7C Language focus 1 Phrases to show the relationship between ideas

1 Work in pairs. Read the title of the article and predict the arguments that each student might make.

2 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the two opinions in the article.

Is holding a referendum a good way to make decisions?

Yes, says Kitty Redgrave

The outcome of a referendum will never please everybody. [1]*Even so/Taking that into account*, I believe they're a great tool and should be used more.

First of all, a lot of people complain that they have no say in decision-making. [2]*Even so/Taking that into account*, holding a referendum is a great way to give everyone an equal voice. [3]*Given that/Having said that*, it really annoys me if people don't go out and vote when they have the chance, then complain about it.

It's also often said that citizens aren't educated enough on referendum topics to vote sensibly. [4]*Bearing that in mind/But all the same*, we all have unique life experiences which can inform our point of view.

I'll admit that sometimes referendum campaigns get very negative. [5]*Despite that/Despite of that*, holding a referendum definitely boosts the amount of discussion about the issue, which has got to be a good thing!

[6]*Bearing all of the above in mind/In spite of all that*, I actually wish we had more referendums. I'd be at the polling station casting my vote every time I had the opportunity!

No, says Isaac Miller

A referendum sounds like a good idea in theory, because it allows citizens to participate in decision-making. [7]*Considering that/And yet*, I think they're incredibly problematic for a number of reasons.

Firstly, most people don't have time or just can't be bothered to educate themselves properly on the issues at stake. [8]*Considering that/And yet*, they can make choices at the polling station based on emotion rather than evidence.

Secondly, referendums are incredibly expensive and [9]*given that/even so*, I'd rather money was spent on health or education instead.

Thirdly, debate often seems to divide people, with a lot of negative messages coming from citizens on both sides about people who hold an opposite view. [10]*Even so/ Taking that into account*, I think it's especially unwise to hold referendums about sensitive moral issues.

Finally, if politicians promise to implement the result, they may be left to action something that they know is going to cause harm. [11]*But again then/But then again*, if they don't promise to follow through, then what's the point of even holding a referendum?

[12]*In spite of all of the above/Bearing all of the above in mind*, if there was a referendum, I would definitely vote. However, I'd much prefer other types of citizen consultation, like discussion groups or opportunities to submit ideas online.

3 Write your opinion on whether you think referendums are a good way to make decisions (or another topic). Use at least three phrases to show the relationship between your ideas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS