

5.7 Writing

A for and against essay

1 Read the essay quickly and choose the best title.

- a Should we send people to Mars?
- b Is space exploration a good thing?
- c Which planet should we visit next?

1

1 *Many people believe* that the next step in space exploration is sending astronauts to Mars. It sounds exiting, but **2** _____ it?

2

3 _____, we might discover things we need on Earth, like oil or gas. **4** _____, we already know that there is a lot of methane gas on Mars, and it can be used to make plastic.

3

5 _____ we could discover new forms of life. **6** _____ there is frozen water on Mars and possibly even running water. This may mean there are other forms of life there.

7 _____, a manned mission to Mars would be incredibly expensive, at over \$50 billion. The spacecraft would need to take food, water, oxygen and medical supplies, and these things would have to be launched into space. **8** _____ we could spend this money on solving the problems we already have on Earth. **9** _____, it's very dangerous. We don't know the effects of being in space and of weightlessness on the human body for such a long period of time. In **10** _____, the possible human cost is too great a risk.

4

11 _____, while living on Mars might seem like a good idea, I think we have big problems to solve on Earth first.

2 Complete gaps 1–6 in the essay with phrases a–f.

- a For example
- b Many people believe
- c It seems
- d Another advantage is that
- e is it worth
- f On the one hand

3 Complete gaps 7–11 in the essay with phrases a–e.

- a my opinion
- b To sum up
- c I believe
- d On the other hand
- e Moreover

4 Look at the essay in Exercise 1 again and number the parts of it 1–4.

advantages conclusion
disadvantages introduction

5 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 **c** To sum **4** _____ The main
- 2 One reason for **5** _____ Finally, it could
- 3 Nowadays more and

- a disadvantage is a lack of technology.
- b be a stepping stone for further space exploration.
- c ~~up, I believe space exploration is a good idea.~~
- d doing this is to find another planet to live on.
- e more people believe we should travel in space.

6 Complete the notes with the words and phrases below.

dangerous expensive new forms population
problems to save

Should we spend money on finding another planet to live on?

For:

- *might not be able ¹to save this planet*
- *discover ² _____ of life*
- *growing ³ _____ on Earth and limited space*

Against:

- *too ⁴ _____ – billions of dollars*
- *⁵ _____ on Earth more urgent*
- *⁶ _____ – could die in space*

WRITING TIME

7 Write an essay answering the question in Exercise 6.

1 Find ideas

Make notes for your essay. Think about:

- a short introduction and conclusion.
- your reasons for and against, and your final decision.

2 Plan and write

- Organise your ideas into paragraphs. Use the essay in Exercise 1 to help you.
- Write a draft of your essay.

3 Check

- Check language: have you used linkers of addition?
- Check grammar: have you used any conditionals?
- Write the final version of your essay.

Self-check

Vocabulary

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. There is one extra word.

comet engine galaxy gravity orbit
satellite star

- 1 The jet _____ makes it fly very fast.
- 2 The recent mission sent a _____ into space to improve communication systems in Europe.
- 3 There are billions of stars in our _____.
- 4 The Earth takes one year to _____ the Sun.
- 5 The Sun is a giant _____.
- 6 _____ is what makes things fall to the ground.

2 Write the correct word for each definition.

- 1 the word for 1,000,000: a _____
- 2 someone who studies the stars: a _____
- 3 an icy rock travelling through space with a 'tail' of gas: c _____
- 4 ours has eight planets in it: s _____ s _____
- 5 the measurement of how wide something is: w _____
- 6 something you use to look at the stars: t _____
- 7 the measurement of how high something is: h _____
- 8 the Earth is one of these: p _____

3 Choose the correct option.

- 1 The Sun is around 150 million kilometres *from / away* Earth.
- 2 The satellite is 30 metres *length / long*.
- 3 They travel at 10,000 kilometres *the / an* hour.
- 4 It costs seven thousand, five hundred *or / and* twenty pounds.
- 5 The space mission cost two point *eight / eight hundred* million euros.
- 6 How *height / high* can modern planes fly?

Grammar

4 Choose the correct option.

- 1 If we *have / had* the money, we'd *buy* a car.
- 2 If I'm not too tired after school, I usually *go / would go* cycling in the park.
- 3 I wouldn't *meet / have met* Anna if I hadn't gone to the party.
- 4 Louis *won't come / will come* to the picnic unless the weather is good.
- 5 I wouldn't call Ann if I *am / were* you.
- 6 If my team *would win / wins* the championship, I'll dance in the street!
- 7 If we *had left / left* earlier, we wouldn't have missed the bus.
- 8 You break the sound barrier if you *travel / had travelled* faster than 340 metres per second.

5 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

I want to be an astronaut. I know it's very ambitious, but I'm sure if I work really hard, I ¹ _____ (achieve) my dream one day. If I have any free time, I ² _____ (study) Physics. When people ask me, 'What would you do if you ³ _____ (win) the lottery?', the answer is easy: I ⁴ _____ (travel) to space! I know I ⁵ _____ (not be) allowed to go unless I'm physically fit too, so I ⁶ _____ (play) sport. What about you? If you could do any job at all, what ⁷ _____ (you/do)?

Speaking

6 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The last _____ you need to do is take the photo.
a thing b problem c check
- 2 After a _____ minutes, check your emails.
a some b few c time
- 3 It's important _____ the lights when you leave.
a turn off b turning off c to turn off
- 4 Try _____ park in that road after 9 a.m.
a not to b don't to c don't
- 5 That _____ easy.
a sure b not c seems

YOUR SCORE

Vocabulary: ___/20 Speaking: ___/5
Grammar: ___/15 Total: ___/40

On the Portal

Extra Practice Activities: Self-check



LIVEWORKSHEETS