8.3 Present and Past Perfect Continuous: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Backstage Diary: The Year 7 Talent Show

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Wednesday 11th March

I have been practising my juggling act every lunchtime this week, and my hands have finally stopped aching from dropping the clubs so often. Priya has been helping me build a proper routine, and we have been rehearsing together since Monday. I have not been sleeping very well, because I keep imagining a silent, staring audience. Mr Okafor has been encouraging us all week, and he has promised to introduce our act himself. My little sister has been asking to watch every single rehearsal, though I have politely refused so far.

Friday 13th March

By the time I walked out onto the stage, I had been shaking backstage for almost twenty minutes. The stage crew had been testing the lighting rig all afternoon, so everything looked ready. I had been rehearsing the opening trick in my head so many times that my hands moved almost by themselves. Before the compere had even finished announcing my name, I had already started counting the clubs under my breath. When the music began, I realised that all the practice had finally been worth it. The audience had been waiting patiently, and now they were finally watching me juggle.

1 Each sentence below uses the wrong tense. Identify the error and rewrite the sentence correctly.

(a) We have been rehearsing the play yesterday. **(2)**

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(b) By the time the bell rang, she practised the piano for an hour. **(2)**

(c) He has been living in Leeds since he was born, but last year he moves to Manchester. **(2)**

2 A backstage diary entry includes the sentence: 'I had been shaking backstage for almost twenty minutes.' Explain one reason the writer might have chosen the past perfect continuous tense here, rather than the simple past tense ('I shook backstage for twenty minutes').

(2)

3 Write a short diary entry (approximately 70-100 words) about a moment before or during a performance, competition or event that made you nervous. Your writing must include: at least two present perfect continuous verb phrases (has/have been plus an -ing verb) and at least two past perfect continuous verb phrases (had been plus an -ing verb). Underline each of these verb phrases in your answer.

(10)

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4 Underline the perfect continuous verb phrase in each sentence.

(a) The children have been playing football since three o'clock. **(1)**

(b) She had been waiting for an hour when the bus finally arrived. **(1)**

(c) We have been walking for miles today. **(1)**

(d) He had been reading quietly before the alarm rang. **(1)**

5 Which sentence is written in the past perfect continuous tense?

- ☐ A) The dog has been barking all morning.
- ☐ B) The dog had been barking for ten minutes before anyone noticed.
- ☐ C) The dog barked loudly.
- ☐ D) The dog is barking loudly.

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6 Sort the time expressions in the word bank into the correct column below, to show which perfect continuous tense each one naturally goes with.

Word bank: since Monday | before the alarm rang | all week | when the teacher arrived | so far this term | by the time the bell rang

Present perfect continuous (has/have been ___ing)	Past perfect continuous (had been ___ing)

(6)

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7 Complete each sentence with the correct present perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets.

(a) I ___ (train) for the county trials for six weeks. **(1)**

(b) She ___ (practise) her speech since breakfast. **(1)**

(c) The twins ___ (build) a den in the garden all afternoon. **(1)**

(d) My brother ___ (complain) about his blisters since Tuesday. **(1)**

(e) The students ___ (rehearse) their lines every day this week. **(1)**

8 Tick has or have to complete each sentence correctly.

(a) Everybody ___ been asking about the results. **(1)**

- ☐ has
- ☐ have

(b) My parents ___ been decorating the lounge since Saturday. **(1)**

- ☐ has
- ☐ have

(c) The teacher ___ been marking books all evening. **(1)**

- ☐ has
- ☐ have

(d) The children ___ been giggling at the back of the room. **(1)**

- ☐ has
- ☐ have

(e) I ___ been meaning to call you all week. **(1)**

- ☐ has
- ☐ have

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Mark scheme · 8.3 Present and Past Perfect Continuous: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) identifies that the present perfect continuous cannot be used with a specific, finished past-time word such as yesterday — **B1**

(a) We rehearsed the play yesterday. cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **We rehearsed the play yesterday.**

(b) identifies that an earlier, ongoing past action needs the past perfect continuous rather than the simple past — **B1**

(b) By the time the bell rang, she had been practising the piano for an hour. cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **By the time the bell rang, she had been practising the piano for an hour.**

(c) identifies that the present tense moves cannot be used with the past time marker last year — **B1**

(c) He has been living in Leeds since he was born, but last year he moved to Manchester. cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **He has been living in Leeds since he was born, but last year he moved to Manchester.**

Question 2

identifies that the past perfect continuous shows the shaking as a gradual, ongoing state building up over time, up to the moment of walking on stage — **B1**

links this to an effect, e.g. it makes the writer's nervousness feel more vivid and drawn out, whereas the simple past would present the shaking as a single, complete action (oe) — **B1**

Answer: **The past perfect continuous shows the shaking building up gradually over almost twenty minutes, right up until the writer walked on stage, which makes the nervousness feel more vivid and ongoing than the simple past, which would suggest a single, finished action.**

Question 3

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple description of the nervous moment; little sense of a diary voice or organisation. — **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant, engaged description of the event; an attempt at a consistent diary voice; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly. — **3-4**

Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing description of the event in a consistent, well-judged diary voice; well organised with a genuine sense of the writer's feelings and reactions. — **5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (perfect continuous tenses) (AO6)

Level 1 Limited accuracy; the required present and past perfect continuous phrases are mostly missing or used incorrectly. — **1**

Level 2 At least one present perfect continuous and one past perfect continuous phrase are present and mostly accurate, with occasional errors. — **2-3**

Level 3 At least two present perfect continuous and two past perfect continuous phrases are present, clearly marked and used accurately, alongside a controlled range of other sentence forms. — **4**

Indicative content:

- Diary entry uses first person and an appropriate time reference consistently
- At least two present perfect continuous verb phrases (has/have been + -ing) used accurately
- At least two past perfect continuous verb phrases (had been + -ing) used accurately, showing an action ongoing before another past moment
- Verb phrases are clearly underlined and correctly formed (correct auxiliary, been, and -ing form)
- Clear diary voice and a genuine sense of the writer's nervousness or anticipation
- Ideas are logically sequenced, moving from the build-up to the moment itself

Question 4

(a) have been playing underlined cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **have been playing**

(b) had been waiting underlined cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **had been waiting**

(c) have been walking underlined cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **have been walking**

(d) had been reading underlined cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **had been reading**

Question 5

B — **B1**

Answer: **B**

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Question 6

since Monday sorted under present perfect continuous cao	**B1**
all week sorted under present perfect continuous cao	**B1**
so far this term sorted under present perfect continuous cao	**B1**
before the alarm rang sorted under past perfect continuous cao	**B1**
when the teacher arrived sorted under past perfect continuous cao	**B1**
by the time the bell rang sorted under past perfect continuous cao	**B1**

Answer: **Present perfect continuous: since Monday, all week, so far this term. Past perfect continuous: before the alarm rang, when the teacher arrived, by the time the bell rang.**

Question 7

(a) have been training cao	**B1**
(a) Answer: **have been training**	
(b) has been practising cao	**B1**
(b) Answer: **has been practising**	
(c) have been building cao	**B1**
(c) Answer: **have been building**	
(d) has been complaining cao	**B1**
(d) Answer: **has been complaining**	
(e) have been rehearsing cao	**B1**
(e) Answer: **have been rehearsing**	

Question 8

(a) has ticked cao	**B1**
(a) Answer: **has**	
(b) have ticked cao	**B1**
(b) Answer: **have**	
(c) has ticked cao	**B1**
(c) Answer: **has**	
(d) have ticked cao	**B1**
(d) Answer: **have**	
(e) have ticked cao	**B1**
(e) Answer: **have**	

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