

WRITING BANK

WRITING PART 1: AN ESSAY

- 1** Read the exam task. What question should you answer? What ideas should you include?

In your English class you have been talking about the environment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write your essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Will environmental problems be worse in 20 years?

Notes

Write about:

1. pollution
2. climate change
3. _____ (your own idea)

- 2** Study the model answer. What extra idea does it include?

- 3** Read the essay question. Then decide which ideas would be relevant to include in the essay.

We shouldn't spend so much money on exploring space. Do you agree?

- 1 It costs a huge amount of money to send rockets into space.
- 2 Rockets have extremely powerful engines.
- 3 There are more important problems in the world that we should spend money on.
- 4 We can learn a lot about our own planet and solar system.
- 5 People first landed on the moon in 1969.
- 6 A lot of people in the world don't have food or shelter.
- 7 I would love to go into space one day.
- 8 Some important scientific experiments can be carried out in space.

- 4** Look at the plan for a student's essay on the question in Exercise 5. Decide which paragraph the correct sentences from Exercise 5 could go in.

Introduction

¹ _____ Is it worth the money?

Arguments against exploring space

² _____ , _____

Arguments for exploring space

³ _____ , _____

Conclusion

We can learn things from exploring space, but it's probably a luxury the world can't afford.

MODEL ANSWER

¹Use phrases to express your own opinion.

¹In my opinion, ²it is possible that environmental problems will be worse in 20 years. We already face a large number of serious environmental problems and, if steps are not taken to tackle them, they will become even more serious.

²Start with a general introduction to the topic.

³Use words and phrases to organise your essay and make it clear when you are introducing a new topic.

³Firstly, there is already a huge amount of pollution in the world, for example from cars, lorries and planes. There is also a big problem with the amount of rubbish that we produce, which often ends up in the sea.

⁵Give reasons to support your arguments and opinions.

Secondly, ⁴our modern way of life produces harmful gases which are causing the planet to become warmer. This is a very serious problem for animals such as polar bears, ⁵which may die out if the ice that they live on melts.

⁴Give information which is relevant to the topic.

⁷Use linking words to add similar or contrasting ideas.

Finally, the world's population is growing rapidly and this will put even more pressure on the Earth's resources. More people means more food production, more pollution and more waste.

⁶End with a clear conclusion.

⁶In conclusion, the world faces some very serious environmental problems which will definitely be worse in 20 years if nothing is done to solve them. ⁷However, I am optimistic that scientists and politicians will find ways to improve the situation.

5 Read the essay question. Then choose the best introduction and conclusion. Why is it the best one?

Do you think it is better to watch films in the cinema or at home?

1 Introductions

- A There are loads of amazing films nowadays. Personally, I love science fiction films and I often watch them with my friends.
- B Watching a film on the big screen at the cinema is certainly very impressive. But in my opinion, there are also advantages to watching films at home, with friends.
- C Going to the cinema is quite expensive, and some people can't afford it. Also, some small towns don't have a cinema.

2 Conclusions

- A To sum up, I hardly ever go to the cinema because there isn't one very close to where I live. But I often watch movies with my friends at the weekend.
- B On balance, some people prefer going to the cinema to watch films, and some people prefer to watch films at home. There are lots of different reasons for this, for example some people can't afford to go to the cinema.
- C In conclusion, I would say that for most films, it is more enjoyable to watch at home, with a few friends. However, for films with a lot of special effects, it is worth the trip to a cinema to see these on the big screen.

6 Study the words and expressions in the Key language box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR ESSAYS

Ordering your ideas: *firstly, secondly, finally*

Expressing your opinion: *in my opinion, in my view, I would say that, Personally, I think*

Giving reasons: *because, as, since*

Giving results or consequences: *consequently, as a result, therefore, for this reason*

Giving examples: *for example, for instance, such as, one example of this is*

Linking similar ideas: *in addition to this, furthermore, moreover*

Linking contrasting ideas: *however, on the one hand / on the other hand, in contrast, although, whereas*

Giving a conclusion: *in conclusion, to sum up, on balance*

7 Choose the correct words and phrases in italics.

- 1 In my opinion, computers are essential in schools *as/ for this reason* students need them to find information on the internet.
- 2 It is clearly necessary to test new medicines, but *in my opinion/therefore* this doesn't justify causing animals to suffer.
- 3 Cars create a lot of pollution in city centres. *In addition to this/Consequently*, they can cause accidents and injure or kill pedestrians.

- 4 There are several reasons why I am against exams. *Finally/Firstly*, they only test what someone can remember on one particular day.
- 5 Sports *such as/furthermore* tennis and football are more sociable than running.
- 6 *To sum up/One example of this is*, I would say that university should be free for anyone who wants to study there.
- 7 Trains are much better for the environment. *In addition to this/On the other hand*, they are much slower than planes, so they are much less convenient.
- 8 The climate is becoming warmer and *in contrast/as a result* a lot of animals are now in danger of dying out.

8 Read the exam task and use the table to plan your essay.

In your English class you have been talking about city life. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some people believe that cycling is the best way to travel around cities. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

- 1. health
- 2. safety
- 3. _____ (your own idea)

	IDEAS	USEFUL PHRASES
Introduction		
Paragraph 1		
Paragraph 2		
Paragraph 3		
Conclusion		

9 Write your essay. Remember to write between 140 and 190 words.

10 Check your essay and make changes if necessary.

- Have you answered the question in the task?
- Have you included the two ideas in the task and added your own idea?
- Have you included only relevant information?
- Have you started with an introduction and ended with a conclusion?
- Have you ordered your ideas into paragraphs?
- Have you given reasons for your ideas and opinions?
- Have you used words and phrases to link ideas?
- Have you used between 140 and 190 words?