

NAME: _____ ID: _____

OPINION / ARGUMENT ESSAYS

There are basically two ways of organizing an opinion essay: the first is the 'argument-led' approach in which different sides of an argument are given, for example, for and against having boys and girls in school together and the writer's opinion is given toward the end of the essay. The second way is the 'thesis-led' approach in which the writer's opinion is given in the introductory paragraph and the body paragraphs give reasons supporting that opinion.

ARGUMENT-LED APPROACH	THESIS-LED APPROACH
<p>1) <u>PARAGRAPH ONE</u> – INTRODUCTION Introduce topic: Provide background information, e.g. <i>In the U.K. there are 'single-sex' schools which only take either boys or girls and there are 'co-educational' schools which take both boys and girls. Parents can choose which type of school they send their children to. Opinions are divided about the relative merits of each type of school.</i></p> <p>2) <u>PARAGRAPH TWO</u> Arguments for and reasons</p> <p>3) <u>PARAGRAPH THREE</u> Arguments against and reasons</p> <p>4) <u>PARAGRAPH FOUR - CONCLUSION</u> STATE YOUR THESIS / OPINION HERE, along with your reasons for it. Summarize main points.</p> <p>You can have MORE THAN 4 PARAGRAPHS, but you must describe arguments BOTH 'For' and 'Against'.</p>	<p>1. <u>PARAGRAPH ONE</u> – INTRODUCTION Introduce topic and STATE YOUR THESIS [OPINION] HERE e.g. <i>Separating boys from girls in school has traditionally been done in private boarding schools in the U.K. for hundreds of years. However, I don't believe this is a good thing</i></p> <p>2. <u>PARAGRAPH TWO</u> Give reasons for your opinion</p> <p>3. <u>PARAGRAPH THREE</u> Give further reasons for your opinion</p> <p>4. <u>PARAGRAPH FOUR – CONCLUSION</u> Summarize main points Restate your point of view</p> <p>You can have MORE THAN 4 PARAGRAPHS.</p>

B] Below are FOUR INTRODUCTIONS for TWO different essay questions. Which introductions belong to an ARGUMENT-LED essay and which belong to a THESIS-LED essay?

Write a tick [✓] on one of the lines in the boxes.

<p>1] <i>Ever since the end of World War Two, the superpowers: North America and Russia, and now other developed nations have nuclear weapons. In this essay, I will demonstrate why I think nuclear weapons are necessary and also why we should be using nuclear energy.</i></p> <p>ARGUMENT-LED ESSAY _____</p> <p>THESIS-LED ESSAY _____</p>	<p>2] <i>Since the early 1980s computers have become more and more a part of everyday life for people in many countries. There are those who think that computers and the internet will eventually replace books and those who believe that this won't ever happen. This essay examines both sides of the debate.</i></p> <p>ARGUMENT-LED ESSAY _____</p> <p>THESIS-LED ESSAY _____</p>
<p>3] <i>World War Two ended when the U.S.A. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan; now other developed nations have nuclear weapons. Some people feel we should continue to develop nuclear weapons and use nuclear energy. While others believe that we should get rid of these weapons and stop using nuclear energy. This essay will explore both points of view and the arguments used to support them.</i></p> <p>ARGUMENT-LED ESSAY _____</p> <p>THESIS-LED ESSAY _____</p>	<p>4] <i>Since the early 1980s computers have become more and more a part of everyday life for people in many countries. To a large extent they have changed the way we do things, from buying plane tickets to studying for a university degree. The writer believes that no matter how much computers and the internet have changed our lives, some things will never change, such as the printed word.</i></p> <p>ARGUMENT-LED ESSAY _____</p> <p>THESIS-LED ESSAY _____</p>

In order to get a BAND 6 or above in Part Two of the writing exam, you need to be able to write COMPLEX SENTENCES. Your essay should contain a mix of both. Using SUBORDINATE CLAUSES is one way to do this.

<p>GIVING REASONS + *GERUND: ‘-ING’ FORM OF VERB AS NOUN</p>	<p>SHOWING CONTRAST OR UNEXPECTED RESULTS+ * GERUND: ‘-ING’ FORM OF VERB AS NOUN</p>
<p>BECAUSE OF + *NOUN / NOUN PHRASE</p> <p><i>Ahmed came late for the lesson, because of <u>*the traffic</u>.</i></p> <p><i>*<u>Because of living and playing</u> together in the same house when they’re very young, boys and girls should attend lessons together in the same school.</i></p>	<p>DESPITE, IN SPITE OF</p> <p><i>Despite <u>*doing little work</u>, Ahmed passed his exam.</i></p> <p><i>In spite of <u>*doing little work</u>, Ahmed passed his exam.</i></p>
<p>GIVING REASONS + *CLAUSE</p>	<p>SHOWING CONTRAST OR UNEXPECTED RESULT + * CLAUSE: ‘SUBJECT – VERB – OBJECT’</p>
<p>REASON + SO / THEREFORE</p> <p>NOTE: The *REASON is in the main sentence and comes BEFORE ‘SO’ OR ‘THEREFORE’</p> <p><i>*<u>Boys and girls naturally live and play together when they’re very young</u>, so,(therefore,) they should also be together in school</i></p> <p>BECAUSE + CLAUSE</p> <p><i>*<u>Because boys and girls naturally live and play together when they are very young</u>, it’s better not to separate them when they</i></p>	<p>ALTHOUGH, EVEN THOUGH</p> <p><i>Ahmed passed his exam, even though <u>*he’d done little work</u>.</i></p> <p><i>Although <u>*he’d done little work</u>, Ahmed</i></p> <p>HOWEVER, NEVERTHELESS</p> <p><i>*<u>Ahmed did little work</u>; however, he passed his exam.</i></p> <p>WHEREAS</p> <p><i>I prefer to take a taxi in the city. Whereas, my brother prefers to go by metro.</i></p> <p>ON THE OTHER HAND</p> <p><i>It can be argued that people should retire at 60. On the other hand, there are many reasons why people should be able to continue working beyond this age.</i></p>

A] Join these sentences using the LINKERS above to make sentences with subordinate clauses.

EXAMPLE: John had been lying in the sun. He was very sun-burnt. **BECAUSE + CLAUSE**

‘John was very sun-burnt because he’d been lying in the sun.’

1) Ahmed couldn’t play in the match. He’d broken his leg. **SO**

2) *Ahmed couldn't play in the match. He'd broken his leg.* **BECAUSE OF**

3) *Mohammed had a car accident. He continued to drive fast.* **IN SPITE OF**

4) *Mohammed had a car accident. He continued to drive fast.* **ALTHOUGH**

5) *That medicine can help people lose weight. It does have strong side-effects.* **WHILE**

6) *Modern medicines usually have strong side-effects. Healthy eating and exercise do not.*
WHEREAS

C] Write essay plans for TWO of the essay questions below. Choose one ARGUMENT-LED essay question and one THESIS-LED essay question. Remember, your essay should have between 4 and 6 paragraphs.

OPINION ESSAY QUESTIONS

I	Some people think that intelligence is innate while others think that we can improve our intelligence through learning. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
II	Discipline is an ever increasing problem in modern schools. Some people think that discipline should be the responsibility of teachers, while others think that this is the role of parents. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
III	In the last few decades there have been more and more cases of famous people being hounded by the press. Some people think that famous people in the media have no right to privacy. To what extent do you agree?
IV	Some people think that space exploration is a waste of resources while others think that is essential for mankind to continue to explore the universe in which we lived. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
V	In some societies, the number of crimes committed by teenagers is growing. Some people think that regardless of age, teenagers who commit major crimes should receive adult punishment. To what extent do you agree?
VI	Some people think that more money should be spent on protecting endangered species, while others this is a waste of valuable money. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.