

WRITING PART 2 ARTICLE

You see this competition in an international magazine.

COMPETITION

Imagine you were on a desert island. What would you miss most? Write an article briefly describing an important object, person or place in your life and give reasons for your choice.

The best article will be published and the writer will receive £500.

Write your article in 140- 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- **Purpose of an article:** The aim of an article is usually to talk about a topic that we like or that we are familiar with. Besides, one of the features that articles have as opposed to other FCE Writing tasks is that an article must entertain the reader and, almost always, recommend the thing we are talking about.
- **Language:** In general, an article is more informal than an essay, although it will depend on where it is supposed to be published (an international magazine, a teenage magazine, a college magazine, an online blog, a newspaper, etc.). However, the most common case is that we must write a text in an informal or colloquial style. For this reason, our tone must be relaxed, making use of contractions, phrasal verbs and other colloquial expressions. Besides, it is recommended to use rhetorical questions and exclamation marks to engage the reader. You should also address the reader directly in the second person (you, your) and can make jokes if you think they are appropriate.
- **Structure:** Articles must always have a title. If possible, this must be catchy and witty so as to engage the reader. Then, each paragraph must address a single idea, to which you must add the introduction and the conclusion, where you are usually expected to make a recommendation. It is also a good idea to end your article with a rhetorical question, especially if it is going to be an online article where people could (in theory) leave a comment.
- **Giving your opinion:** An article is almost exclusively about giving your opinion, so feel free to do so throughout the whole piece of writing. As you are normally asked to write about something you like or enjoy, opinions are expected to be generally positive. Any article for FCE is usually a very personal piece of writing, so you can speak in the first person as much as you like.
- **Common topics:** You may be asked to write articles on a variety of topics: the Internet, health and fitness, music, plays, hobbies, etc.
- **Number of words:** you are expected to write your article in 140 – 190 words, no more or less than any other type of FCE Writing task.