

UNLOCK 2

UNIT 4: WRITING

PART I: WRITING SKILLS – ANALYZING A QUESTION

Example question: *The internet allows us to stay connected with each other no matter where we are. On the other hand, it also isolates us and encourages people not to socialize. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.*

Step 1. Read the whole question twice

Step 2. Look for topic words. Each essay will be about a general topic and we must identify this first.

⇒ **Topic word:** “The Internet”

Step 3. Look for any words that may restrict the topic in any way. Restricting words are words or phrases that narrow the topic and make it more specific.

Step 4. Identify micro-topic words. These words define the question and tell you which particular part of the main topic the question would like you to discuss and what the examiner is looking for. They often give an opinion or qualify the statement in some way.

⇒ Example question: *Many children these days have an unhealthy lifestyle. Both schools and parents are responsible for solving this problem. To what extent do you agree with this statement.*

⇒ The main topic is children’s unhealthy lifestyle. This is a very wide topic and we can’t write about it in general. Instead, we have to look at the second sentence for the micro-topic words. Here we have to look at **both** schools and parents and how they are **responsible** for **solving** this problem.

Step 5. Identify Instruction Words

⇒ Instruction words are words that tell you what to do.

Example question: *The internet allows us to stay connected with each other no matter where we are. On the other hand, it also isolates us and encourages people not to socialise.*

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

⇒ We can clearly see that this is an agree or disagree question and we therefore must follow this format. We should also give reasons and include some relevant examples.

PART II: WRITING TASK

The internet has made our lives better. Do you agree or disagree?

Sample Answer:

Topic sentence: *The most important advancement in the field of technology was internet. I would agree that the internet has negatively affected people's social life, but if we use it in a wise and appropriate manner, it has a lot of positive functions.*

Supporting sentences

- Supporting idea 1: *To begin with, as the world is growing and the technology is advancing at a very fast rate, it is important to be up to date with the technology. Various certified courses are available online which can help learn any technology when people are sitting at home. For instance, during my summer break I had joined an English course online. In this course I improved four English skills which helped me a lot.*
- Supporting idea 2: *Secondly, the internet could also be used to expand people's networking. Social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter could be used to connect people from different areas, maintain friendships and even it could be used for online businesses as well. Therefore, it depends on how wise the users use it. .*

Concluding sentence

In conclusion, although online technology has become a problem for some people's social life, others disagree about it. To a certain point, I do believe that the internet could be a treat to our social life, but if people use it wisely and appropriately, then I do believe that it has a lot of benefits for individuals and societies.

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UNIT 4: WRITING (HOMEWORK)

Exercise 1: [and, also, and too] Choose the correct words in the sentences.

1. I've got a laptop and I've got a smartphone.
2. My grandparents both have email addresses and they like social networking,
3. People can buy flight tickets online.
4. You need your email address your password.
5. Smartphones can be used for taking photos,

6. Social-networking sites are useful for sharing news photos.
7. Most newspapers have their own website.
8. Chat rooms social-networking sites are more and more popular among teenagers.
9. Internet banking is available at any time, and it's usually free,

Exercise 2: [but and however] Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

How old is the internet? Is your smartphone new? Your 'new' technology may be older than you think ...

The internet

More than 2 billion people use the internet, and many people think that it is something new.

Most people didn't start to use the internet until the 1990s. (1) (However / But), a very simple internet started in the early 1960s in the US.

Smartphones

Like the internet, smartphones are not new. The idea of telephones together with computers began in the early 1970s, (2) (however / but) smartphones did not become popular with most people until after 2010.

Email

The word 'email' is not very old. It comes from around 1993. (3)(However, / But,) the first message was sent between two computers in the early 1970s.

Computer programs

Most people don't know how to write or understand a computer program, (4) (however / but) this is one of the oldest technologies! Some people believe that the first computer program was in 1842. It was by Ada Lovelace, for the 'Analytical Engine' – a very simple, early computer.

Exercise 3: [but, however, and, also, and too] Put the words in the correct order.

1. Share information, / on the internet, / too / you can write blogs / and /.

.....

2. However, / smartphones are great. / too / they are / expensive / .

.....

3. But / there are advantages / there are / also / disadvantages / to the internet, / .

.....

4. The internet. / many disadvantages / young children / can use / However, / this has / .

5. And / computers have made / destroyed our health / our lives worse / .

6. I can live / my mobile phone / but / without the internet, / I can't live without / .

Excerise 4:

The internet has made our lives better. Do you agree or disagree?

Write about 120 words.

