Developing writing

An opinion essay

1 SPEAKING **Look at the photo and answer the questions.**

1 How do you think the people feel?
2 What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a lot of money?

2 SPEAKING **Look at the writing task. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why?**

> Write an opinion essay on the following topic:
> *You have to have a lot of money to be happy.*

3 **Read the essay and answer the questions.**

1 Does the writer agree or disagree with your opinion in 2?
2 What reasons does the writer give for his/her opinion?

A Some people have a lot of money, and other people have problems buying food or paying rent for their houses. Of course, money is important in life, but I (a) *agree/disagree* that you have to have a lot of money to be happy.

B (b) *Firstly/Secondly,* many people dream about being rich and having things like fast cars and big houses, (c) *but/however* these things only make people happy for a short time. Every day in the news we see examples of unhappy rich and famous people. (d) *In my opinion/Finally,* happiness comes from the people in your life, not the things you have.

C (e) *Secondly/Firstly,* people who have good friends and strong relationships with their family are often the happiest. (f) *In my view/However,* these relationships are much more important than money. Trying to earn a lot of money can also be bad because you spend more time at work than with your family.

D (g) *In conclusion/To sum up,* I think money is very important because you need it to pay for things like clothes, food and a place to live. (h) *However/Firstly,* you don't need to have a lot of money to be happy. Good friends and strong family relationships are the most important things in life.

4 **Look at the Writing bank and choose the correct alternatives in the text in 3. Sometimes both options are possible.**

Writing bank
Useful language for an opinion essay

Expressing your opinion
I agree/disagree, I think, In my opinion/view

Ordering your ideas
Firstly, Secondly, Finally, In conclusion, To sum up

Introducing a contrast
but, however,

5 **Match these paragraph descriptions to paragraphs A–D in the essay in 3.**

1 Sum up your opinion with a short conclusion. .....
2 Give additional reasons for your opinion. .....
3 Explain the main reason for your opinion. .....
4 Give your initial response to the statement. .....

Practice makes perfect

6a **Write an opinion essay in response to the statement below. Use the paragraph structure in 5 and the phrases in the Writing bank.**

> Friends are more important than family.

6b **When you finish your essay, use the Writing checklist on page 149 to check it.**

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