

# CAE – Essay Writing

Look at the first main body paragraph of the sample essay.

*Schools and universities should offer students courses which provide them with qualifications which will attract potential employers. However, employers often complain that courses are too theoretical and do not teach students the practical skills they will need in the workplace. While I understand this viewpoint, I do not entirely share it. I believe that the purpose of education is primarily to develop critical thinking skills, including the ability to analyse and solve problems. These abilities will be useful throughout people's working lives. To achieve this, I do not think it matters whether someone studies history or theoretical physics as long as the right teaching methods are used. Students will then pick up the specific job skills they require very quickly once they are in full-time employment.*

Tick the features included:

**Main Body Paragraph 1** - the first main body paragraph which:

- deals with only one of the two methods chosen
- usually presents the method as being the best one / effective / in a positive light
- brings arguments supported by reasons and examples

Look at the second main body paragraph of the sample essay.

*It is often suggested that young people need to gain work experience in order to make an informed choice of university course and career. Although I believe this helps to focus students' minds on what working life will be like, generally speaking it is not possible for students to get a wide enough range of experience to be able to choose their career wisely.*

Tick the features included:

**Main Body Paragraph 2** - the first main body paragraph which:

- deals with only one of the two methods chosen
- usually presents the method as being less effective than the first one (at least one disadvantage clearly stated)
- brings arguments supported by reasons and examples

Choose the best reason and example to support the final argument in the paragraph:

- A. Teenagers often dream of having high-paying jobs.
- B. This is partly due to the limited time they have outside classes, but also because it would be difficult to set up work experience programmes that could address every possible field teenagers might show interest in.
- C. This is partly due to the limited time they have outside classes. If a student spends roughly seven hours at school every day, dedicates a few more to homework, then sets some time aside for leisure time or pursuing a hobby, it is little wonder that they might not find the necessary time to try their hand at a variety of jobs they may be interested in.

## Main body paragraphs

Look at the two main body paragraphs. Are they linked in any way i.e. did Cristina naturally jump from her ideas on courses and qualifications to her ideas on work experience?

*Schools and universities should offer students courses which provide them with qualifications which will attract potential employers. However, employers often complain that courses are too theoretical and do not teach students the practical skills they will need in the workplace. While I understand this viewpoint, I do not entirely share it. I believe that the purpose of education is primarily to develop critical thinking skills, including the ability to analyse and solve problems. These abilities will be useful throughout people's working lives. To achieve this, I do not think it matters whether someone studies history or theoretical physics as long as the right teaching methods are used. Students will then pick up the specific job skills they require very quickly once they are in full-time employment.*

*It is often suggested that young people need to gain work experience in order to make an informed choice of university course and career. Although I believe this helps to focus students' minds on what working life will be like, generally speaking it is not possible for students to get a wide enough range of experience to be able to choose their career wisely. This is partly due to the limited time they have outside classes. If a student spends roughly seven hours at school every day, dedicates a few more to homework, then sets some time aside for leisure time or pursuing a hobby, it is little wonder that they might not find the necessary time to try their hand at a variety of jobs they may be interested in.*

How could she achieve this? Choose the best option:

- A. But even before they enter the work force, teenagers should have some knowledge that could help them decide upon a job.
- B. Although this first method is ideal, I will also analyse another one.