



O'level
Foundation
Week 23

The Write Tribe

**ADVANTAGE /
DISADVANTAGE**



What is needed for an Advantage/ Disadvantage essay?

- 1 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages
- 2 ☐ Give a range of examples
- 3 ☐ Use the PEEL / TEAL format
- 4 ☐ Do NOT keep repeating the words in the question – use synonyms
- 5 ☐ INTRO: Unpack the question + State all your points
- 6 ☐ CONCLUSION: Restate points + End on a hopeful note: If... then...

3. ADVANTAGE/DISADVANTAGE:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using technology in the classroom?

There is an ongoing debate about the effectiveness of using technology in the classroom. Some people believe that it improves learning by **making teaching more convenient** and **increasing engagement among students**. However, the disadvantages cannot be ignored either. Using technology in the classroom may result in **students being more easily distracted**. Furthermore, **technology is not always reliable**.

Firstly, **using technology makes teaching in the classroom more convenient**. Instead of having to write lengthy solutions or information on the whiteboard, teachers can now project the PowerPoint slides with the click of a button. This makes the teacher's job less tedious and allows them to use that time and effort to explain concepts to students. With the use of technology in the classroom, precious time is saved and learning can be improved.

In addition, **students would be more engaged in the classroom with the use of technology**. Students generally have a short attention span and are easily bored. However, through the use of technology, lessons can be more interesting for students. For example, teachers today often use online quiz platforms like Kahoot and Mentimeter to test students' understanding of a concept. Students would need to use their smartphones to give their answers. The use of technology allows students to be more involved during lessons, and hence they are more likely to pay attention and learn better.

While there are indeed advantages to use technology in the classroom, the disadvantages should be considered as well. When there are more devices being used in the classroom, **there is a higher chance of students being distracted**. If students are allowed to use their smartphones to do research, they may end up messaging their friends or surfing the Internet instead of focusing on the lesson. Even though teachers may try to monitor the use of technology in the classroom, it is still extremely common to see students secretly using their



smartphones in the classroom. Technology can thus prove to be a distraction for students and may even hinder their learning.

Furthermore, **technology is not always reliable**. While we cannot deny that it makes our lives more convenient, it sometimes fails us too. Many teachers complain that the projector systems in the classroom are faulty, or that the sound system does not work when they are trying to show videos. If they have planned to use technology for their lessons and the technology does not work, time would be wasted and they may have to adapt on the spot to deliver the lesson. Since not all teachers and students are experts in using technology, defects in hardware or technological issues may pose problems in the classroom.





Ultimately, technology can bring about both advantages and disadvantages to students' learning. It is the responsibility of teachers to make use of technology to improve learning by monitoring students and also being prepared in cases where the technology does not work. Students should also try their best to be attentive in class. If both teachers and students do their part, technology can be a useful tool in education to enhance learning.

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| TOPIC: What are the advantages and disadvantages of smart devices? |
| INTRODUCTION |
| A. Background information |
| 1. Smart devices are becoming increasingly in use. |
| 2. Technology has developed so much that one gadget has many uses. People use their smart devices as a phone, calendar, email and even entertainment. As such, people are very dependent on smart devices. |
| B. State Advantages / Disadvantages |
| 1. On one hand, smart devices are useful tools for productivity. |
| 2. On the other hand, smart devices can be a huge distraction with its endless opportunities for entertainment. |
| In this essay, we shall explore the advantages and disadvantages of smart devices. |







TEAL / PEEL

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH 1 - ADVANTAGES

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Smart devices helps with productivity |
|  | The plethora of apps for productivity such as reminders, to-do lists, alarms are nifty little tools to boost productivity. One can stay organised with all these virtual tools in one device. Gone are the days where one needs to buy physical diaries or planners to stay productive. |
|  | For example, some of these applications come with alarms to remind you of important tasks throughout the day. Thanks to this function, one can always stay on top of the game. |
|  | Hence, in this way, smart devices are helpful aids to make one more productive. |

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH 2 - DISADVANTAGES

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Smart devices are a huge distraction. |
|  | There is plenty of entertainment on a smart device. From games to social media, there are plenty of opportunities to be distracted. People can spend hours on applications like Youtube, watching one video after another. Many of these applications are designed specifically to hook people. Social media is also another source of never ending entertainment with people bombarding your feed. |
|  | For example, the constant pinging from social media can divert your attention from your work. Without self discipline, it is hard not to concentrate. |
|  | This is precisely why smart devices are a huge distraction. |

| CONCLUSION | |
|-------------------|--|
| RESTATE POINTS | Ultimately, smart devices have plenty of tools and functions to boost productivity. However, its never ending source of entertainment proves to be a distraction |
| IF THEN | Smart devices are a double edged sword. It is in the hands of the wielder to bring good use to it. If a person has self discipline and can control his urges, then smart devices are a wonderful tool to be more productive. However, if the person is ill-disciplined, smart devices can bring him down the rabbit hole of distraction. |
| FINAL IMPRESSION | At the end of the day, though smart devices have clearly advantages and disadvantages, it is purely up to the individual to make good use of it. |

Topic: What are the advantages and disadvantages of using public transport in Singapore? (2015)

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