

ESSAY

1 Read about Part 1 of the Writing paper.

In Part 1 of the Writing paper, you have to write an essay for your teacher. This task is compulsory. The topic of the essay is in the form of either a question that you have to answer, or a statement that you have to agree or disagree with.

In your essay, you can either just give arguments in favour of your own opinion or you can give arguments for and against the idea and end by giving your opinion.

You must include the two ideas that are given in the notes with the task, and you must add a third idea of your own. You should write between 140 and 190 words.

2 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)

3 Study the model answer. What extra idea does it include?

MODEL ANSWER

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- ¹ Use phrases to express your own opinion.
- ² Start with a general introduction to the topic.
- ³ Use words and phrases to organise your essay and make it clear when you are introducing a new topic.
- ⁴ Give information which is relevant to the topic.
- ⁵ Give reasons to support your arguments and opinions.
- ⁶ End with a clear conclusion.
- ⁷ Use linking words to add similar or contrasting ideas.

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your essay:

- you must include the two ideas in the notes and your own idea
- all the ideas you include should be relevant to the topic
- your ideas should be organised into clear paragraphs
- there should be a clear introduction and conclusion
- you should use linking words to link your ideas and structure your essay
- you should use a wide range of grammar and vocabulary
- you should avoid informal language.

5 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.
- 8 Important scientific experiments can be carried out in space.

6 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.

7 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.

8 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

9 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** The climate is becoming warmer and *in contrast / as a result* a lot of animals are now in danger of dying out.

10 Read the exam task and 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 your 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)

11 Write your essay in 140–190 words. Use the checklist on page 12.

EMAIL / LETTER

1 Read about the email / letter in Part 2 of the Writing paper.

In Part 2 of the Writing paper, you choose a task from three possible ones. One of the tasks might be an email / letter. It might be an informal email / letter to a friend, or a formal email / letter, for example to apply for a job. The input to the task might be an email / letter that you have to answer, or a job advertisement or notice that you reply to.

The task will give details about what points you should write about, or it will have questions for you to answer. You should make sure you cover all the points in the task and you should write 140–190 words.

2 Read the exam task. Who should you write an email to? What should you write about in your email? What questions should you answer?

You have received this email from your English-speaking friend, Jo.

I guess you've been in your new home for about a month now. All your old friends are really keen to know how you're getting on. What's your new home like? And are there lots of exciting things to do in the city? Also, have you made plenty of new friends?

Write and tell me all about it!

Jo

Write your **email** in 140–190 words.

3 Study the model answer. Does it answer all the questions in Jo's email? Is the tone formal or informal?

MODEL ANSWER

¹Hi Jo,

²It was great to hear from you! I miss all my old friends, but I'm getting used to living here in Manchester now.

³My new flat is amazing! It's modern and quite big, and it's got a lovely balcony which looks out over a park. There's also a large living room with comfortable sofas and our new huge TV! My room's quite small, but I don't mind that because I'm out during the day, so I only use it for sleeping.

⁴Manchester's a really lively city. Did you know it's the biggest university city in Britain, so there are loads of young people here? There's always something new and exciting to do. I've discovered some amazing music venues where there are live bands.

⁵I've been lucky with friends and I've met some really nice people here. I'm seeing some of them this evening, to go to the cinema, and I know ⁶you'll get on with them when you meet them. When are you going to come and visit me? Let me know when you're free and we can ⁶fix a date.

⁷See you soon,

Ali

¹ uses a suitable greeting

² gives a reason for writing

³ answers the first question

⁴ answers the second question

⁵ answers the third question

⁶ as it is an informal email/letter, uses informal words and phrases

⁷ uses a suitable ending phrase

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your email or letter:

- you must answer the questions or provide the information mentioned in the input text
- your email/letter should be organised into clear paragraphs
- you should use a suitable formal or informal tone, depending on who the email/letter is to
- you should use a wide range of grammar and vocabulary.

Tip: Vary the expressions you use. For example, if you need to make more than one suggestion, use a different expression to make the second suggestion.

Tip: It is important to use the same formal or informal tone right through the email/letter. For example, in a formal email/letter, don't use any informal expressions, and remember to choose a suitable formal beginning and ending.

5 Read this task. Then decide if the sentences below are true or false.

You see this notice in your college.

Our college wants to organise an event this summer to raise money for schools in developing countries. Below are some of our ideas. Please email me to let me know which you think is the best idea and why. Please also tell us how we should organise the event, to make sure it is a success.

1 a fun sports day

2 a quiz evening

3 a concert

Thank you for your help.

Anna Bradley, Principal

Write your **email**.

1 You need to write a notice about the event.

2 You have to choose one idea.

3 You should explain your reasons for choosing this.

4 You should suggest a date for the event.

5 Your email is to the college principal.

6 You should use an informal tone.

6 Choose the four sentences that are suitable to include in your email in Exercise 5. Why are they suitable?

- 1 I think it's a great idea to raise money for schools in developing countries.
- 2 I would suggest that a fun sport day would be the best option.
- 3 I think a quiz evening would be amazing!
- 4 Loads of people enjoy listening to live music.
- 5 Concerts are extremely popular with lots of people of different ages.
- 6 I think it would be a good idea to keep the ticket price fairly low.
- 7 Why don't you serve food during the event, too?
- 8 I'm sure that the event will be a huge success and hopefully it will raise a large amount of money.

7 Choose the correct option in *italics* in this formal email.

(1) *Dear Ms Copeland, / Hi Anne,*

I am writing (2) *because of / in response to* your advertisement for staff to work in your hotel this summer. I am (3) *currently / at the moment* studying hotel management at college and (4) *would love to work / would be interested in working* in your hotel.

I have (5) *learned all about / studied different aspects of* hotel work as part of my course, and I also have some experience of hotel work as I (6) *was employed / had a job* in a large international hotel in Spain for six weeks last summer. I worked mainly as a waiter, but also (7) *gained some experience as / had a go as a* receptionist when the regular receptionist was ill.

I am friendly and hardworking, and work well as part of a team. I also understand that in a hotel, (8) *keeping the customer happy / customer satisfaction* is vital.

(9) *I would be grateful if you would / Please will you* consider me for a position in your hotel.

(10) *I look forward to hearing from you. / Write soon!*
Joseph Brown

8 Read the exam task. Then read the relevant *Key language box* and plan your letter.

You see this advertisement in your local newspaper.

Staff wanted for summer work

We require staff to work with our English-speaking guests in our busy hotel this summer.

We are looking for people for the following roles:

- Waiter
- Coffee bar assistant
- Receptionist

Write to Maria Simpson at Top Beach Hotel saying which job interests you and why, and explain why you would be suitable for the job.

Write your **letter**.

9 Write your letter in 140–190 words. Use the checklist on page 12.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR INFORMAL EMAILS AND LETTERS

Opening an informal email / letter:

Hi, Hi there, Hi (Jack), Dear (Jo)

Giving reasons for writing:

Thanks for your letter / email. It was great to hear from you.

Referring to something mentioned in the email / letter:

You said in your email/letter that ..., You mentioned that ... You asked whether ...

Making suggestions / giving advice:

Why don't you ...? You could always ... I think you should ... It might be an idea to ...

Offering to do something:

I can ... if you like. I could always ...

Making requests:

Can you ...? Could you ...?

Asking for information:

Let me know ... Can you tell me ...?

Apologising:

I'm sorry about ...

Closing an informal email:

See you soon. Write soon. Hope to hear from you soon.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR FORMAL EMAILS AND LETTERS

Opening a formal email/letter:

Dear (Mr/Mrs/Ms Edwards), Dear Sir/Madam,

Only use Mrs if you are sure that the woman you are writing to is married. Otherwise, use Ms.

Giving reasons for writing:

I am writing in response to ... I saw your notice/advert in ...

Referring to something mentioned in the letter / notice / advert:

Your letter/notice/advert mentioned that ... Your letter/notice/advert asked for ...

Making suggestions / giving advice:

It would be a good idea to ... It might be sensible to ... You might like to consider ...

Offering to do something:

I would be able/willing to ... if necessary.

Making requests:

Would it be possible for you to ...?

Asking for information:

Could you give me some information on ...? Could you let me have more details about ...?

Apologising:

I would like to apologise for ...

Closing an informal email:

Yours sincerely (after Dear Mr Edwards), Yours faithfully (after Dear Sir/Madam), I look forward to hearing from you, Kind regards

1 Read about the article in Part 2 of the Writing paper.

In Part 2 of the Writing paper, you choose a task from three possible ones. One of the tasks might be an article. The task will give details about what you should write an article about and what information you should include.

You might be asked to write a description, give examples or give your opinions about something. The task will also say where people will read your article, e.g. on a website or in a magazine or newspaper.

You should make sure you cover all the points in the task, and you should structure your article in a suitable way. You should use creative language to make the article interesting for your reader, and you can ask the reader direct questions to engage them. You should write 140–190 words.

2 Read the exam task. What should you write an article about? What points should you include? Where will people read your article?

You see this notice in an English-language magazine.

Articles wanted

My hobby

Write an article about your hobby. Say what it is, how you started doing it, and why you enjoy it.

The best articles will appear in our magazine next week.

Write your **article**.

3 Study the model answer and answer the questions.

- 1 Does the article cover all the points in the task?
- 2 How many paragraphs does it have?
- 3 How many direct questions does it ask the reader?
- 4 Is it written in a formal or an informal style?

MODEL ANSWER

¹The thrill of the stage

²I'll never forget the first day I stepped onto a real theatre stage. I knew immediately that this was my hobby for life! I'm now a member of my local drama club. We put on two shows every year and have a lot of fun while doing so!

³I first started acting by chance. A friend of mine was interested in joining a drama club, and I agreed to go along with her, to give her a bit of support. ⁴And I loved it from the first day!

First, drama is ⁵incredibly challenging. ⁶Not only do you have to learn what you're going to say, but also understand the character you're playing, their role in the play, and then communicate that to the audience.

⁷Another thing I love about drama is how sociable it is. I've made so many good friends at the drama club, and spending time with them, working towards a shared goal, is extremely rewarding. And in addition to all of this, ⁸what could beat the thrill of appearing under the lights, in front of a cheering crowd?

¹ has an interesting title

² has a first sentence which interests the reader and encourages them to read more

³ is organised into clear paragraphs, each with a topic sentence

⁴ gives the writer's opinions

⁵ uses creative language with strong meanings

⁶ gives examples to support the ideas

⁷ uses structures to add emphasis

⁸ try to end with a question or a lively final sentence

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your article:

- you must include all the points in the input
- you should choose an interesting title for your article
- your ideas should be organised into clear paragraphs, each focusing on a clear topic
- you should make the reader feel interested by asking them questions
- you should use a wide range of creative language and language structures
- you should include your own opinion and experiences.

5 It is important to choose a title and first sentence which will engage your reader and encourage them to read more. Choose the best title and first sentence for an article about Nelson Mandela. Why is it the best?

A Nelson Mandela

I really admire Nelson Mandela because of everything he achieved in South Africa.

B A peaceful transformation

Can you imagine one person bringing peaceful change to a whole country?

C An important figure in South Africa

Nelson Mandela is a very important figure in the history of South Africa.

6 The first sentence in each paragraph (the topic sentence) gives the topic of the paragraph. Match the topic sentences (a–e) to the paragraphs from an article about a favourite place to visit. There are two topic sentences you don't need.

- a The people here are incredibly warm and welcoming.
 - b This is a lovely, relaxing place.
 - c I first discovered this place about five years ago.
 - d One thing I really love is the stunning scenery.
 - e If you love good food, this is a great place to visit.
- 1 When you look in one direction, you can see the beautiful beach and the clear blue sea. In the opposite direction, there are lovely views of the mountains, which have snow on their peaks all year round.
 - 2 You can find delicious local cheeses, and plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. And of course there's fresh fish which the fishing boats bring in each day, and which is perfectly cooked in the restaurants by the beach.
 - 3 They always have time to stop and chat and they seem genuinely keen for you to enjoy your stay. There is always someone to help if you have any problems, too.

7 In an article, it is important to use creative words with strong meanings to make your writing more interesting. Replace the bold words and expressions in the sentences with the creative words with similar meanings from the box.

absolutely essential fascinated by
freezing huge packed terrifying

- 1 Like a lot of people, I was **interested in** the castle's history.
- 2 The city centre is always **crowded** with tourists.
- 3 His first film was a **big** success.
- 4 I always enjoy watching my local football team play, even when the weather's **cold**.
- 5 The drive up the narrow mountain road was quite **scary** at times.
- 6 A good fitness programme is **really necessary** if you're serious about losing weight.

8 You can use structures to emphasise your ideas and opinions in an article. Complete each second sentence so it has a similar meaning but has more emphasis.

- 1 I admire his determination.
What *...I admire is...* his determination.
- 2 I like the freedom you get when you go hiking.
The thing the freedom you get when you go hiking.
- 3 Her honesty really surprised me.
One thing her honesty.
- 4 I will never forget our evening barbecues on the beach.
What our evening barbecues on the beach.

5 I noticed how happy everyone looked.
The thing how happy everyone looked.

9 Study the words and expressions in the *Key language* box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLES

Catching the reader's attention:
*Have you ever ...? I want to tell you about ...
It's the best ...*

Ordering ideas:
First(ly), Second(ly), Finally,

Linking similar ideas:
moreover, in addition to this

Linking contrasting ideas:
while, whereas

Linking results:
therefore, which means

Emphasising ideas:
What I love/admire the most is ..., The thing I like best is ...

Giving your opinion:
In my opinion, For me, as far as I'm concerned

10 Complete the sentences with one word in each space.

- 1 me, sailing is definitely the best sport in the world!
- 2 Painting is relaxing, creative and fun, and addition to this, you can earn a bit of money by selling your paintings.
- 3 As far I'm concerned, cooking is the best hobby.
- 4 Hiking isn't expensive, means that anyone can do it.
- 5 I love most is watching live shows in a theatre.
- 6 I want to you about something amazing that happened to me last year.

11 Read the exam task and plan your article.

You see this notice on an English-language fitness website.

Articles wanted

Staying healthy

How important is your health to you? What do you think are some of the best ways to stay fit and healthy?

The best articles will appear on our website next month.

Write your **article**.

12 Write your article in 140–190 words. Use the checklist on page 12.

STORY

1 Read about the story in Part 2 of the Writing paper.

In Part 2 of the Writing paper, you choose a task from three possible ones. One of the tasks might be a story. The task will give you the first sentence of the story, and two ideas that you must include. It will also tell you who the story is for, e.g. a school magazine or an English-language website for young people.

You should make sure you use the first sentence correctly and include the two ideas you are given. You should organise your story into paragraphs, and make sure your story has a clear beginning, middle and end. You should use a range of past tenses, and a range of words and expressions to show when the different events of the story happened. You should write 140–190 words.

2 Read the exam task and answer the questions.

- 1 What should the first sentence of your story be?
- 2 What two ideas do you need to include?
- 3 Where will people read your story?

You see this notice on an English-language website for young people.

We are looking for stories for our English-language website for young people.

Your story must begin with this sentence:

Feeling slightly nervous, Emma walked up the steps and onto the plane.

Your story must include:

- bad weather
- a surprise

Write your **story**.

3 Study the model answer and answer the questions.

- 1 Does the story start with the first sentence in the task?
- 2 Does it include the two ideas from the task?
- 3 Does it have a clear beginning, middle and ending?
- 4 What past tenses does it use?
- 5 Does it include descriptions as well as actions?

MODEL ANSWER

¹Feeling slightly nervous, Emma walked up the steps and onto the plane. She ⁴'d never been to America before, but now ²she was on her way for a one-month exchange visit to an American school.

³As she ⁴was waiting for the plane to take off, questions ⁴went through her mind. Would she get on with the other students? Would they accept her? Would it be difficult? Emma sighed. It was too late to change her mind now!

³An hour later, Emma was looking out at the ⁶clear blue sky as they flew over the ocean. Then, ⁵all of a sudden, the sky darkened. There was a roar of thunder and the pilot told passengers to put on their seat belts. ⁵Two minutes later, the plane was in the middle of ⁸a fierce storm. Lightning flashed, and the plane bumped and shook ⁶violently. Terrified, Emma closed her eyes.

After what felt like hours, the plane landed. As she walked out into the terminal building, Emma saw a big colourful sign: *Welcome Emma!* ⁹What an amazing surprise! Her host family were there, smiling and waving, and Emma knew immediately that ⁷everything would be fine!

¹ starts with the first sentence from the task

² includes some background to the events

³ is organised into paragraphs

⁴ uses past simple, past continuous and past perfect verb forms

⁵ uses a range of time expressions to say when the actions happened and what order they happened in

⁶ uses descriptive adjectives and adverbs to make the story interesting

⁷ includes a clear ending

⁸ includes the idea of bad weather, specified in the task

⁹ includes the idea of a surprise, specified in the task

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your story:

- you must use the first sentence and the two ideas in the input
- your story should be organised into paragraphs, and it should have a clear beginning, middle and end
- you should use a range of past tenses for the events in the story
- you should use a range of words and expressions to show when the different events happened
- you should include descriptions as well as actions
- you should use descriptive adjectives and adverbs to make your story interesting
- you should think of an interesting ending.

5 Read two beginnings of students' stories. Which one is better? Give three reasons why.

A When Laura sat down on the train, she noticed a bag on the seat opposite her. She waved goodbye to her mum, and the train started moving. Laura started reading her book, then the phone in the bag rang.

B When Laura sat down on the train, she noticed a bag on the seat opposite her. There was no one else in her part of the train, so she guessed someone had probably left it there by mistake. It was a very modern, fashionable bag, and looked expensive. Laura opened her book to start reading, when she heard a phone ringing. It wasn't hers – it was coming from inside the bag.

6 Choose the best ending for the story in Exercise 5. Why is it better than the other one?

A Laura stepped down from the train, holding the bag. A woman immediately ran towards her. 'I'm Kirsty,' she said, 'the owner of the bag. Thank you so much for all you did for me today!' Laura handed her the bag. 'No problem,' she said, smiling. 'It certainly made my journey a lot more interesting!'

B When Laura reached her station, she picked up the bag. She wasn't sure what to do with it, so she decided she would take it to the lost property office. Then, all of a sudden, a woman came running onto the train. 'That's my bag!' she said, and grabbed it out of Laura's hands.

7 We often use words and expressions in stories to make it clear when the different actions happened. Choose the correct option in *italics*.

- 1 Sam was watching TV when *eventually* / *suddenly* the door burst open.
- 2 *By the time* / *Until* they got home, it was completely dark.
- 3 *While* / *As soon as* the letter arrived, Max picked it up and opened it.
- 4 No one spoke *during* / *meanwhile* the journey.
- 5 *At first* / *In the end*, everything turned out to be OK.
- 6 *Before long* / *Just then*, they were chatting as if they had known each other all their lives.

8 Study the words and expressions in the *Key language* box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR STORIES

Past simple verbs for the main events:

went, found, saw, decided, helped

Past continuous verbs for longer actions or descriptions:

was waiting, were sitting, was raining, was feeling

Past perfect verbs for earlier actions:

had forgotten, hadn't told her, hadn't noticed

Time expressions:

after, as soon as, at first, before, by the time, during, eventually, in the end, finally, gradually, meanwhile, just then, later, suddenly, while, when

Descriptive adjectives for feelings:

determined, enthusiastic, nervous, optimistic, puzzled, relieved

Descriptive adjectives for the weather:

bitter, damp, frosty, mild, misty, stormy

Descriptive adjectives for places:

busy, crowded, peaceful, picturesque, stunning

Descriptive adverbs:

angrily, fiercely, gently, quietly

Adverbs to comment on what happened:

fortunately, luckily, sadly, unfortunately

Direct speech:

'Hi,' she said. 'Where are you going?' he asked. 'Go away!' she shouted.

9 Add the correct punctuation to the direct speech.

- 1 Will you come with me he asked.
- 2 Don't worry he said.
- 3 Get out she cried.
- 4 It doesn't matter she said.

10 Read the exam task and plan your story.

Your teacher has asked you to write a story in English for a school magazine for teenagers.

Stories wanted

We are looking for stories in English for our new school magazine for teenagers.

Your story must begin with this sentence:

When he saw the postman coming up to his door, Matt ran to open it.

Your story must include:

- a mobile phone
- a new friend

Write your **story**.

11 Write your story in 140–190 words. Use the checklist on page 12.

REVIEW

1 Read about the review in Part 2 of the Writing paper.

In Part 2 of the Writing paper, you choose a task from three possible ones. One of the tasks might be a review. The task will give details about what you should review and what aspects of it you should discuss. It will also say where people will read your review, e.g. on a website or in a magazine or newspaper.

You should make sure you cover all the points in the task, and structure your review in a suitable way. You should talk about your personal experience of a product or experience, give your own opinion of it clearly, and make a recommendation for your reader. You should write 140–190 words.

2 Read the exam task. What should you write a review of? What points should you include? Where will people read your review?

You see this notice in an English-language magazine.

Film reviews wanted

What films have you seen recently? Write a review of a film you have seen, explaining what it was about and whether you enjoyed it or not. Tell us whether or not you think other people would enjoy it.

The best reviews will be published in next month's magazine.

Write your **review**.

3 Study the model answer and answer the questions.

- 1 Does the review cover all the points in the task?
- 2 Did the writer enjoy the film?
- 3 Who does the writer think will enjoy the film?
- 4 Is the language in the review formal and neutral, or informal and friendly?

MODEL ANSWER

¹*Black Panther*

I watched the film *Black Panther* for the first time last week. ²It's a superhero film, in the same genre as *Superman* and *Spider-Man*, and has been extremely popular around the world.

³Although I am not usually a big fan of superhero films, ⁴I was really impressed with this one. The story is fairly traditional, with the hero T'Challa (Black Panther) defeating the evil Killmonger, who is trying to gain power over the whole world. ⁵But the action is gripping and the special effects are spectacular. Chadwick Boseman, who plays T'Challa, acts superbly, and really brings the comic-book character to life. The brilliant costumes and music also really help make the film a real spectacle.

³On the negative side, ⁶I felt that there was sometimes a bit too much violence, which makes it unsuitable for young children, and of course you have to accept that the plot is slightly predictable because the good guy will always win.

In spite of this, ⁷I loved the film and ⁸anyone who enjoys fantasy movies will definitely like it.

- ¹ includes the name of the film as the title
- ² briefly describes the film in the introduction
- ³ is organised into clear paragraphs, which focus on positive and negative aspects
- ⁴ uses a range of phrases to express a personal opinion
- ⁵ praises positive features and says why the film is good
- ⁶ includes some negative features, to give a balanced view
- ⁷ clearly states the writer's opinion in the conclusion
- ⁸ includes a recommendation, saying who would enjoy the film

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your review:

- you must include all the points in the input
- your ideas should be organised into clear paragraphs, each focusing on a clear topic
- you should state clearly whether you liked or didn't like the product or experience
- you should include a recommendation
- you should use descriptive language to make your review interesting
- you should use an informal, friendly style.

5 Read the review task. Then look at the two student plans. Which plan is better? Why?

Reviews wanted!

What shopping websites have you used recently? Write a review of a shopping website that you have used. Say what you bought, how pleased you were with the product, and talk about any problems you experienced. Say whether you would recommend the site to others.

A

Introduction

name of website TechWorld, and basic information (what they sell).

What I bought (a new tablet)

My experience

The website – why I like it (easy to use – good prices)

The product – why I was pleased with it (good quality)

A few problems

slow delivery, missing case, but they dealt with this quickly

Recommendation

great website for anyone who is looking for a low-priced tablet or other device

B

Introduction

why I chose to use this website (looking for a cheap tablet, easier to buy online than go into town)

The website

how I found out about it, how I chose my tablet, problem of slow delivery

Games

why I like it (I needed a new tablet for playing games)

Conclusion

I'm very pleased with my new tablet and it was very cheap

6 Using descriptive adjectives and adverbs in a review makes it interesting to read. Choose the best adverbs to go with the descriptive adjectives.

- 1 The action scenes in the film were *a little* / *incredibly* gripping.
- 2 The food in the restaurant is lovely, but it is *absolutely* / *ridiculously* expensive.
- 3 The basic plot of the book is *rather* / *mildly* predictable.
- 4 This is a *completely* / *brilliantly* entertaining show.
- 5 The device that I bought is *totally* / *extremely* useful.
- 6 The holiday flat is small but *very* / *highly* well equipped.
- 7 Our hotel room was *absolutely* / *very* perfect.
- 8 All the staff were *a bit* / *really* welcoming.

7 We often use adjectives or phrases to give our opinion about something in an indirect way. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 I was disappointed to | a my new camera. |
| 2 We were delighted that | b seats around the pool for all the guests. |
| 3 I'm absolutely thrilled with | c find that the screen was cracked. |
| 4 The tent isn't as big | d than I expected. |
| 5 The food was even better | e as it looked on the website. |
| 6 There weren't enough | f we had a room with a view of the sea. |

8 In a review we often use words to express contrast. Complete the sentences with words from the box.

although despite however spite though

- 1 The weather was terrible, but in _____ of this, we thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the resort.
- 2 Even _____ it was rather expensive, we really enjoyed our time at the museum.
- 3 I would advise anyone to check out this website, _____ the problems that I experienced.
- 4 _____ the service was quick and friendly, the food was a little disappointing.
- 5 The website stated that the bag was made of leather. _____, when it arrived, it was clear that it was not genuine leather.

9 Study the words and expressions in the *Key language* box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR REVIEWS

Praising something:

*It is one of the best ... I have ever ...
 the ... was absolutely perfect
 the ... was even better than I expected
 I was pleased/delighted to find that ...
 It was a nice surprise to find that ...*

Criticising:

*The ... was rather disappointing
 The advertisement said ..., but in fact ...
 I was a little disappointed to find ...
 There weren't enough ...*

Recommending:

*Anyone who likes ... will really enjoy ...
 Don't miss the chance/opportunity to ...
 I'm sure everyone will really enjoy ...
 If you get the chance to see/buy/try ..., you should definitely do it
 I would advise anyone to ...*

Advising someone against something:

*I would suggest finding a better ... than this.
 I would strongly advise against eating/reading/
 watching/buying this ...
 My advice is to avoid this ...*

paragraphs	ideas	useful phrases
Description of the resort		
Why I enjoyed/didn't enjoy it		
Good value for money?		
Recommendation		

12 Write your review in 140–190 words. Use the checklist on page 12.

10 Choose the correct words in the sentences.

- This show was even better *than / as* I expected.
- The dessert was rather *disappointed / disappointing*.
- Anyone who enjoys crime novels *will / can* love this book.
- Don't *lose / miss* the opportunity to visit this theme park.
- I would suggest *using / to use* a different website.
- I would strongly *advise / suggest* against staying at this campsite.

11 Read the exam task and plan your review.

You see this advertisement on a travel website.

Reviews wanted!

What holiday resorts have you been to recently?
 Write a review describing the resort, explaining why you did or didn't enjoy your stay there and saying if you would recommend it.
 The best reviews will be published on our website.

Write your **review**.

WRITING CHECKLISTS

ESSAY CHECKLIST

- 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?

EMAIL / LETTER CHECKLIST

- Have you covered all the points in the task?
- Have you used an appropriate formal or informal tone?
- Have you used a range of phrases for giving advice, making suggestions, etc.?
- Have you used a suitable opening phrase, and a suitable ending?
- Have you used a wide range of language?
- Have you used between 140 and 190 words?

ARTICLE CHECKLIST

- Have you covered all the points in the task?
- Have you organised your ideas clearly into paragraphs?
- Have you got an interesting title and first sentence?
- Have you given your own opinions clearly?
- Have you used creative vocabulary with strong meanings?
- Have you used structures to add emphasis?
- Have you used between 140 and 190 words?

STORY CHECKLIST

- Have you included the two ideas in the task?
- Have you organised your story into paragraphs?
- Have you given some background to the story?
- Have you finished with a clear ending?
- Have you used a range of different past tenses?
- Have you used time words and expressions to say when the actions happened?
- Have you used descriptive language?
- Have you used between 140 and 190 words?

REVIEW CHECKLIST

- Have you covered all the points in the task?
- Have you organised your ideas clearly into paragraphs?
- Have you given your own opinion clearly?
- Have you ended with a recommendation?
- Have you used descriptive adjectives and adverbs to make your writing interesting?
- Have you used a friendly tone?
- Have you used between 140 and 190 words?