Writing – Essay Unit 1

PART 1

TRAINING

- THE ESSAY TASK IN PART 2 TESTS YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE AN 'OPINION ESSAY' FOR THE TEACHER OF AN ENGLISH CLASS.
- YOU ARE GIVEN A STATEMENT AND YOU CAN CHOOSE TO AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH IT, OR DISCUSS THE ARGUMENTS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST IT. YOU SHOULD WRITE BETWEEN 120 AND 150 WORDS.
- YOU SHOULD ALLOW ABOUT 40 MINUTES FOR THIS TASK, INCLUDING TIME AT THE END TO CHECK YOUR WORK.
- YOUR ESSAY MUST BE WELL ORGANISED INTO PARAGRAPHS, WITH GOOD LINKING EXPRESSIONS.
- AS YOUR READER WILL BE THE TEACHER, YOU SHOULD USE FAIRLY FORMAL LANGUAGE.
- YOU SHOULD WRITE FULL SENTENCES WITH CORRECT GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION, USING A GOOD RANGE OF LANGUAGE WITH ACCURATE SPELLING.

USEFUL LANGUAGE: ORDERING POINTS OR REASONS; ADDING INFORMATION

A. Where would you use these linking expressions? Put them under the correct headings.

In conclusion, Last but not least, To sum up, On balance, To conclude,	Next, Then, Secondly, Finally,	~~Firstly~~; To begin with, Lastly, First of all,

For the first point	For further points	For the last point	In the conclusion
Firstly			

B. Some linking expressions are used at the beginning of a sentence, some are not. Circle the correct words in italics.

1. In the city there are more places to go. A/So/Too, they stay open later.
2. Working in a coal mine is a hard job. Furthermore/As well, it can be dangerous.
3. Travelling by train is more relaxing than driving. It is better for the environment, besides/too.
4. You have to find somewhere to play. As well/As well as that, you need to buy all the sports equipment.
5. In winter, the nights are much longer. Too/In addition, it is a lot colder then.
6. Making your own furniture is an enjoyable hobby. It saves money, as well/in addition.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

FOCUSING ON A STATEMENT; TEXT ORGANISATION

C. Look at this exam task. Do you agree or disagree with the statement as:

You have had a class discussion on the subject of animals. Your teacher has now asked you to write an essay giving your opinion on the following statement.
It is cruel to keep animals in zoos.
Write your essay.

D. Quickly read the essays on page 30 written by strong First Certificate candidates, A and B (language errors have been corrected). Ignore the gaps for the moment. Decide whether each essay includes:

- Only arguments in favour of the statement
- Only arguments against the statement
- Arguments both for and against the statement

E. Now read the essays again and complete questions 1-10 with the following notes. You can use the same note more than once.

- Writer's own opinion
- Gives an example
- Sums up points already made
- Expression that links points
- Gives a reason
- Tells the reader what to expect
- Contrast link

Essay A

Writer's own opinion	In my opinion, keeping animals in zoos is not as cruel as people say - sometimes it is even useful - for three main reasons. First of all, they take care of the animals, giving them the best food. The animals are cleaned every day and they live in good conditions. There is a large number of scientists that care for the animals, for instance if they catch a disease. Secondly there are some animals that are disappearing because they have been hunted without any control. At the zoo they are away from these hunters, so they are safe and it is possible to prevent them disappearing. Finally there is also an educational reason. Children can see different animals from all over the world alive and from my point of view this is the best way of learning. They also learn to take care of them and the most important thing, to love them. In conclusion, I believe keeping animals in a zoo is no more cruel than keeping them at home. The only important thing is to care for them.	(1) Tells the reader what to expect (2) _____ _____ _____ (3) _____ _____ _____ (4) _____ _____ _____ Sums up points already made

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Essay B

Outlines the background	Keeping animals in zoos is an important issue today because there are many people in favour of animal rights. In this essay I intend to examine the arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos.	(5) _____
Gives a reason	One of the strongest arguments in favour is the fact that children can see animals from other countries. Consequently, visiting zoos can help them learn about nature. Another advantage is that it can help protect some kinds of animals, which might be in danger of extinction. Furthermore, it is good entertainment far people.	Says which side comes first
(7) _____	On the other hand, there are several arguments against it. To begin with, it is known that animals in zoos suffer from loneliness since they are not living in their natural environment. Secondly, they do not behave as they would do if they were free, because they have to get used to a new way of living, even if they have been born in the zoo. Lastly, people can use them to carry out experiments.	(6) _____
(8) _____		
(9) _____	On balance, I am not in favour of keeping animals in captivity because, as I have shown, that is like prison, which is very sad.	(10) _____

EXAM TIP

- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND THE STATEMENT. DO YOU AGREE WITH IT?
- DECIDE WHETHER TO WRITE FOR OR AGAINST THE STATEMENT, OR WHETHER TO GIVE ARGUMENTS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST.
- SPEND A FEW MINUTES MAKING A PLAN. IF YOU ARE GOING TO WRITE FOR AND AGAINST, LIST YOUR POINTS IN TWO COLUMNS SO YOU CAN BALANCE THE ESSAY.
- WRITE A SHORT INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, COMMENTING GENERALLY ON THE TOPIC, E.G. THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING, SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SAYING ... YOU CAN GIVE YOUR OWN OPINION HERE AND/OR IN YOUR LAST PARAGRAPH.
- WRITE IN A FAIRLY FORMAL STYLE, INCLUDING LINKING EXPRESSIONS FROM USEFUL LANGUAGE ON PAGE 1.
- WRITE A PARAGRAPH FOR EACH MAIN POINT, GIVING REASONS AND POSSIBLY ALSO EXAMPLES.
- GIVE YOUR OPINION BY SUMMARISING YOUR MAIN POINTS IN A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH.
- CHECK YOUR ESSAY FOR MISTAKES – AND THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN AT LEAST 120 WORDS.

F. Study the exam question on the next page and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

EXAM TIP

- IN A 'FOR AND AGAINST' ESSAY, IT IS USUALLY CLEARER TO WRITE THE 'FOR' PARAGRAPHS FIRST AND THEN THE 'AGAINST' PARAGRAPHS, BEFORE CONCLUDING.
- IF YOU WANT TO THINK OF POINTS YOU DISAGREE WITH, IMAGINE WHAT SOMEONE WHO DISAGREES WOULD SAY.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXAM TASK

You have had a class discussion on TV programmes. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

There is far too much sport on television.

Write your **essay.**

G. Study the next exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have had a discussion in your class about climate change. Your English teacher has now asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

We cannot prevent the Earth's climate from changing.

Write your **essay.**

H. Study the next exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have had a discussion in your English class about computer games. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

Playing computer games is a waste of time.

Write your **essay.**

I. Study the next exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have recently had a class discussion on the food we eat. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

Much of the food sold in supermarkets is not good for us.

Write your **essay.**

J. Study the next exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have had a class discussion about the relationship between two of the characters in the book. Your English teacher has now given you this essay for homework.

In what ways does the relationship between the two main characters change during the story?
Write your **essay.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing – Article

Unit 2

PART 2

TRAINING

- THE ARTICLE TASK IN PART 2 TESTS YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE AN INTERESTING TEXT FOR A MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER.
- YOU MAY NEED TO WRITE DESCRIPTIONS, GIVE EXAMPLES, MAKE COMMENTS OR GIVE YOUR OPINIONS.
- YOU ARE WRITING FOR READERS WHO ARE ALREADY INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC.
- YOU SHOULD WRITE 120–180 WORDS.

USEFUL LANGUAGE: STRONG EXPRESSIONS

A. Where would you use these linking expressions? Put them under the correct headings expressions. Replace the words in *italics* with the adjectives in the box.

awful - enormous - essential - exhausted - fantastic - fascinated - filthy - freezing - furious - terrified

1. By midnight, we were completely *tired*.
2. When I found out about it, I was *angry* with her.
3. The water was *cold*, so Holly swam quickly.
4. We all had a *really good* day at the theme park.
5. Matt was *afraid*, but he tried not to show it.
6. There are two *big* mountains on the island.
7. After playing rugby, Joe's shirt was *dirty*.
8. That nightclub is *bad*, the worst in town.
9. When you go diving, it is *important* to stay safe.
10. Visitors are *interested* by the ancient drawings.

B. Write a sentence of your own, using each of the words in the box.

FOCUSING ON INSTRUCTIONS

C. Look at this exam task. What two things does the writer have to do?

You have seen this announcement on an English-language website.

My favourite sport

Tell us why you enjoy your favourite sport so much, and what people should do if they want to take it up.

We will publish the most interesting articles in the next few days.

Write your **article.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. Study these two articles written by First Certificate candidates (language errors have been corrected). For each question 1-12, write Yes or No under A, B or both A and B. Where possible, give a reason or example.

Which article	A	B
1. has an interesting title and introduction?	No. Title too similar to task, dull intro	Yes, they catch readers' attention
2. deals with both parts of the task?		
3. is well organised into paragraphs?		
4. is written in an informal style?		
5. makes good use of linking words?		
6. uses a good range of vocabulary?		
7. uses a good range of structures?		
8. gives relevant examples?		
9. includes the writer's opinions?		
10. describes personal experiences?		
11. asks the reader a question?		
12. has an interesting ending?		

E. Which article, A or B, got a better mark, do you think?

Article A	Article B
MY CHOICE OF SPORT In this artice I would like to explain why I decided, one day, to take up a certain sport. First of all, doing some sport is good for your health. This is obvious, but which kind of sport suits you? If you want to combine exercise with enjoyment, I can recommend volleyball. One advantage is that you can play in a team, which can be really fantastic! Also, volleyball is never boring, compared to endless hours in the gym. For me, this game is an art where you have to use your skill and brain as well! The main advice to anyone who would like to try this sport is to protect your joints! You can get high-quality equipment for this sport everywhere. Secondly, you have to be cooperative with your teammates. Last but not least, enjoy yourself!	DIVING DEEP Are you too scared to try something new, something unusual which involves more risk than everyday sports? If not, go diving – you'll love it. I am a 21-year-old girl and I've been scuba diving for three years. It's not just a hobby for me; it's much more than that. At first everybody is terrified of sinking into a deep, dark sea, because anything can happen, at any time. But you can't keep thinking about this, otherwise you'll miss a different, magical world down there. Everybody says you can see all that on TV, but it's not the same. You have to see everything with your own eyes. It's wonderful when you discover something you have never seen before, such as a shark swimming. It is unbelievable. I suggest everyone try scuba diving at least once. It needs practice, maybe for three weeks, to be good at it, but a good instructor can help. You also have to buy your equipment. Ask somebody to help you if you don't know exactly what you need. It's well worth it. I just know that everyone who decides to go scuba-diving will have a fantastic time!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXAM TIP

- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS. DO YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE TOPIC TO WRITE AN ARTICLE?
- THINK ABOUT WHO YOUR READERS ARE AND WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO READ ABOUT.
- SPEND A FEW MINUTES MAKING A PLAN BASED ON ALL PARTS OF THE TASK, NOTING DOWN POINTS AND LANGUAGE FOR EACH PARAGRAPH. TRY TO INCLUDE SOME ADJECTIVES FROM USEFUL LANGUAGE ON PAGE 8.
- THINK OF A GOOD TITLE TO ATTRACT YOUR READERS' ATTENTION, AND AN INTERESTING INTRODUCTION TO MAKE THEM WANT TO KEEP READING.
- WRITE YOUR TEXT IN A LIVELY WAY THAT WILL HOLD THEIR INTEREST. YOU CAN DESCRIBE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND GIVE YOUR OWN OPINIONS.
- USE LANGUAGE THAT IS FAIRLY INFORMAL. TRY TO INCLUDE SOME INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS, E.G. IT'S WELL WORTH IT, AND PERHAPS QUESTIONS LIKE: WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ...
- MAKE THE ENDING INTERESTING BY ENCOURAGING READERS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE READ.
- CHECK YOUR ARTICLE FOR MISTAKES – AND THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN AT LEAST 120 WORDS.

EXAM TASK

F. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You recently saw this announcement in Transport 2020 magazine.

Readers are invited to write articles about the following:

Transport in the Future

How do you think people will travel in the future? What changes will there be and what differences will these make to the way we live?

The writer of the best article will receive a cash prize.

Write your **article.**

EXAM TIP

- PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THIS TASK BY READING ARTICLES IN ENGLISH IN MAGAZINES OR ON THE INTERNET.

G. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

The story includes a number of events in which somebody is in danger. Your English teacher has asked the class to write an article describing one of these events and saying how the person deals with it.

Write your **article.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

H. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

The story includes a number of events in which somebody is in danger. Your English teacher has asked the class to write an article describing one of these events and saying how the person deals with it.

Write your **article.**

I. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You see this announcement on a website that publishes humorous stories.

The funniest thing I have ever seen

Write and tell us what happened, where and when, and say why you found it so amusing. We will publish the best article on our site.

Write your **article.**

J. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You see this announcement in the magazine of an English summer school.

Summer sports

The school intends to offer sporting activities outside lesson times, so we would like to know which sports our students would prefer. Football, basketball, tennis, swimming and cycling have been suggested. Write an article.

- Telling us which two of these five sports you would like to play, and why
- Suggesting one other sport and saying why you think we should include it.

Write your **article.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS