Prepare to write 1: Review useful language

In Writing Part 1, you need to show that you can use language appropriately to do things such as:

- Agreeing or disagreeing
- Giving opinions
- Giving information or explanations
- Giving reasons
- Giving examples
- Comparing and contrasting ideas and opinions
- Drawing conclusions

You should also use a range of suitable expressions to organise your essay and help your reader understand the connections between your ideas.

Look at the following phrases. Can you put them in the correct groups according to their function in an opinion essay? (The first one has been done for you as an example.)

- ~~In my opinion / view…~~
- However, …
- I partly / fully agree that…
- Although…
- In addition to this, …
- Firstly / Secondly / Thirdly …
- Moreover, …
- Finally…
- Consequently…
- In conclusion…
- Furthermore, …
- Another reason why…
- To sum up…
- I firmly believe that…
- What is more, …
- As a result…
- I personally feel that…
- First / Second of all…

Giving your own opinion	Structuring and sequencing your ideas	Adding ideas	Contrasting two ideas / examples / statements	Explaining
Example: In my opinion / view…				

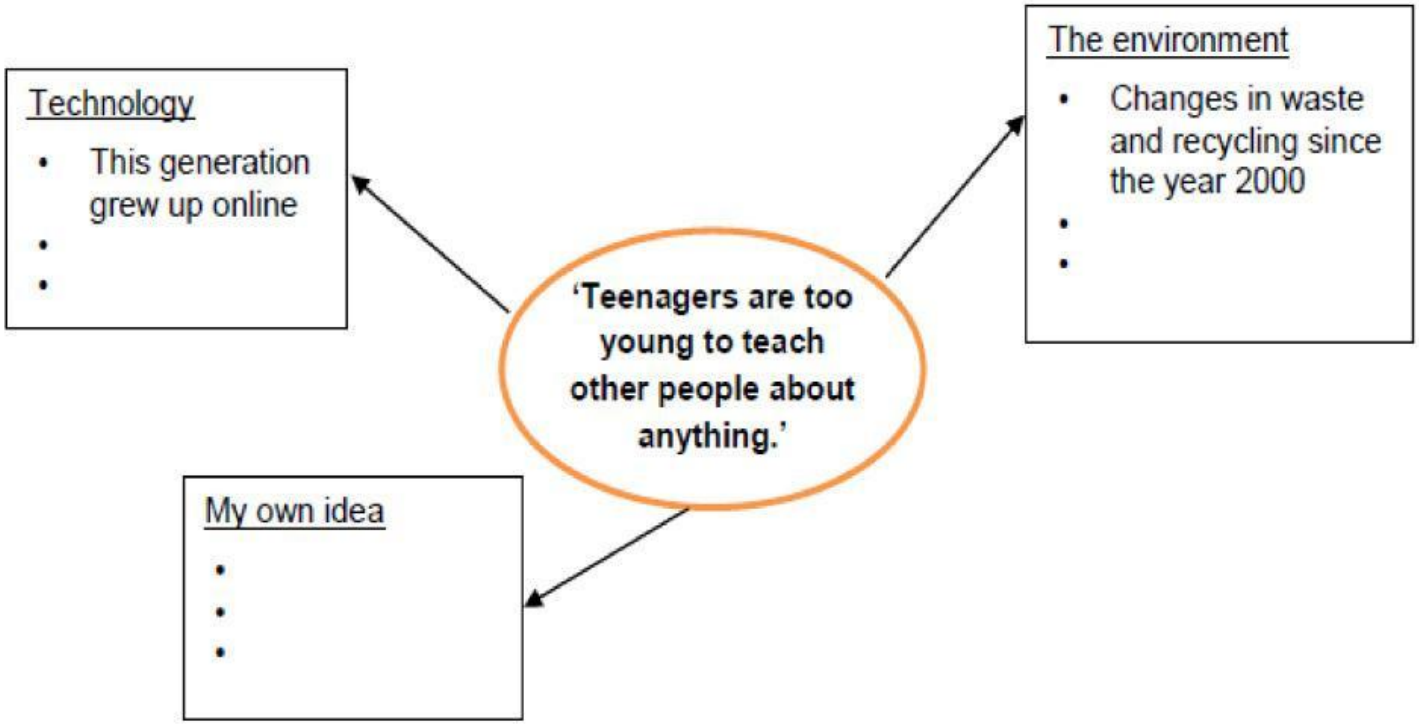
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Prepare to write 2: Generate and organise ideas

1. Imagine that you have been given the following essay task:

> **'Teenagers are too young to teach other people about anything.'**
>
> **Do you agree?**
>
> **Notes**
> Write about:
>
> 1. technology 2. the environment 3. ..... (your own idea)

How could you develop these first two ideas? Take notes in your notebook using a mind map like this:



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Tip! Read the task carefully.
In Writing Part 1, you must use **all** the notes which are given in the task. For example, for the task above, if you wrote about technology but didn't mention the environment, you would lose marks.

2. Add your own third idea to the mind map above, then add some notes to develop this idea.

3. Now do a brief internet search about this topic. (Make sure you use websites that are in English!) Can you find anything interesting that you would like to add to your mind map?

Tip! Plan the structure of your essay before you write.
One of the assessment criteria for Writing Part 1 is *Organisation*. It's difficult to organise an essay clearly without making a simple plan first. Decide what points to include, in what order, and how they are connected – *then* start writing your essay. (Cross out your plan before you submit your test paper, so the examiner will assess only your essay and not the plan.)

Here's a useful structure for an opinion essay:

Paragraph 1	Introduce the topic using a general statement and give your opinion. Say whether you agree or disagree with the statement.
Paragraph 2	Give the first reason to support your opinion. Provide specific justifications for your opinion, using examples if necessary.
Paragraph 3	Give the second reason to support your opinion. Provide specific justifications for your opinion, using examples if necessary.
Paragraph 4	Give the third reason to support your opinion. Make sure this is clearly different from the points you made in the previous 2 paragraphs.
Paragraph 5	Summarise your ideas and repeat your opinion using different words to provide a strong conclusion.

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