8.1 Main and Subordinate Clauses: Test Pack

about 15 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 A main clause makes complete sense on its own and could stand as a full sentence. A subordinate clause does not make complete sense on its own; it depends on a main clause. For each group of words below, tick whether it is a main clause or a subordinate clause.

(a) The bell rang for lunch. **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

(b) Because the bell rang for lunch **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

(c) Whenever the weather turns cold **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

(d) The gardener planted new roses. **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

(e) Although the exam was difficult **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

(f) The bus arrived early this morning. **(1)**

- ☐ A) Main clause
- ☐ B) Subordinate clause

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2 Which sentence uses a comma correctly after a fronted subordinate clause?

- ☐ A) Before the race began the runners stretched.
- ☐ B) Before the race began, the runners stretched.
- ☐ C) Before, the race began the runners stretched.
- ☐ D) Before the race, began the runners stretched.

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3 Combine each pair of sentences into one, using a relative pronoun (who, which, that or whose) to create a relative clause.

(a) The teacher praised the students. The students had worked hard all term. **(1)**

(b) The novel is set in Victorian London. Farah is reading the novel. **(1)**

(c) The car broke down on the motorway. The car's engine was very old. **(1)**

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4 Below is a paragraph with several errors involving main and subordinate clauses, sentence boundaries and missing punctuation. Rewrite it correctly, correcting every error you can find.

'the school trip to the coast was nearly cancelled because of the weather forecast. when the coach finally arrived everyone cheered we climbed aboard as quickly as we could. Because we couldn't wait to reach the sea our teacher counted us onto the coach twice just to be sure. Which made the whole queue laugh.'

(6)

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Mark scheme · 8.1 Main and Subordinate Clauses: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) A) Main clause — **B1**

(a) Answer: **A**

(b) B) Subordinate clause — **B1**

(b) Answer: **B**

(c) B) Subordinate clause — **B1**

(c) Answer: **B**

(d) A) Main clause — **B1**

(d) Answer: **A**

(e) B) Subordinate clause — **B1**

(e) Answer: **B**

(f) A) Main clause — **B1**

(f) Answer: **A**

Question 2

B — **B1**

Answer: **B**

Question 3

(a) one correct sentence with a relative clause, e.g. The teacher praised the students who (or that) had worked hard all term; accept any correctly punctuated equivalent — **B1**

(a) Answer: **The teacher praised the students who had worked hard all term.**

(b) one correct sentence with a relative clause, e.g. The novel that (or which) Farah is reading is set in Victorian London; accept any correctly punctuated equivalent — **B1**

(b) Answer: **The novel that Farah is reading is set in Victorian London.**

(c) one correct sentence with a relative clause, e.g. The car, whose engine was very old, broke down on the motorway; accept any correctly punctuated equivalent — **B1**

(c) Answer: **The car, whose engine was very old, broke down on the motorway.**

Question 4

Level 0 No accurate corrections made; errors remain uncorrected or new errors are introduced. — **0**

Level 1 One or two errors corrected (e.g. a capital letter or one missing comma), with limited overall accuracy. — **1-2**

Level 2 Most errors corrected, including at least one comma splice or fragment, with generally secure sentence and clause boundaries. — **3-4**

Level 3 All errors corrected accurately, demonstrating secure control of main and subordinate clause boundaries and punctuation throughout. — **5-6**

Indicative content:

- Capital letters added for 'The' at the start of the paragraph and for 'When' at the start of the second sentence
- Comma added after the fronted subordinate clause 'When the coach finally arrived'
- The comma splice/run-on between 'everyone cheered' and 'we climbed aboard' corrected, e.g. with a semicolon, full stop or coordinating conjunction
- Comma added after the fronted subordinate clause 'Because we couldn't wait to reach the sea'
- The sentence fragment 'Which made the whole queue laugh' corrected by joining it, with a comma, to the sentence before it, since it cannot stand alone
- Overall rewrite is fluent, grammatically accurate Standard English with correct main and subordinate clause boundaries throughout

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