

Writing an ESSAY

The Part 1 question will be an essay on a given topic. A set of notes on the topic will be provided, and will include three bullet points. Candidates will be asked to select two of the bullet points and to base their essay on those two points. They should not attempt to discuss more than two of the points, as this will lead to the essay being less developed than required. Candidates will also be asked to explain which of the two points is more important in a given respect, and to give reasons for their opinion.

Candidates will be given three short opinions related to the bullet points. They may, if they wish, use these to help develop their essay, but they should do so in their own words, as far as possible.

AN ESSAY is usually written for an academic tutor and may be a follow-up to an activity, such as attending a panel discussion or watching a documentary. It should be well organised, with an introduction, clear development, and an appropriate conclusion.

The main purpose of an essay in the Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) Writing paper is to underline relevant salient issues on a topic, and to support an argument with subsidiary points and reasons.

HINTS

- **PLANNING**

Use the task input to help you plan but try to avoid copying phrases from the input in Part 1. Use your own words.

- **INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION**

- Effective introductory and concluding paragraphs. In the introduction, state the topic clearly, give brief outline of the issue, saying why it is important or why people have different opinions about it.

- DO NOT express your opinion at the beginning of your essay (develop your essay in such a way that it guides the reader to the conclusion you draw).

- DO give your opinion in the final paragraph.

- **SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAPHS**

- Structure your argument. Each new paragraph has one main idea, stated in a topic sentence.

- Include relevant details to support the main idea: these might include examples, rhetorical questions (do not overdo it), controversial or surprising statements... If you include a drawback, give a possible

- **GENERAL**

- DO use a relatively formal register and an objective tone. Do not be too emotional.

- Remember to use linking adverbials to organise your ideas and to make it easy for the reader to follow your argument.

- In the exam, allow yourself time to check your grammar, spelling and punctuation thoroughly. solution, too.

Your class has attended a lecture on the action governments can take to make sure cultural heritage is preserved for future generations. You have made the notes below.

Priorities for governments aiming to preserve cultural heritage

- increase funding for museums.
- protect old buildings.
- teach the importance of cultural heritage in schools.

Some opinions expressed in the discussion.

- *'Cultural heritage isn't just about buildings- it's about a way of life.'*
- *'It's the responsibility of the older generation to pass on a cultural heritage to the next generation.'*
- *'Museums are the best places to keep shared memories of a community.'*

Write an essay for your tutor, discussing two of the priorities in your notes.

You should explain which priority you think is more important, giving reasons to support your opinion. You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion but you should use your own words as far as possible.

Write your essay in 220-260 words in an appropriate style.