C. Analyzing Modal Particle Usage

Answer Key 5: Analyzing Modal Particles in Context: *mal*

I. 1. The finite verb is expressed by:
   a) forms of the verb *werden* in lines 27, 31, 33 (indicative mood) and 23, 34 (subjunctive mood)
   b) forms of modal verbs *sollen, müssen, mögen, können* in lines 24, 25, 29, 35, 37, 38
   c) imperative verb forms *sag, fang* in lines 28, 36, 39

2. Writers refer to the future in all of these examples.

3. The subject is expressed only by pronouns:
   a) personal pronoun *ich* (lines 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 38)
   b) personal pronoun *du* (lines 24, 26, 32, 39)
   c) personal pronoun *wir* (line 37)
   d) indefinite pronoun *man* (lines 30, 35)

4. The MP *mal* is used in various sentence types:
   a) imperatives (lines 28, 36, 39)
   b) question (line 32)
   c) declaratives: statements and exclamations (all other lines)

5. By using utterances containing *mal*, the writers perform *communicative actions* of:
   a) expressing an intention (lines 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, and 38)
   b) requesting/suggesting (lines 24, 28, 36)

6. The MP *mal* immediately follows:
   a) adverbs in lines 23-27, 31, 33, 37:
      - modal (*gern, wirklich, unbedingt*)
      - temporal (*dann, gleich*)
      - logical (*auch*)
   b) the modal particle *doch* in line 39.

7. The information about the use of the MP *mal* based on 1-6 can be summarized as follows:
   The modal particle *mal* occurs in all sentence types, but only if the content of the sentence is related to the future (requests/commands, expression of intentions, direct and indirect requests). The modal particle *mal* frequently goes together with personal pronouns (e.g. *ich, du, wir*), modal verbs (e.g. *können, müssen*) and verb forms in the subjunctive mood (e.g. *würde, hätte*), as well as with adverbs (e.g. *gern, gleich, auch*)
II. 1. The pattern can be completed as follows:
   imperative verb form + *mal*

2. This perform performs the function of a softened request/command

3. *Moment mal* (‘just a moment’) is a formulaic shortened form of *Warte mal einen Moment* (line 109) (‘wait just a moment’).