

SOLUTIONS INTERMEDIATE 3

EXAM SKILLS

TRAINER 3

PEGAH BAHOJB GHASEMI

6H

Writing

A for and against essay

I can write a for and against essay about education and work.

Preparation

More university students should stay in education after their first degree in order to get another qualification.

Do you agree?

- 1 Read the task and the model essay. Does the writer agree or disagree with the statement in the task?

Agrees Disagrees

- 1 Nowadays, the number of students who do a second degree is increasing. In order to decide if this is a good thing, we must examine the advantages and disadvantages of taking a postgraduate course.
- 2 It is certainly true that there is fierce competition for employment, and candidates need something extra in order to get a good job. We should also remember that people with a second qualification can expect to earn more when they start work. Moreover, postgraduate courses offer the chance to focus on a topic which you find particularly interesting. What could be better than spending an extra two or three years studying something you find fascinating?
- 3 However, there are disadvantages too. Firstly, it is an expensive option. You often need to pay for your place at university and also support yourself financially during the course. What is more, many young people are understandably impatient to leave education by the time they finish their first degree.
- 4 On balance, I believe it is a good idea to continue your studies beyond a first degree, if possible. Although it may be expensive, an extra qualification allows you to find a better job and earn more money.

2 Study the model essay and answer the questions.

In which paragraph (1–4) does the writer ...

- 1 describe the arguments for?
How many does she / he describe?
- 2 describe the arguments against?
How many does she / he describe?
- 3 give his / her opinion?

Writing Strategy

Rhetorical questions can make an opinion essay more persuasive, provided you only include one or two. You do not have to answer the questions, but always make sure that the expected answer is clear, e.g.

Some people work long hours for very low pay. How can this be right? (Expected answer: It can't be right.)

- 3 Read the Writing Strategy. Find and underline a rhetorical question in the model essay. Choose the expected answer.
- a everything b most things c nothing

Writing Guide

More students should do their degree at a university abroad rather than in their own country. Do you agree?

- 4** Read the task above. Then plan your essay following the paragraph plan below. Use the questions to help you.

Paragraph 1: Rephrase the statement in the task.

Paragraph 2: What are the arguments for doing a degree abroad? Think of two or three.

Paragraph 3: What are the arguments against doing a degree abroad? Think of two or three.

Paragraph 4: Give your opinion.


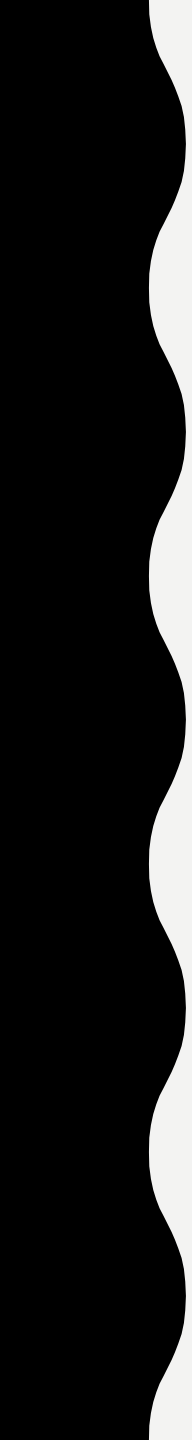
5 Write your essay using your plan from exercise 4.

CHECK YOUR WORK



Have you ...

- followed your paragraph plan?
- included one or two rhetorical questions?
- checked your spelling and grammar?



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Reading

Exam Strategy

When doing a multiple-choice reading task, it is helpful to identify the type of question which is being asked about each text. Questions will ask about specific information (part of the text) or general ideas (the whole text).

Identifying the question type will help you to find the information that you need.

1 Read the strategy above. Then read questions 1–5 below. Decide what kind of information the questions ask for. Write S for specific information or G for general ideas.

- 1 What does the writer want to convince readers of? ____
- 2 What happened in 2009 which ‘changed everything’? ____
- 3 Why did the writer write to the editor of a newspaper? ____
- 4 How does the writer summarise her experience of house-hunting? ____
- 5 Where would you expect to find this text? ____

2 Read the three texts and choose the best answer (A–D).

Back in time

As she stepped into the hall after nearly thirty years of absence, she realised at once that she shouldn't have come back. The smell of wood smoke, damp stone and ancient paper brought the past back so powerfully that it nearly knocked her backwards. In an instant she felt like a young girl again, alone and frightened in the house. She remembered feeling very, very cold – not from the damp and the near-freezing temperature, but because a terrible new life was beginning. And she could do nothing to stop it.

- 1 What is true about the woman's feelings when she entered the house?
 - A She realised that she had missed her old home.
 - B She was happy to return to the house.
 - C She understood that coming back was a mistake.
 - D She was sad about the condition of the house.

Future home?

Every few years, trend-watchers tell us that the house of the future has arrived, and gadgets from science fiction films will soon be in every home in the country. So far they've been wrong – and after viewing the 'Home of the Future' exhibition, I suspect that they are still wrong. Why do I need a super-intelligent fridge or an internet-surfing mirror? I would much rather see my face clearly in an ordinary bathroom mirror than try to surf the internet while I'm combing my hair! If only they could design a device to stop me killing all my houseplants. If they did that, then I might be interested!

- 2 What was the writer's reaction to the exhibition?
- A He found it very interesting.
 - B It reminded him of a science fiction film.
 - C He wanted to buy the gadgets online.
 - D He didn't see the use of many of the inventions.

Ackerman dream homes

Since 1893, Ackerman Homes have created some of the most charming neighbourhoods in the south of England. Our homes combine a sense of history with the most modern advances in home design and technology. Now you can have the opportunity to own a beautiful contemporary Ackerman home in our new development in Acreage Woods. Experience the quality, beauty and comfort of Ackerman Homes, the most trusted name in home building. With spacious semi-detached and detached homes from £275,000 to £425,000, we are sure that you will find what you're looking for. So why not visit us today?

- 3 The purpose of the text is to ...
- A describe a particular home.
 - B attract the interest of people who are looking for a new home.
 - C outline the history of a home builder.
 - D explain what makes a quality home.



Listening


Exam Strategy

You may be asked if statements about a listening extract are true or false. Remember that statements appear in the same order as information about them in the extract. Speakers often use different words to express the same ideas, so listen for ideas, not exact words.

- 3 Read the strategy above. Then look at the statement below. Choose the extract, A or B, which matches the statement.

The woman missed several previous yoga classes.

-  **A** I've only just come back to yoga after taking some time off – I found I really missed it.
-  **B** There was an emergency at home, so I couldn't come to the last class, but I don't like missing lessons.

- 4  **2.23** You will hear a conversation between two friends about smartphones. Are the sentences true or false? Write T or F. You will hear the recording twice.

- 1 Sal paid too much for her phone. ___
- 2 Sal's parents encouraged her to get a new phone. ___
- 3 Tim is not happy with his sister's use of her phone. ___
- 4 Sal's family avoid using their phones at dinner. ___
- 5 Sal does not like talking when she's eating. ___
- 6 Tim could cause a problem by using his phone. ___
- 7 Sal advises Tim not to listen to music on his phone. ___
- 8 Tim disagrees with Sal's suggestion. ___

Use of English

Exam Strategy

When doing a sentence transformation task, read the first sentence very carefully and make sure you have completely understood its meaning. Then look at the word given and think about which words, tenses, or grammatical structures it usually goes with. Rewrite the sentence with this word so that it has a similar meaning to the original sentence.

5 Read the strategy above. Then complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Do not change the word given.

1 It's possible we'll sell our flat next year. (may)

We may sell our flat next year.

2 Not many of the links on this website are useful. (few)

There are _____ on this website.

3 It's not possible that you deleted the file. (can't)

You _____ the file.

4 My computer has been really slow lately. (fast)

My computer _____ it was.

5 Staying up so late was a bad idea. (shouldn't)

You _____ stayed up so late.

6 She hasn't got any clothes that are expensive. (none)

_____ expensive.







Speaking

Exam Strategy

When you have to compare and contrast photos, it is not enough to just describe them. You need to speculate about the photos, express your opinions about what the photos show and talk about the similarities and differences.

6 Read the strategy above. Then look at photo A and the answer below. Choose the best words to complete the answer.



It seems to me that the man is homeless because he's ¹sleeping / relaxing outside on ²the ground / the floor. It looks as ³like / if it might be cold because he's under a ⁴blanket / cardboard box.

I think the man is ⁵aware / unaware that someone is taking a photo because his eyes are ⁶half-open / closed and he looks ⁷calm / nervous. I also think the man is ⁸asleep / awake, so he's probably too ⁹excited / tired to notice anything going on around him.

7 Compare and contrast the photos (A and B) which show homeless people in Britain. Include the following points:

- Where homeless people usually live.
- Why people may become homeless.
- How you think we can help homeless people.



8 In pairs, discuss questions 1 and 2 below. Use evidence from the photos in your discussion if possible.

- 1 Do you think it is a problem that some people live on the street?
- 2 Do you think we should give money to homeless people?

Writing

Exam Strategy

In an internet forum post you need to cover all of the points specified. Think of ideas that you could add to each of the points. Then organise your writing into paragraphs, one paragraph for each of the points in the task.

9 Read the strategy above and the task below. Think of ideas for each of the four points. Write notes.

You recently bought a new MP3 player. Write a forum post in which you:

- Describe the MP3 player and its features.
- Compare it with another gadget which you can use to listen to music.
- Give other forum contributors brief instructions on how to use one of its features.
- Ask other contributors to react to your post.

10 Read the task below and write an internet forum post. You can choose to do the task below or the task in exercise 9.

You recently bought a new smartphone. Write a forum post in which you:

- Describe the smartphone and some of its features.
- Compare it with another smartphone you have used.
- Give your overall opinion of the smartphone.
- Present the opinions of people who think teenagers use smartphones too much.

ASSIGNMENT:

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