C. Analyzing Modal Particle Usage

Answer Key 3: Analyzing Modal Particles in Context: doch

I. 1. The subject is expressed:
   a) in line 14 by a noun phrase (Die Serie)
   b) in all other lines by pronouns:
      - personal pronouns du, ich (lines 8, 10, 28, 29)
      - demonstrative pronoun das and die (lines 7, 9, 11, 12, 15)

2. The MP doch occurs in commands (line 13) and declaratives: assertions (lines 8-10, 12, 14, 15, 28, 29) and exclamations (lines 7, 11). In lines 15, 28, 29 declarative sentences are followed by a tag question “oder?”. In line 14, a tag question is implied.

3. The MP doch immediately follows:
   a) the subject in lines 8, 12
   b) the finite verb in lines 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 28, 29

4. The word order in these clauses is:
   a) inverted (object – verb – subject)
   b) direct (subject – verb – object)

5. A general rule for the syntactic position of the modal particle doch based on 3 and 4 can be formulated as follows:
   In clauses with a direct word order, the MP doch immediately follows the finite verb. In clauses with an inverted word order, the MP doch immediately follows the subject. This rule mirrors the rule for the syntactic position of the MP ja (cf. Answer Key #2).

6. Based on lines 10, the rule in 5 can be supplemented as follows:
   The modal particle doch cannot precede pronouns. This rule mirrors the rule for the syntactic position of the MP ja (cf. Answer Key #2).

II. 1. The pattern can be completed as follows:
   Das + ist + doch + Attribute

2. What function does this pattern perform in a conversation?
   This pattern expresses an appraisal of a fact discussed in a preceding conversation and an assumption that the conversation partner agrees with the speaker. This function is similar to the function of the MP ja in patterns of appraisal (cf. Answer Key # 6a). However, the MP doch has an additional meaning of perceiving a difference of opinion between the speaker and the hearer and a desire to overcome this difference.