

FOR & AGAINST / ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

Read the following model. Note the underlined expressions/phrases linking ideas in the composition.

For and Against the Bagrut Exams

The bagrut exams are a controversial issue. Some people say students should continue to take them, while others say that they should be cancelled.

On the one hand, the Bagrut exams are the best way to check the students' knowledge and abilities. All the students from the country take the same exam at the same time. Of course, all the students are tested on the same material. Therefore, the Bagrut exams are objective and really test what the students have learned.

On the other hand, students actually learn only for the Bagrut exams and not for themselves. So after the exams are finished, the students forget all the material they have learned. In addition, learning for the exams puts the students under pressure. In some cases, the students may forget everything at the time of the exam.

In conclusion, the Bagrut exams have both advantages and disadvantages. So until we may come up with a new system, we should keep them.

Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3	Paragraph 4
Introduction – <i>state the issue you are going to discuss.</i>	Arguments for – <i>write a list of points to support the statement in the question.</i>	Arguments against – <i>contrast the points which oppose the statement.</i>	Conclusion – <i>write a summary or/and present your opinions.</i>

Useful connectors:

To begin with, however,

On the one hand, on the other hand

In conclusion, in short, to sum up, to conclude

_____ is a controversial issue. Some people say _____, while others claim that _____.

On the one hand, _____.
For instance, _____. Therefore, _____.

On the other hand, _____. So,
_____. In addition, _____.

In conclusion, _____ has / have both advantages and disadvantages. Yet I believe that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. So _____.