

WRITING AN ESSAY

B2 Cambridge (FIRST)

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AIMS

- to introduce the essay format and style
- to provide you with useful vocabulary for introducing advantages and disadvantages.
- to present two sample tasks and one model answer
- to review the assessment criteria



GAMBRIDGE B2 WRITING



PART 1



PART 2



WORD LIMITS

GAMBRIDGE B2 WRITING



PART 1

Essay

(compulsory, no choice given)



PART 2



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PART 1

Essay
(compulsory, no choice given)



PART 2

email/letter, review, article, or
report
(you are able to choose one
out of three different
options)



WORD LIMITS

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PART 1

Essay
(compulsory, no choice given)



PART 2

email/letter, review, article, or
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WORD LIMITS

140–190 words

**IS THE WORD LIMIT
IMPORTANT?**

IS THE WORD LIMIT IMPORTANT?

If you write less than 140 words, you have probably forgotten to include some of the information required whereas if you write more than 190, you have probably included unnecessary information. These can affect your score, but in general, you don't have to worry about 2 or 3 more words.

**WHAT IS AN OPINION
ESSAY?**

WHAT IS AN OPINION ESSAY?

In an opinion essay, you are asked to give your opinion on a statement. You have to support your opinion with arguments and organize your ideas in paragraphs.



LOOK AT THE PICTURES. CAN YOU GUESS THE TOPIC OF THE ESSAY?





**DO YOU USE MOBILE
PHONES AT SCHOOL?**

**DO YOU THINK IT IS A
GOOD IDEA TO USE
THEM? WHY?**

**COULD IT HAVE ANY
NEGATIVE ASPECTS?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE
EDUCATIONAL APP?**

In English class, you have been debating about the use of mobile phones in class.

Write an essay with the following title:

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Many teachers let students use their phones in class. Does it promote learning?

Notes: write about

- * MOTIVATION
- * SCREEN TIME
- * (YOUR OWN IDEA)

SAMPLE TASK

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	
Paragraph 2	
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 4	
Paragraph 5	

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 4	
Paragraph 5	

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	discuss point No.1
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 4	
Paragraph 5	

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	discuss point No.1
Paragraph 3	discuss point No.2
Paragraph 4	
Paragraph 5	

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	discuss point No.1
Paragraph 3	discuss point No.2
Paragraph 4	discuss your own idea
Paragraph 5	

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

PARAGRAPH NUMBER	CONTENT
Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	discuss point No.1
Paragraph 3	discuss point No.2
Paragraph 4	discuss your own idea
Paragraph 5	conclusion: summarize and give your opinion

1. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

A

Nowadays, a great number of educators believe that mobile phone use in class can be beneficial, while others are sceptical about it.

B

The use of mobile phones in the classroom is a good thing. I think it is great because it is funny.

A

***B -very simple vocabulary**

2. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

A

Mobile phones can help motivation because it is funny to use the phones and we like it. Students will be happy and this is good for the teacher.

B

One argument in favour is that mobile phone use can boost students' motivation. It enables playing interactive games, revising activities in a funnier way, and therefore is welcomed by the students. For instance, teachers might project quizzes and the learners can participate using a code.

B

***A –very simple vocabulary, not explaining the ideas**

3. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

A

A bad thing about mobile phones is the screen time it can be really distracting for them so maybe using screens in class as well could be adding up to this, rather than promoting alternative ways to learn and therefore, limiting screen time needs to be addressed.

B

However, students, especially the younger ones, spent a lot of time in front of the screen. This can be really distracting for them so maybe using screens in class as well could be adding up to this, rather than promoting alternative ways to learn. Therefore, limiting screen time needs to be addressed.

B

***A – *very long sentence**

4. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

A

Finally, phones can promote learning by allowing the student to be motivated. They enable playing interactive games, revising activities in a funnier way, and therefore are welcomed by the students. For instance, teachers might project quizzes and the learners can participate using a code.

B

Finally, phones can promote learning by allowing the student to be autonomous. They are able to look up words in the dictionary, practise without the teacher's help, find out new information on the internet. All these are important positive aspects of mobile phone use in class.

B

***A -repeating point 1 twice**

5. WHICH IS BETTER AND WHY?

A

In conclusion, despite the drawbacks, I firmly believe that mobile phones can aid the process of learning by increasing both motivation and learner autonomy.

B

In conclusion, mobile phones can promote motivation and learner autonomy but increase screen time.

A

***B-opinion is not clearly stated here**



USEFUL VOCABULARY

OTHER WAYS TO SAY...

<i>ADVANTAGES</i>	AND	<i>DISADVANTAGES</i>
benefits		drawbacks
positive aspects		negative aspects
arguments in favour		arguments against
positive effects		negative consequences
pros (informal)		cons (informal)

INTRODUCE AN ADVANTAGE



The main advantage is...



A great/ major advantage is



Another benefit of... is...



An argument in favour of... is...



INTRODUCE A DISADVANTAGE



A major disadvantage is...



Another drawback of...is...



However,



An argument against...is...



CAN YOU GUESS THE TOPIC?





Find some information online in English and then plan and write an essay on the following topic.

Some people argue that playing video games is not advisable for young people.

Notes: Write about:

1. Time

2. Creativity

3. Your own idea

USEFUL COLLOCATIONS

- Become addicted to video games
- Develop skills
- Promote learning
- Educational video games
- Reaction time
- Social isolation
- Adjectives: Distracting, harmful,
beneficial, entertaining
- Physical problems

PLAN!!!

Remember your main paragraphs have to include:

- 1. Time**
- 2. Creativity**
- 3. Your own idea**

Discuss in pairs: what are the pros and cons of playing video games?

Make a plan including important ideas and useful vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1

2

3

4

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1

Content

2

3

4

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1

Content

2

Communicative achievement

3

4

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1

Content

2

Communicative achievement

3

Organization

4

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1

Content

2


Communicative achievement

3

Organization

4

Language



GOOD LUCK!

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