Writing C2

National Examination Format

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Writing an essay (C2)

- **1. Argumentative essays or "For" and "Against" essays**

- **2. Opinion essays**

"For" and "Against" composition

I.   Introduction

II. Arguments "for"

III. Arguments "against"

IV. Conclusion

Opinion composition

I.   Make an introduction (state the problem)

II.   Express your personal opinion and give 2-3 reasons for it.

III.   Express an opposing opinion and give 1-2 reasons for this opposing opinion

IV.   Explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion

V.   Make a conclusion

Write an essay on the following:

" *Computers were invented in the middle of the 20 th century. Since then some people think they are a blessing while others do not approve of their extensive usage.* "

I. In the introduction you broaden the statement and stress the fact that there are two points of view on the computers, make a general remark about it *without giving your opinion.*

II. In the second part you enumerate the positive sides of this phenomenon. Mention, for example, that people have an access to a lot of information, they can do shopping from home, can have some medical advice, etc.

III. In the third part you may write that due to computers people do not socialize, they may get eye diseases, headaches, insomnia, etc.

IV. The final part of the essay will be a certain summing up of your analysis, a conclusion *with your opinion*

REMEMBER:

- You can express your personal opinion *only* in the conclusion.

- You should avoid phrases such as *I think, To my mind, In my opinion, It seems to me,* etc. in the main body of the composition.

- Spend time thinking about your ideas and opinion. Record the notes. *Divide them into two groups: arguments "for" and "against".*

- Write about advantages and disadvantages *in separate paragraphs.*

- *Give reasons, examples or facts **to support your opinion**.*

- Present your arguments *in a logical order*. It is important that the reader can follow your arguments.

- In a for/against essay, you write about arguments on both sides of the question, but you must come *to a clear conclusion*

Comment on the following statement

"Many people watch soap operas because they find them enjoyable and realistic."

What is your opinion of soap operas?

Write 200-250 words.

Use the following plan (…)

I. In the introduction you make a general statement about watching soap operas.

II. In the second part you express your opinion, it doesn't matter whether it's positive or negative, and give reasons for it. For example, you may say that soap operas are the most dull product of TV industry. They are very long, they don't give food for thought, the plot is primitive, the acting is awful, the actors are not able to act.

III. In the third part of the essay you may write that many people find soap operas enjoyable and realistic, that soap operas state universal problems,

IV. In the fourth part of the essay you should write that you don't agree with an opposing opinion because in every soap opera there is only one problem (money or disease), all emotions are exaggerated.

V. In the final part you should summarize what you've said and restate your opinion using different words. You may write that you are not one of those who enjoy soap operas, it's certainly not your choice, there are far more pleasant and useful ways of spending free time.

REMEMBER:

- Paraphrase the problem given in the task or use other ways to introduce the topic.

- Planning is very important for this type of writing exam task. You must spend some time planning very carefully, starting with producing ideas.

- Opinion essays don't have right or wrong points, all ideas will be your own, but they need to be reinforced with reasons, you must make it clear.

- In opinion essays it's advisable to use phrases I think, In my opinion, To my mind, etc. in the main body of the essay.

- Use not less than 2 arguments to support your opinion and not less than 2 arguments against the other opinion.

- Introduction and conclusion should have nearly the same number of words.

- To make conclusion you may paraphrase the introduction but don't rewrite it

Make notes to complete the essay plan, using the questions to help you. Remember to use your own words.

Structure	Questions	My essay
Introduction (State the problem)	*What is the problem? What do some people think? What do other people think?*	
Express your opinion and give reasons for it.	*Are you in favor or against? What are the most important two/three reasons for your opinion?*	
Give other people's arguments and explain why they are wrong	*What are the two/three most important arguments against your opinion? Why is each one wrong?*	
Make a conclusion	*What is the gist of your argument? How can you summarize it?*	

Typical students' mistakes

- They don't understand what type of an essay they should write. They don't connect or relate what they write to the task.
- Lack or incorrect using of linking words and discourse markers.
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- It's better to use complex sentences instead of simple.
- Punctuation

Useful Tips:

1) Read the task and make sure you understand what you need to write.
2) Use drafts.
3) Make a plan before you start writing.
4) Your essay must be a response to the topic given in the exam task.
5) Cover all points of your plan.
6) Use a new paragraph to introduce each new topic.
7) Think over the topical sentence of each paragraph.
8) Reinforce your ideas with reasons or build arguments up.

Useful Tips:

1) Expressing your opinion don't use informal expressions.

2) Use linking words and discourse markers to connect your sentences and paragraphs.

3) Use complex and compound sentences.

4) Make sure you use appropriate style of writing

5) Check your work carefully for mistakes at the end.

6) Check your punctuation.

7) Check that you've written the required number of words.

8) Remember about time limit.

Argumentative essay (for/against a statement)

Write an essay of 200–250 words for or against the following statement:

Shopping centres have improved the way we shop.

The way we shop

Shopping centres have changed the way we shop – but is this really an improvement?

One positive aspect of shopping centres is convenience: we can find everything from groceries to electronics, from cosmetics to clothes, under the same roof.

Furthermore, shopping centres offer entertainment facilities, like cinemas or bowling alleys, with an enormous range of things to buy and to do.

In addition to this, they are places where you can meet people and socialise in cafés and restaurants. They have become the focus of social life for many teenagers.

However, smaller local shops which used to offer a friendlier, more personal service are closing down because they cannot keep up with the competition.

The same thing is happening to local cinemas, and sometimes even bars and restaurants. In fact, we are losing places that were once important in our lives.

Another disadvantage of shopping centres is that they offer bland, uniform products all over the world – local character is disappearing. In order to supply a large number of customers efficiently, mass-produced goods replace custom-made products.

To summarise, on the one hand, they offer a more comfortable shopping experience, but on the other hand, they make us all the same: customers in a commercialised world where the most important things are things you can buy.

In my view, shopping centres are useful, but we should not allow them to change the world we live in.

Use 5 ways to correct a run-on sentence.

Some students prefer living in the hostels some students prefer living in the apartments.

1. Make two sentences.
2. Use a coordinating conjunction (for, and, but…) or a transitional adverb (however, therefore, consequently…)
3. Use a semicolon(;)
4. Use a dash(-)
5. Make one a dependent clause.

KEYS:

1. Some students prefer living in the hostels. Some students prefer living in the apartments.

2. a) Some students prefer living in the hostels, and some students prefer living in the apartments. b) Some students prefer living in the hostels; however, some students prefer living in the apartments.

3. Some students prefer living in the hostels; some students prefer living in the apartments.

4. Some students prefer living in the hostels – some students prefer living in the apartments.

5. Although some students prefer living in the hostels, some students prefer living in the apartments.

Insert the necessary punctuation.

1. I like red and I wear red clothes a lot.
2. Mr. Brown who lives next door is my best friend.
3. Because I arrived on time I could live early.
4. I am an early bird therefore I get up early in the morning.
5. Although I am an early bird I can work round the clock.
6. Peter who comes from the USA stayed at the hotel.
7. I arrived on time for the interview however I forgot my papers.
8. After Mary left home she never appeared there again.

Read the paragraph below and say what reasons the writer gives to support his/her opinion.

Few people would dispute that this is the Age of Communication. More than at any time in history, you are judged on your communication skills, both in speech and in writing. The successful development of your personal life, your relationships and your career now more and more depend on the way in which you express your thoughts into language. How well do you do this depends, in its turn, upon your understanding of grammar. So in many ways you as good as your grammar. That's why grammar should be taken seriously.

Comment on the following statement:

"Some people say that the inventions of e-mail and text messaging have been wonderful for communication between people. However, some people say that this kind of communication has disadvantages as well as advantages."

What can you say for and against the use of email and text messaging?

Read the phrases below and tick those you'll include into your essay.

1) The speed of communication
2) Comparison with other forms of communication
3) The use of email at work
4) Lack of face to face communication
5) The cost
6) Contact with people anywhere in the world
7) The language used in text messaging
8) Contact at any time
9) Time spent text messaging
10) Communication between friends

Now think over the main part of your essay, enumerate advantages and disadvantages. You may use phrases given above and you may add your own ideas. Some of them can be both positive and negative.

ADVANTAGES (+)	DISADVANTAGES (-)

Read words and expressions about reality TV shows. Look the unknown words up in the dictionary. Make notes in the plan below. Use as many given words as possible.

Fame; entertainment; show off; rubbish; educational; ordinary; fascinating; ridiculous; amusing; serious; weird; dull; controversial; attention-seeking; a fad; disapprove; preference; temporary; privacy; addictive.

Introduction

"For" reality TV shows

"Against" reality TV shows

Conclusion

Read the paragraph below and single out arguments for and against moving into suburbs.

In recent decades, people have been moving out of the city centres into suburbs, new towns, smaller towns and the country. On the one hand, it seems to be a logical thing to do, as cities become more and more overpopulated and unsuitable for healthy living with all their emotional and physical stress, hustle and bustle and growing population. On the other hand, villages and isolated farms and cottages, which used to be full of agricultural workers, are now the homes of people who drive to their offices in town and the whole pattern of life in the country is changing dramatically. If this process goes on, won't we lose our countryside with its quiet unhurried way of life, wild nature and clean air?

Look at these two opinions:

A. It's important to keep post offices open.

B. The Internet is more useful than post offices.

I. **Now read the nine statements below and decide if you think they support opinion A or opinion B.**

1. Email is very popular these days.
2. Post offices are important in the community.
3. Many people don't have computers.
4. If you buy goods from websites, somebody has to deliver them.
5. Emailing saves paper and petrol – it's good for the environment.
6. Internet communication is cheap or free and it arrives immediately.
7. There are more postal services than the internet can provide.
8. You can have access to the Internet at any time and at any place.
9. Post offices belong to the past, not the present.

II.	Think about the two opinions and the list of statements in exercise I. Decide if you agree more with A or B. try to think of ways of arguing against the points you don't agree with. Write three more statements, using your own ideas.

_____

_____

_____

III.	Look again at the statements you agree with in exercise I, and your own counter-arguments in exercise II. What is the most logical order for these arguments? Which point should be made first, then second, and so on? Number the statements 1, 2, 3 etc.

The following methods will help you to make your introduction more unusual:

- A Funny Story
- A Pun
- A Question
- A Quotation

54-year-old Tony Lines was taken to hospital after a violent argument with his neighbor, because of the loud music coming from downstairs. In a fit of rage, Lines leaped off his bed with intention of making a loud banging noise on the floor. Unfortunately, he jumped so high, and landed so hard, that he broke both his legs.

No gain without pain.- No game without pain.

Don't trouble trouble, and no trouble troubles you. – Don't trouble the environment, and the environment never troubles you.

To be or not to be? – To eat or nor to eat?

How do you think it feels for celebrities to read false stories about themselves?

Is there such a thing as the perfect face? Is beauty something you can measure? Recent scientific evidence suggests that the answer is "yes"

Turn the following introductions into corresponding conclusions, that is, restate the main thesis using different words.

Introduction*:* Have you ever thought that natural resources are in danger of disappearance? Could you imagine the life on the Earth without coal, oil or iron? The threat of their extinction is obvious not only in the whole world, but also in Russia. I am sure one of the effective solutions of this problem should be construction of a new research institute.

Conclusion: Take care of environment, and the environment will take care of you. If sustainable use of raw materials were under control of the government, we would provide the future generations with all the necessary things. The responsibility is ours, today and tomorrow.

Put these linking words and phrases into the correct groups 1-6

However; to sum up; in contrast; but; on the one hand; in addition; such as; as far as I am concerned; for one thing; in other words; in fact; furthermore; in my own experience; conversely.

1. Introducing an argument
2. Introducing a counter-argument
3. Giving an example
4. Counting an argument
5. Summarizing/concluding
6. Giving a personal view

Complete these words and phrases

Introducing examples:
1 ____ example
2. ____ instance
3. Such ____

Introducing your first point:
4. To begin ____ ,…
5. First ____ all, …

Introducing further points:
6. ____ addition to that, …
7. As well ___ this, …

Introducing contrast:
8. On ___ other hand, …
9. In spite ___ this, …

Introducing your conclusion:
10. ____ conclusion, …
11. To sum ___, …

Read this part of an essay. Choose words and phrases from the list to fill in the gaps.

Thus; The result of: Moreover; In contrast; This is; However.

It may be useful to remind ourselves of one perhaps rather obvious point. 1)____ that the people who begin software and think up new applications for IT within the workplace are experts. 2)____, the vast majority are enthusiasts. 3)____ they feel comfortable and happy with technology. 4)____ to them, the average person, say an office worker who has to learn a new software package, lacks confidence. 5) ____ this distinction is that developments are driven by the minority. 6) ____, it is the majority who feels the effects.

Section 4 Writing: *second task*

F Look at the second task on page 86. Read the following paragraph and answer the question.

*In conclusion, it is clear that there are many arguments on both sides. **However**, the right of pupils to have their voices heard must be respected. This will lead to pupils being more involved in their education. **As a result**, grades will improve and schools will become places where everyone feels that they belong.*

Is the writer in favour of or against pupils being involved in running their school?_____

G Complete the table using the phrases in the box.

> Consequently · Despite this · Even given that · In consequence · In spite of this
> In summary · That may be true, but · To conclude · To sum up

Phrases like 'In conclusion'	Phrases like 'However'	Phrases like 'As a result'

Section 4 Writing: *second task*

G Circle the correct word or phrase to complete the composition.

Almost everyone these days has a mobile phone and many of us would be unable to live without one. **(1) But / However**, there are people who argue that we should not be able to use mobile phones whenever we like.

(2) It / There is no doubt that mobile phones are extremely useful. This is particularly true when you need to contact someone and no ordinary phone is available. **(3) For / By** example, if your car has broken down and you need assistance, having a mobile phone might mean that you do not have to leave the car and walk a long way to find help.

On the other **(4) side / hand**, there are many situations when mobiles can cause problems for other people. If you are in the cinema, **(5) with / for** instance, a mobile ringing can be extremely annoying. There are **(6) also / as well** times, such **(7) like / as** in class at school, when it would be disrespectful to have a mobile switched on. A **(8) more / further** argument that is made against mobile phones is that they damage our health. Most scientists, **(9) however / although**, believe that this is not the case.

To **(10) conclusion / conclude**, mobile phones make our lives easier in many ways. In my **(11) opinion / mind**, there are occasions when using a mobile is not appropriate and we should always consider other people before deciding whether to have our phone switched on or not. **(12) However / Although** some people believe that mobiles are bad for our health, I **(13) individually / personally** do not accept that argument, **(14) because / so** I do not think that should be a reason for restricting their use.

Complete the phrases with the verbs given below. Put the verbs into the correct form. You should use one of the verbs twice.

Make; cause; commit; do; take; deal; have; run; get.

1. Are ___ damage to the environment
2. Must ___ with these problems
3. Can ___ serious problems
4. Will ___ out of resources
5. Are ___ difficulty in surviving
6. Must ___ something about these problems
7. Is not ___ better
8. Will___ a long time to repair the damage
9. Are ___ people suffer
10. Are ___ terrible crimes

11 **Read this part of an introduction to an essay. Can you find and correct the six errors it contains?**

The statement that this essay bases on is a pessimistic one. It has been issued by someone from a completely negative attitude to technology. I will begin my essay by considering how is meant by the statement. I will then move over to look at a number of counter-arguments. Finally, I will deliver my conclusion. This is basically that the action we need to take is greatly to increase the level of technologically education generally available.

14 **Read this part of the conclusion from a student's essay. For each gap, choose *a*, *an*, *the* or – (no article) to complete the text.**

For these reasons, I believe that [1]_____ problem is extremely complicated. This means that [2]_____ solution cannot be [3]_____ simple one. I think that [4]_____ heart of [5]_____ problem is not [6]_____ question of logic. Logically, everyone should stop using [7]_____ cars. However, our love for [8]_____ car is not logical. We like comfort, personal space, and so on. If you want me to leave my car, you need to offer me [9]_____ luxury minibus – not [10]_____ dirty, crowded normal bus.

Read the sentences taken from essays about family and friends. Fill in the gaps with a suitable word from the list below. Use each word only once. There are two gaps in each sentence.

Answer; think; factors; considering; reasons; conclusion; importance; refer; ever; look.

1. When ___ family and society, there isn't a simple right or wrong ___ .
2. When we ___ about this subject, it depends on which society we ___ to.
3. There are number of ___ why I believe that the family is still as important as ___ .
4. If we ___ at the issue of education, the ___ of the family is clear.
5. Taking all these ___ into account, my ___ is that the role of family is changing, but it remains highly important.

H Training task

It is certainly true that reality TV programmes are very popular and lots of people watch them all the time. People talk about them and some of the people who **1** *enter / appear / show / present* in them become famous, at least for a **2** *little / small / tiny / short* time. I don't like them **3** *absolutely / at once / at all / completely* and I think most of them are terrible.

Some people say that it's good to see ordinary people on television because you learn a lot about other people's lives. For **4** *instance / case / point / indication*, some programmes show ordinary people doing their jobs and the people who like these programmes say that it's fascinating to see people doing their jobs. Probably the most well-known reality TV programme is different from that. It shows a group of people living **5** *along / joint / together / shared* in the same house. They're all strange people and fans of this programme say that it's really amusing to watch them arguing and **6** *giving / telling / speaking / letting* their opinions on things.

I don't agree with these views. I think it's really boring to watch people doing their jobs and I don't want to watch a lot of strange people talking a lot of **7** *mess / trash / jumble / rubbish* and doing silly things. These people are attention seeking and they want to be famous by being on TV. They look ridiculous **8** *with / to / for / by* me and I don't want to spend my time watching them. I think television programmes should be either entertaining or educational and reality TV shows are neither of these things. I **9** *rather / favour / prefer / fancy* to watch programmes with good acting in them, or documentaries about important things.

In my opinion, reality TV shows are a **10** *loss / ruin / waste / leak* of time. I think they're just a fad and that people will soon get bored with them and then they'll disappear.

J Training task

Прочитайте образец ответа. Заполните пропуски существительными, образованными от слов в скобках, поставив их в нужную форму.

The environment is a big issue these days and many people feel that we have to take urgent **1** _____ (act) if we don't want to face terrible problems in the future. The human race has done a lot of damage to the environment and it is possible that future **2** _____ (generate) will not have enough resources because of this.

One of the biggest problems is pollution caused by carbon dioxide emissions, which is already having a big **3** _____ (affect) on the world's climate. Another environmental problem is the use of the world's natural resources for energy. Some people say that we will run out of these resources and that we have to find other sources of energy quickly. Also, there are the problems caused by the 'consumer society' that many people live in. In many parts of the world, **4** _____ (recycle) is now a common **5** _____ (solve) that has been introduced to deal with this.

However, some people say that there are much more important things to worry about. They say that **6** _____ (poor) is a bigger problem, with people, particularly in Africa, dying of **7** _____ (starve) and diseases that could be cured. They say that we should pay **8** _____ (attend) to that problem and do something about it now. And of course another major problem is **9** _____ (violent). There is a lot of violent crime in many societies, there are wars in many parts of the world, and **10** _____ (terrorist) is another major problem. It's hard to solve these problems, but we should try.

I agree that the environment is a major problem, but I don't know if it's the biggest problem. I think people should try to do something about all the problems I've mentioned.

KEY

1 action **2** generations **3** effect **4** recycling
5 solution **6** poverty **7** starvation **8** attention
9 violence **10** terrorism

Look at the pairs of sentences. Use the prompts to rewrite them as one sentence.

A. Many people prefer to drive to work.
B. People often spend a long time sitting in traffic jams.

Many people ___, despite the fact that ___ .

A. People spend large sums of money on cars.
B. Many people want to have status and privacy.

People ___ in order to ___ .

A. Many people don't believe how bad the environmental situation is.
B. Green activists don't understand it.

Green activists ___ that ___ .

A. People often prefer to use their cars.
B. Public transport is slow and uncomfortable.

____ with the result that ____ cars.

A. The transport situation will get worse.
B. The government could take action.

Unless ___, ____ worse.

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