

ESSAY

B2

General information

Two types of essay:

- 1) Discuss a **statement** and give your opinion.
- 2) Discuss **which** of two things is **better**.
- Organise your answer in a logical way using **paragraphs** and **linking words** appropriately.
- Express your **opinion** clearly on the subject.
- Give **reasons and examples** to support your ideas.
- Use a **formal** style

Useful Language

Opening

It is often said that ... | Many people claim that ... |
In this day and age ... | Nowadays ... | These days ... | ... is a hotly-debated topic that often divides opinion. | It is often discussed, yet rarely understood.... | You often hear people say that ... | It goes without saying that ... | Needless to say, ... | The following essay takes a look at both sides of the argument.

Introducing points

Firstly, (it is/seems clear to me that) ... | To start with, ... | First of all, ... | First and foremost, ... | Secondly, ... | Thirdly, ... | Lastly, ... | Finally, ... | Last but not least, ... | Furthermore, ... | In addition, ... | Additionally, ... | What is more,... | On top of that, ... | Another point worth noting is ... | Another factor to consider is ...

Presenting and giving examples

When it comes to *noun/gerund*, |
In terms of *noun/gerund*, | With respect to *noun/gerund*, | Not only ... but also ... | According to experts, | Research has found that | There are those who argue that | For instance ... | For example ... | such as

Expressing result and reason

As a result, ... | As a result of *noun/gerund*, | ... *noun/gerund* has led to/resulted in ... |
Consequently, | Therefore, | On account of *noun/gerund* | Due to *noun/gerund* | One reason behind this is ...

Strategy

- Read the task and **underline** the areas you must deal with in your essay.
- Think and decide what your opinion or **position** is on the subject and make **notes** supporting your point of view covering all the points.
- Make a **plan** with the notes and think what each paragraph will cover. Check that your plan covers all the areas.
- **Avoid repeating** words and show you know different grammatical structures.
- **Write** your essay.
- **Read** your essay for mistakes and make sure your opinion is clearly in your answer and that your arguments support your opinion.

Contrasting

Although/Even though *subject + verb*, | Despite/In spite of *noun/gerund*, | Despite the fact that *subject + verb*, | On the one hand, | On the other hand, | On the other side of the argument, | However, | Nevertheless, | Even so ...

Concluding

To sum up, ... | In conclusion, ... | All things considered, ... | Taking everything into consideration, ... | Weighing up both sides of the argument, ... | The advantages outweigh the disadvantages. | On the whole, ... | By and large, ... | In general, ... | Finally, it is important to remember/must be remembered that.... | On balance,....

Sample Layout

Title (optional)

Paragraph 1:

*An introduction, possibly a statement of the current situation
State the topic. You may use a rhetorical question.*

Paragraph 2:

*One or more arguments for or against the statement,
possibly with an example from your own knowledge or experience.*

Paragraph 3:

*One or more contrasting arguments, possibly with an
example from your own knowledge or experience.*

Paragraph 4:

A conclusion, your opinion of the statement.