whereas, cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **whereas**

(e) where, cao **B1**

(e) Answer: **where**

## Question 9

(a) the children continued their game, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **the children continued their game**

(b) The scientist recorded her results, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The scientist recorded her results**

(c) drivers took a longer route to the city, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **drivers took a longer route to the city**

(d) The team celebrated wildly, cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **The team celebrated wildly**

## Question 10

(a) accept any grammatically correct complex sentence combining both ideas with 'When'; comma required if the subordinate clause is fronted (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: **When the alarm sounded, everyone left the building.**

(b) accept any grammatically correct complex sentence combining both ideas with 'Although'; comma required if the subordinate clause is fronted (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **Although it started to rain heavily, the match continued.**

(c) accept any grammatically correct complex sentence combining both ideas with 'If'; comma required if the subordinate clause is fronted (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: **If you practise every day, you will improve quickly.**

(d) accept any grammatically correct complex sentence combining both ideas with 'Before'; comma required if the subordinate clause is fronted (oe) **B1**

(d) Answer: **We returned our library books before the library closed for the holidays.**


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