Following..................

QUESTIONS IN INDIRECT SPEECH

Direct question: *He said, "Where is she going?"*
Indirect question: *He asked where she was going.*

A. When we turn direct questions into indirect speech, the following changes are necessary:
a. tenses, pronouns and possessive adjectives, and adverbs of time and place change as in statements.
b. the interrogative form of the verb changes to the affirmative form.
c. the question mark is omitted in indirect questions.

B. If the introductory verb is **say**, it must be changed to a verb of inquiry, e.g. **ask, wonder, want to know** etc.

He said, "Where is the station?" □ He asked where the station was.

C. **ask** can be followed by the person addressed (indirect object):

He asked, "What have you got in your bag?" □ He asked (me) what I had got in my bag.
    But **wonder** and **want to know** cannot take an indirect object, so if we wish to report a question where the person addressed is mentioned, we must use **ask**.

He said, "Mary, when is the next train?" □ He asked Mary when the next train was.

D. If the direct question begins with a question word (when, where, who, how, why etc.) the question word is repeated in the indirect question:

He said, "Why didn't you put on the brake?" □ He asked (her) why she hadn't put on the brake.
She said, "What do you want?" □ She asked (them) what they wanted.

E. If there is no question word, **if** or **whether** must be used:

"Is anyone there?" he asked □ He asked if/whether anyone was there.

COMMANDS, REQUESTS, ADVICE IN INDIRECT SPEECH

Direct command: *He said, "Lie down, Tom".*
Indirect command: *He told Tom to lie down.*
    Indirect commands, requests, advice are usually expressed by a verb of command/request/advice + object + infinitive.

A. The following verbs can be used: **advise, ask, beg, command, order, remind, tell, warn** etc.

He said, "Get your coat, Tom!" □ He told Tom to get his coat.
B. Negative commands, requests etc. are usually reported by **not** + infinitive:

"Don't swim out too far, boys", I said □ I warned/told the boys not to swim out too far.

EXCLAMATIONS IN INDIRECT SPEECH

Exclamations usually become statements in indirect speech. The exclamation mark disappears.

a. Exclamations beginning **What (a) ...** or **How ...** can be reported by:
- **exclaim/say that**:

He said, "What a dreadful idea!" or "How dreadful!" ☐ He exclaimed that it was a dreadful idea/was dreadful.
- **give an exclamation of** delight/disgust/horror/relief/surprise etc.
- if the exclamation is followed by an action we can use the construction **with an exclamation of** delight/disgust etc. + **he/she** etc. + verb.

b. Other types of exclamation such as **Good! Marvellous! Splendid! Heavens! Oh! Ugh!** etc. can be reported as in (b) or (c) above:

"Good!" he exclaimed. ☐ He gave an exclamation of pleasure/satisfaction.
"Ugh!" she exclaimed, and turned the programme off. ☐ With an exclamation of disgust she turned the programme off.

c. Note also:

He said, "Thank you!" ☐ He thanked me.
He said, "Good luck!" ☐ He wished me luck.
He said, "Happy Christmas!" ☐ He wished me a happy Christmas.
He said, "Congratulations!" ☐ He congratulated me.
He said, "Liar!" ☐ He called me a liar.
He said, "Damn!" etc. ☐ He swore.
The notice said: WELCOME TO WALES! ☐ The notice welcomed visitors to Wales.

YES AND NO IN INDIRECT SPEECH

yes and **no** are expressed in indirect speech by subject + appropriate auxiliary verb.
He said, "Can you swim?" and I said "No" ☐ He asked (me) if I could swim and I said I couldn't.
He said, "Will you have time to do it?" and I said "Yes" ☐ He asked if I would have time to do it and I said that I would.

OFFERS AND SUGGESTIONS IN INDIRECT SPEECH
A. **OFFERS**

"Shall I bring you some tea?" could be reported *He offered to bring me some tea.*

B. **SUGGESTIONS**

"Shall we meet at the theatre? could be reported *He suggested meeting at the theatre.*

INDIRECT SPEECH: MIXED TYPES

Direct speech may consist of statement + question, question + command, command + statement, or all three together. Normally each requires its own introductory verb.

"I don't know the way. Do you?" he asked. ☐ He said he didn't know the way and asked her if she did/if she knew it.

He said, "Someone is coming. Get behind the screen." ☐ He said that someone was coming and told me to get behind the screen.

REPORTED SPEECH: OTHER POINTS

A. **MUST:** after a past reporting verb, **must** does not usually change:

He said, "It must be pretty late, I really must go". ☐ He said that it must be pretty late and he really must go.

had to is also possible in reported speech, but this is really the past of **have to**, not must.
He said, "I have to go. I have an appointment in half an hour" ☐ He said that he had to go because he had an appointment in half an hour.

B. **MODAL VERBS**: Past modal verbs (could, might, ought to, should, used to, etc.) do not normally change in reported speech.

He said, "I might come". ☐ He said that he might come.
He said, "I would help him if I could". ☐ He said that he would help him if he could.
He said, "You needn't wait". ☐ He said that I needn't wait.

C. **CONDITIONALS**: Conditional sentences type two remain unchanged.

He said, "If my children were older I would emigrate". ☐ He said that if his children were older he would emigrate.

SAY AND TELL AS INTRODUCTORY VERBS

A. **say** and **tell** with direct speech.
1. say can introduce a statement or follow it.

Tom said, "I've just heard the news". or "I've just heard the news",Tom said.
Inversion of **say** and noun subject is possible when **say** follows the statement.
"I've just heard the news", said Tom.

say + to + person addressed is possible, but this phrase must follow the direct statement; it cannot introduce it.
"I'm leaving at once", Tom said to me.
Inversion is not possible here.

2. tell requires the person addressed.

Tell me. He told us. I'll tell Tom.
Except with **tell lies/stories/the truth/the time**, when the person addressed need not to be mentioned.
He told (me) lies. I'll tell (you) a story.
Tell used with direct speech must be placed after the direct statement:
"I'm leaving at once", Tom told me.
Inversion is not possible with **tell**.

B. **say** and **tell** with indirect speech

Indirect statements are normally introduced by **say**, or **tell** + object. **Say** + **to** + object is possible but less usual than **tell** + object.
He said he'd just heard the news.
He told me that he'd just heard the news.

Note also **tell ... how/about**:
He told us how he had crossed the mountains.
He told us about crossing the mountains.
He told us about his journeys.