

AN ESSAY

1 Study the Part 1 exam task and answer the questions.

- 1 How many of the points in the notes do you have to discuss?
- 2 What do you have to explain about the point(s)?
- 3 Why are the three opinions/quotes given?
- 4 Do you have to refer to these opinions in your essay?

2 Study the model answer. Which two of the ways in the notes are discussed? Does the writer make use of any of the opinions?

Your class has listened to a discussion about ways that individuals can help the environment. You have made the notes below:

How individuals can help the environment

- shopping
- food
- travel

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

"Supermarkets use too much plastic."

"We should eat less meat."

"Public transport is better than private cars"

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways in your notes that individuals can help the environment. You should **explain which way you think is more effective, giving reasons** to support your answer. You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

MODEL ANSWER

¹Start by introducing the topic.

³Give specific examples to support your points.

⁵Clearly indicate which of the two ideas you think is more effective/beneficial, etc.

⁶Conclude by summarising your points/arguments/ideas.

¹Many people feel that it is only governments and large corporations that can make a difference to the environment. However, I believe that each individual can contribute by changing their habits in small ways. ²I will explain two ways of doing this and indicate which of them I think would be more effective.

One way we can help the environment is by choosing goods with less packaging. ³For example, in the supermarket, we should buy fruit and vegetables loose rather than pre-packed. Hopefully businesses will gradually realise that customers do not want unnecessary packaging. Similarly, we could ask the government to change the law so that all packaging must be recyclable. ⁴Doing these two things could save millions of trees and reduce pollution in our oceans.

⁵The most effective way of helping our planet would be to switch to plant-based agriculture. Farm animals, especially cows, produce a lot of greenhouse gases and many forests are cut down to provide animals with land for grazing, increasing greenhouse gas levels. Growing food plants instead would actually help to reduce these levels in the atmosphere. It is so easy to cook excellent vegetarian and vegan dishes these days that we no longer need to eat so much meat, and anyone can do it. ⁴Moreover, it would be cheaper for shoppers.

⁶In conclusion, as consumers, our choices matter and can be effective in protecting the planet. Using less packaging and consuming less meat would both make a big difference, with ⁵the second of the two points being, ⁷in my opinion, the more impactful.

²Clearly state which two options you will talk about.

⁴Give reasons for your ideas/arguments

⁷Use phrases to express your opinion.

3 Read the Part 1 task and choose the best introduction and conclusion for the essay, A or B.

Your class has listened to a discussion about how funding should be spent to improve a local park. You have made the notes below:

Ways funding can be spent to improve the local park

- landscaping and design
- an outdoor gym
- a café

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

“Everyone appreciates a beautiful place to relax.”

“People want to use the park for free exercise.”

“We want to attract more families.”

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways in your notes the funding might be spent to improve the local park. You should **explain which way would be most beneficial to the community, giving reasons** to support your opinion. You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

Introductions

- A** St. Charlotte’s park is a place where all members of the community go to relax, exercise and enjoy themselves. In my essay, I would like to discuss two ways of spending money on improvements – landscaping the area and an outdoor gym.
- B** The park already has a lot of plants, trees and flowers, and it is well-designed. We don’t really need to spend any more money on them. That is why the options I choose to discuss are the outdoor gym and the café.

Conclusions

- A** To sum up, all three of these ways of spending money are good. I suggest we divide the money between all three of them so that everyone is happy and visits the park more often.
- B** In conclusion, while an outdoor gym would be great for the local community, I prefer the option of spending money on landscaping and planting more trees and flowers as they can be enjoyed by everyone, while also benefitting the environment.

4 Which two body paragraphs below (A–D) use the structure: topic sentence + one main idea + supporting examples/arguments/evidence/reasons?

- A** It is nice to have a drink or snack when you go to the park. On the other hand, not everyone will use the café every time they visit the park. For that reason, I think it would be better to spend the money on landscaping the area, because the main reason people go to parks is to enjoy nature.
- B** The next suggestion I wish to discuss is an outdoor gym. In my view, this is the most beneficial of the three options. Firstly, it will last a long time so will be good investment for the park. Secondly, it will benefit less well-off people who can’t afford a gym membership. Thirdly, outdoor gyms, unlike most indoor gyms, can be used by children as well as adults, so it is a healthy activity for the whole family.
- C** My view is that having a café in the park would be the best idea. It would be enjoyable for friends to meet up and share a coffee while enjoying a more natural environment than just sitting in a café in town. Although it would cost money to set up, the money could soon be earned back through the sale of drinks and snacks. This money could be used to benefit the park in one of the other ways.
- D** If you want to have a tea or coffee in the park, you can bring your own from home, which is more economical and environmentally-friendly anyway. Where else can you go to enjoy a beautiful, natural landscape if you live in the city? Not many people have gardens so parks are their only chance to experience nature. Children, in particular, really need to see and learn about trees, plants and flowers.

5 Study the words and expressions in the Key language box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR ESSAYS

Expressing your opinion: *in my opinion, in my view, I would say that, personally speaking*

Giving reasons for opinions: *this is because, the main reason for this is, due to, because (of)*

Giving examples: *one example of this is, for instance, take for example*

Sequencing: *first of all, to begin with, secondly, next/then, finally, last but not least*

Referring back: *as mentioned earlier, as previously discussed, the former/latter*

Referring forward: *This essay will ... , in the following paragraphs I will ... the purpose of this essay is to ...*

6 Complete the extract by deciding what the function of each gap is and then choosing an appropriate expression from the *Key language* box. Not all the options fit logically or grammatically.

All of us need to make an effort to stop our planet becoming more damaged. **(1)** discuss two ways people might protect the environment. **(2)**, I'd like to discuss the possibility of taking fewer flights **(3)**, I'll go on to discuss consider the option of reducing meat consumption. **(4)**, restricting the number of flights people take won't work. **(5)** they see that leaders and celebrities are still flying frequently. **(6)** is that international political conferences still involve each country's representatives travelling thousands of miles by air. **(7)**, ordinary citizens will not agree to limit their flights if their leaders will not. **(8)**, I'd focus on developing fuels for aircraft that are less harmful to the environment. **(1)** *Referring forward; In the following paragraphs I will*

7 Use the table to plan your response to the exam task below.

Your class has watched a documentary on ways to improve road safety in the town where you are studying. You have made the notes below:

How to improve road safety

- speed limits
- car-free zones
- road safety education

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

"Drivers need to keep to the speed limit."

"Cars should be banned from shopping areas."

"Children should learn about road safety at school."

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways to improve road safety in your notes. You should **explain which way would be most effective, giving reasons** to support your opinion. You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

8 Write your essay. Write between 220 and 260 words.

9 Check your essay and make changes if necessary.

- Is your essay clearly divided into paragraphs?
- Does your essay start by introducing the topic?
- Does your introduction state which points you're going to discuss?
- Have you discussed two out of the three points in the notes?
- Have you clearly stated which of the two points discussed is more effective?
- Have you given reasons/explanations/examples to justify your ideas?
- Have you written between 220 and 260 words?

	IDEAS	USEFUL PHRASES
Introduction		
Paragraph 1		
Paragraph 2		
(Paragraph 3 – optional)		
Conclusion		