2 BAT — WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY

Express out thoughts about a matter. Start
Back up your opinion with details and examples.
Semi-formal language. Do not use colloquial expressions. Contractions are acceptable, but try to avoid them.
An opinion essay has the same structure as
- a for and against essay
- a pros and cons essay
- an advantages and disadvantages essay
- a discussion essay

INTRODUCTION **Introduce the topic (general tendency, present situation)** **Personal opinion is optional.** **We can also use questions.**	**People often say that** the teenage years are the best years of your life. **However, I do not agree with the statement**. **It is generally considered that** dogs are the best pets. **I absolutely agree with this.** **It is worldwide known** that big cities provide more services than small villages. **However,** is life better in bigger cities? **It is true that, generally speaking,** man has neglected nature. **We have proofs of this every day:** some people abandon their pets, we destroy entire woods for our purposes, we endanger species, and we don't protect our environment.

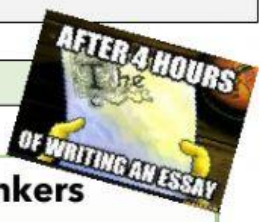
PARAGRAPH 2 **Develop present situation / tendency.** **Give a reason to support your opinion.** **Give clear examples.** 	**Firstly, most** teenagers have little independence. **In the first place,** dogs are loyal and affectionate. **To begin with,** big cities provide a big quantity of services, and that is a great advantage you don't have in a rural area **It is clear from the facts that...** **Today there is the general agreement that** ..... is threatening our planet **There is a considerable disagreement among experts about**... **The data gathered suggest that...** **There is an overwhelming evidence that...** **It would not be advisable to...** **I personally think that...** **I find it hard to see why...** **I certainly don't believe that...** **On the one hand,...** **The major downside of this method is...**

PARAGRAPH 3 **Give a second reason with examples to support your opinion.**	**Secondly,** teenagers may not have the responsibilities adults have.,.. **In the second place, experts say that** pets improve our mental and physical health. **Another argument in favor is...** **On the other hand,...** **I can also say, that I personally like...**

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CONCLUSION **Concluding the essay (summarize your ideas / a warning / consequences / reinforcement of your ideas)**	**All in all, I feel that...** **On the whole, I believe...** **It is of outmost interest that this situation starts changing for good** **It is high time governments and citizens work together in order to ...** **In conclusion, I strongly recommend....** **To conclude with, I can say I am totally convinced that** living / going... **To make a long story short, we humans must start accepting our responsibilities** and protect all living things around us. **And last but not least of my arguments,** ...

WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY: EXTRA TIPS



+ Use formal language. Phrases
Therefore, it can be seen that...
In consequence, this situation suggests that...
Another key thing to remember ...
Having said that,...
With this in mind,...

+ Use formal language. Linkers
In order to
Furthermore,...
Similarly, ... = Likewise,...
However,...
On the one hand,...
On the other hand,...
Despite this,
Provided that ...

+ Give examples.
For instance,...
To give an illustration,...
..., such as ... ,

+ Using adverbs of degree
Totally
Really
Definitely
Absolutely
Very
Significantly
Rather
Fairly
Quite

+ Opinion phrases
As far as I am concerned,...
It seems to me that...
What I agree with the most is...
I feel very strongly that...
It is clear to me that...
Naturally, I am convinced that...
To my mind,...
From my point of view,...
I hold the opinion that...
I dare say that...
I have no doubt that...
Personally speaking,...

+ Agreeing / Disagreeing
I totally agree with the idea of...
This may be partially right.
However,...
I absolutely share this view
That is not necessarily true.

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+ Extra links
https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/advanced-c1/an-opinion-essay

TOPICS FOR AN OPINION / PROS AND CONS / ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES / DISCUSSION ESSAY

When writing your opinion, start with a title. This title may pose a question or is simply the topic given.
Most of these topics are from previous years' PAU exams.

TOPICS

1. Are love locks a romantic tradition or are they a menace?
2. Are social networks anti-social?
3. Are we now more bad-mannered than 20 years ago?
4. Do you think reality shows are a good entertainment?
5. Online communication is preferable to face-to-face communication. Discuss
6. Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
7. Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.
8. Which would you choose: a high-paying job with long hours that would give you little time with family and friends or a lower-paying job with shorter hours that would give you more time with family and friends? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.
9. Technology has made the world a better place to live. Advantages and disadvantages of these new technologies.
10. Are famous people treated unfairly by the media? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives?
11. In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 5□, while in others people can work until they are 65 or older. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment?
12. Are becoming increasingly dependent on computers? They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly plane. In what other things do you think they will be used for in future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?
13. We are not aware of the extent of the damage we are inflicting on our planet, and the global warming is a fact. There are people, however, who are in denial and say that global warming is a hoax
14. Should citizens in our country be able to vote at the age of 16?

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15. The #BlackLivesMatter movement is dedicated to fighting racism and anti-black violence, especially in the form of police brutality, and demands that society value the lives and humanity of black people as much as it values the lives and humanity of white people. Do you think such a movement is necessary today? Write an opinion essay.
16. Write a for and against essay about the use of animals in medical research
17. Some people believe that making a lot of money and being famous are the true signs of happiness. Do you agree? Write an opinion essay.
18. Animal activists all over Europe have organized campaigns against displaying live animals in zoos because they say that animals in captivity suffer from boredom and stress, and that keeping animals in cages is cruel. As a result, many European cities are considering closing their zoos. What do you think? Is it cruel to keep animals in a zoo? Write a for-and-against essay for zoos.
19. What do you think of the environmental impact of fashion? Do we need to buy new clothes all the time? Write an opinion essay discussing the effects that fast fashion, like that promoted by chains like Zara and Primark, has on the environment
20. Governments often try to influence what people choose to eat or drink by taxing some foods and beverages more than others. For example, sugary drinks have an extra tax on them in many places (Catalonia included), and the sale of alcoholic drinks is controlled by governments in most countries and highly taxed in many. The reading comprehension text suggests that meat should be taxed more in order to reduce the amount of meat people eat. Should governments try to influence our dietary habits? Write a for-and-against essay.
21. Reality television is extremely popular in many countries. Why are reality shows so successful? Write an opinion essay
22. Do you buy music or do you pirate it? Some people argue that we should put an end to music piracy, as it generates huge losses for the record companies and music artists. Others claim that the record companies already have enough money, and that the prices they charge are too expensive. Write a for-and-against essay in which you state the pros and cons of paying for music
23. Can we judge others by the way they look? Does a person's appearance influence his or her character? Write an opinion essay.
24. Next academic year you may be living in a shared flat with other students or in a university residence, or maybe you'll be staying in your own house with your family. Write a 'for and against' essay explaining the advantages and disadvantages of living away from home while you're a university student.

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