

Cambridge English Mock Test

Name and surname _____

Age _____

CPE (C2) Writing – Essay

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answer.

Write your answer in **240 – 280 words**.



TEXT 1

THE VALUE OF TRAVELLING

Travelling has long been considered an important part of personal development. By visiting unfamiliar places, individuals are exposed to different cultures, traditions and ways of life. Such experiences can challenge preconceived ideas and encourage people to become more open-minded. Moreover, travelling often requires individuals to adapt to unexpected situations, communicate with strangers and solve practical problems, all of which can contribute to greater independence and confidence.

In an increasingly interconnected world, international travel may also improve career prospects. Employers frequently value candidates who demonstrate cultural awareness, flexibility and the ability to communicate across cultural boundaries. Furthermore, travelling can provide opportunities to learn languages and establish international connections.

However, the benefits of travelling depend largely on how people approach it. Simply visiting popular tourist attractions may offer little meaningful cultural understanding. To gain genuine insight, travellers need to engage with local communities and make an effort to understand the places they visit.



TEXT 2

TRAVEL: AN OVERRATED EXPERIENCE?

Although travelling is often presented as an essential life experience, its value should not be exaggerated. International tourism can be expensive, and not everyone has the financial resources or free time to travel extensively. Suggesting that travelling is necessary for personal growth may unfairly disadvantage those who cannot afford it.

Furthermore, the environmental consequences of mass tourism are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Air travel contributes to carbon emissions, while overcrowded destinations may experience pollution, rising living costs and damage to natural environments. In some places, local residents are pushed out of their neighbourhoods as businesses increasingly cater to tourists.

Critics also argue that travelling does not automatically make people more knowledgeable or tolerant. Some visitors remain within familiar social groups, make little effort to understand local customs and return home with the same assumptions they had before. Personal development can equally take place through reading, education, volunteering or meaningful interactions with people from different backgrounds.

Ultimately, the quality of an experience matters more than the number of countries someone has visited.



WRITING TASK

Write an **essay** in which you:

- Summarise the main arguments presented in both texts.
- Evaluate the extent to which travelling contributes to personal development.
- Give your own opinion, supporting it with reasons and examples.

Write **240 – 280 words**.



CPE WRITING TIP

For a strong C2 essay, avoid simply repeating the texts. Compare their arguments, evaluate their strengths and limitations, and develop your own position using precise vocabulary, complex grammatical structures and a formal academic style.



C2 Essay

Useful Vocabulary & Phrases



1. INTRODUCING THE TOPIC

Use these phrases to begin your essay.

- It is widely acknowledged that ...
- There is considerable debate surrounding ...
- The question of whether ... remains contentious.
- In an increasingly interconnected world, ...
- The perceived benefits of ... have come under scrutiny.
- Few would dispute the fact that ...
- It is often argued that ...
- Recent years have seen growing interest in ...
- The issue of ... is a topic of great importance today.

2. SUMMARISING THE TEXTS

Use these phrases to present the main ideas.

- Both texts address the issue of ...
- The first text emphasises ..., whereas the second ...
- While the former highlights ..., the latter draws attention to ...
- Both authors acknowledge ..., albeit from different perspectives.
- The texts offer contrasting viewpoints on ...
- A central argument in the first text is that ...
- The second text takes a more critical stance towards ...
- Both texts agree that ...
- Overall, the texts highlight ...

3. EXPRESSING ADVANTAGES

Use these phrases to discuss the positives.

- To reap the benefits of ...
- To broaden one's horizons
- To foster greater cultural awareness
- To cultivate independence and resilience
- To challenge deeply ingrained assumptions
- To gain first-hand experience of ...
- To enhance personal development
- To provide valuable opportunities for ...
- To improve career prospects
- To encourage tolerance and understanding
- To promote intercultural communication
- To develop new skills and perspectives

4. EXPRESSING DISADVANTAGES

Use these phrases to discuss the negatives.

- To come at a considerable cost
- To place an unnecessary strain on ...
- To have far-reaching consequences
- To exacerbate existing inequalities
- To contribute to environmental degradation
- To undermine the quality of life of ...
- To lead to over-commercialisation
- To result in superficial engagement
- To be inaccessible to many people
- To cause damage to local communities
- To generate carbon emissions
- To create unrealistic expectations

5. EVALUATING ARGUMENTS

Use these phrases to show your analysis.

- This argument is particularly compelling because ...
- This perspective is not without merit.
- This claim warrants closer examination.
- The argument is somewhat undermined by ...
- This overlooks the fact that ...
- The validity of this argument depends largely on ...
- It would be misleading to assume that ...
- This raises legitimate concerns regarding ...
- The argument is persuasive to the extent that ...
- This perspective fails to take into account ...
- While this argument has some merit, ...

6. GIVING YOUR OWN OPINION

Use these phrases to state and support your view.

- From my perspective, ...
- I would argue that ...
- In my view, ...
- I am inclined to agree with the view that ...
- What matters most is not ..., but rather ...
- The extent to which ... depends on ...
- It is reasonable to suggest that ...
- I would contend that ...
- While I recognise the validity of ..., I believe that ...
- In my opinion, the best approach would be ...
- Having considered both sides, I am convinced that ...

7. LINKING WORDS & PHRASES

Use these to connect your ideas.

- Furthermore
- Moreover
- In addition to this
- Not to mention the fact that ...
- However
- Nevertheless
- Conversely
- Be that as it may
- While it is true that ...
- Despite this ...
- Admittedly
- Granted
- To illustrate this ...
- A case in point is ...
- This is particularly evident in ...
- Consequently
- As a result
- This may give rise to ...
- Ultimately
- On balance
- All things considered
- The issue is not so much ... as ...

8. USEFUL C2 VOCABULARY

Use this advanced vocabulary in your essay.

compelling	very interesting or persuasive
intriguing	interesting and mysterious
profound	deep or significant
enduring	continuing for a long time
transformative	causing significant change
impeccable	perfect; without mistakes
underwhelming	less impressive than expected
superficial	lacking depth
intrinsic	belonging naturally to something
far-reaching	having a wide or significant effect
unprecedented	never having happened before
meticulous	extremely careful and precise
detrimental	causing harm or damage
paramount	more important than anything else
resilience	the ability to recover from difficulties
fulfillment	a feeling of satisfaction or achievement

9. C2 GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

Use these advanced structures to add variety.

- **Not only ... but also ...**
Not only can travelling broaden one's horizons, but it can also foster independence.
- **Despite / In spite of + noun or -ing**
Despite facing considerable difficulties, many people continue to travel.
- **Were it not for ...**
Were it not for the environmental consequences, travel might be seen as entirely positive.
- **The extent to which ... depends on ...**
The extent to which travelling contributes to personal growth depends on the individual.
- **What makes ... particularly ... is ...**
What makes travel particularly valuable is the opportunity to learn from different cultures.
- **Not so much ... as ...**
Personal development is not so much about the number of countries visited as the depth of the experience.

How to Write a C2 Essay

STEP BY STEP GUIDE

CLEAR IDEAS
BETTER ENGLISH
HIGHER SCORES

Plan → Write →
Review → Succeed ♥

You
can
do it! ♥

1 READ THE TASK CAREFULLY



- Identify the topic and task type (essay, article, review, etc.).
- Find out what you need to do (summarise, evaluate, give your opinion).
- Check the word limit (e.g. 240 – 280 words).
- Underline key words and make sure you understand both texts.

TIP:

Spend 3–5 minutes reading and thinking before you start writing.

2 ANALYSE THE TEXTS



- Read both texts and note the main arguments.
- Identify the writer's attitude (positive, negative or balanced).
- Look for key ideas, supporting examples and any contrasting viewpoints.
- Make brief notes in your own words.

3 PLAN YOUR ESSAY (5–8 MINUTES)



- Organise your ideas into paragraphs.
- Decide what you will include in each paragraph:
 - **Introduction** – general topic + thesis
 - **Main body 1** – summary of Text 1
 - **Main body 2** – summary of Text 2
 - **Main body 3** – evaluation and your own opinion
 - **Conclusion** – final thoughts

USE A SIMPLE PLAN:

- ✓ 4–5 key points
- ✓ Useful vocabulary
- ✓ Linking words
- ✓ Your opinion

4 WRITE THE INTRODUCTION



- Paraphrase the topic in your own words.
- Introduce the issue in a general way.
- State what the texts discuss.
- Give a clear thesis statement (your overall view).

EXAMPLE:

The impact of travel on personal development is widely debated. While one text highlights its many benefits, the other questions its true value. This essay will summarise both perspectives before offering my own view.

5 WRITE THE MAIN BODY PARAGRAPHS



Paragraph 1 – Summary of Text 1

- Write the main points from the first text in your own words.
- Focus on the key arguments and examples.
- Avoid copying directly from the text.



Paragraph 2 – Summary of Text 2

- Write the main points from the second text.
- Show how it contrasts with the first text.
- Again, use your own words.



Paragraph 3 – Evaluation and your opinion

- Compare the two texts.
- Evaluate the arguments (which are stronger/weaker and why).
- Give your own opinion with reasons and examples.
- Use advanced vocabulary and linking phrases.

USE LINKING PHRASES:

- Furthermore,
- However,
- In contrast,
- While it is true that ...
- Nevertheless,
- On the other hand,
- This suggests that ...
- Ultimately,
- On balance,
- All things considered, ...

6 WRITE THE CONCLUSION



- Summarise your main points.
- Restate your overall opinion (in different words).
- End with a balanced and thoughtful final comment.

EXAMPLE:

In conclusion, while travelling can undoubtedly enrich our lives, its value should not be overstated. In my view, the key lies not in the number of places we visit, but in the depth and quality of the experience and the lessons we take from it.

7 CHECK AND IMPROVE



- Check your answer is within the word limit (240 – 280 words).
- Make sure your ideas are clear and well organised.
- Use a range of advanced vocabulary and complex structures.
- Avoid repetition and informal language.
- Check for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
- Ensure you have a balanced and well-argued essay.

8

FINAL TIPS FOR A HIGHER SCORE



- Answer all parts of the task.
- Use your own words.
- Show that you can think critically, not just summarise.
- Use a range of complex sentences and precise vocabulary.
- Keep a formal and academic tone.
- Give a clear, well-supported opinion.
- Make your essay coherent and well-structured.

Start here: