Syntax Under Control

Sort, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

12.L.GC.2.b "Compose texts with varied syntax, reshaping sentences for style and effect while maintaining consistency of verb tenses, aspects, and moods. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

PURPOSEFUL CONTROL

Your verb forms make the order of actions and the speaker's attitude clear. Change a verb form only when the meaning calls for a different time or condition.

When the signal appears, the laboratory will begin the test.

UNNEEDED SHIFT

A verb form changes without a meaning-based reason. The change makes the timing or mood of the sentence unclear.

Last Friday, the muralist sketched the design and adds color.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CONSISTENT or SHIFTING for each sentence.

1.	After the orchestra had rehearsed the finale, it performed the piece for the audience.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
2.	Last semester, I enrolled in organic chemistry and attend every lecture.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
3.	The scientist calibrated the instrument, records the measurement, and labels the sample.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
4.	If the council approves the proposal, construction will begin in April.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
5.	By midnight, the volunteers had sorted the donations and deliver them to shelters.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
6.	The coach recommended that each player practices daily.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
7.	The poet has revised the opening stanza and is now considering a new ending.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING
8.	Had the bridge been inspected sooner, engineers might have found the fracture before winter.	CONSISTENT SHIFTING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new CONSISTENT sentence and one new SHIFTING sentence.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFTING _____

CHALLENGE

Write one complex sentence that uses a purposeful change in verb time to show an earlier action and a later action. Underline the two verb phrases and label them earlier and later.

ANSWER KEY

Syntax Under Control

GRADE 12 · 12.L.GC.2.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After the orchestra had rehearsed the finale, it performed the piece for the audience.	**CONSISTENT**	Past perfect shows the rehearsal happened before the past performance.
2	Last semester, I enrolled in organic chemistry and attend every lecture.	**SHIFTING**	The past-time context requires a past verb, not present-tense attend.
3	The scientist calibrated the instrument, records the measurement, and labels the sample.	**SHIFTING**	The sentence shifts from past tense to present tense without a reason.
4	If the council approves the proposal, construction will begin in April.	**CONSISTENT**	The present-tense condition correctly pairs with a future result.
5	By midnight, the volunteers had sorted the donations and deliver them to shelters.	**SHIFTING**	The past-perfect action shifts incorrectly to present-tense deliver.
6	The coach recommended that each player practices daily.	**SHIFTING**	Recommended calls for the subjunctive base form practice, not practices.
7	The poet has revised the opening stanza and is now considering a new ending.	**CONSISTENT**	Present perfect shows completed work, and present progressive shows the current action.
8	Had the bridge been inspected sooner, engineers might have found the fracture before winter.	**CONSISTENT**	The past-perfect conditional and modal perfect correctly express an unreal past condition and result.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CONSISTENT**: Before the expedition departs, its leader will review every map.
- **SHIFTING**: Yesterday, the bakery opened at six and serves customers until noon.

Challenge: After the glacier had retreated (earlier), botanists began (later) to catalog the exposed plants.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. In Part 2, students should identify the verb forms and explain whether the time or mood shift has a clear purpose.