

# CAE Writing Part 1: Formal Essay

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## Task Type

The new CAE writing part 1 is a formal essay based on a talk/lecture that the student has recently attended. There are always 3 bullet points that the lecture discussed, of which the candidate must only address two. There are also some quotes from other attendees/survey people that can be used. The final part of the task will include a question that the essay **MUST** answer.

WRITING, PART 1

You have attended a presentation at your college entitled 'Online shopping and the end of the high street shop'. The presenter included some comments she received during interviews with consumers. You have made the notes below.

Areas that the presenter focused on:

- convenience
- cost
- enjoyment

Some comments made by consumers:

'Online shopping means avoiding parking fees and crowds.'

'Goods are more reasonably priced on the Internet.'

'I love shopping and trying things on.'

Write an essay for your tutor discussing two of the areas in your notes. You should explain which area you think most influences how people shop and provide reasons to support your opinion. You may if you wish, refer to the consumers' comments, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

## Planning Process

1. Read task carefully. Underline most important parts; focus on the question that your essay **MUST** answer.
2. Brainstorm ideas based on the 3 bullet points.
3. Choose the 2 bullet point you have the most ideas about.
4. Brainstorm ways to express your ideas and the quotes in the task using advanced grammar:
  - Inversions: Not only is/do.....but also... Rarely/seldom do people....
  - Double comparatives: The cheaper the..., the more popular...
  - Participle clauses: Being a keen shopper myself,... Having bought many products online,....
  - Advanced linkers: Despite the fact that..., .... due to the fact that = because
5. Plan your introduction:
  - An interesting way to introduce the topic.
  - Formal questions that the essay will answer.
6. Plan your conclusion: Focus on answering the question you underlined in step 1.
7. Write.

8. Reread carefully checking for:

- Repetition of words/structures.
- Contractions.
- Boring/informal vocabulary.
- ~~Also~~ Furthermore/moreover. ~~Because~~ due/owing to the fact that. ~~Although~~ In spite of the fact that. ~~However~~ nonetheless/nevertheless.
- Have you answered the question completely?

Cut out and give to students to reorder in groups.

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## Linkers

Addition	Contrast	Introduce results/ consequences	Concluding
Also Furthermore _____	However Despite/in spite of _____	Consequently So _____	In light of the above In conclusion _____

Taking all this into account	Thus	In addition	Therefor e	Whereas	To sum up	Moreover	Nonetheles s
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## Rules

Complete the rules below with the correct linkers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ go at the start of a new sentence followed by a comma to add new information to the topic being discussed.
2. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ can be followed by a gerund/a noun/the fact that + a clause to express contrast.
3. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ can go in the middle or at the start of a sentence and express a consequence or result of something in the previous clause/sentence.
4. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ go at the start of a new sentence followed by a comma and express contrast.

5. \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ go at the start of the concluding paragraph followed by a comma. They introduce the conclusion of a piece of formal writing.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ goes in the middle of a sentence when comparing/contrasting two different things.

Complete the sentences with an appropriate linker:

1. The leisure centre offers an exceptional range of discounts for students.  
\_\_\_\_\_, customers can choose from an array of different payment options.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ having seen the film four times before, he enjoyed it immensely.
3. It is probably true to say that the internet has changed the world for the better.  
\_\_\_\_\_, its downsides cannot be ignored.
4. The detergent is highly concentrated \_\_\_\_\_ it will need to be diluted.
5. Online shoppers can buy whatever they want from the comfort of their armchairs  
\_\_\_\_\_ shopping in a brick and mortar store requires more effort.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, the invention that has had the biggest impact on society is clearly the combustion engine.
7. The invention of the internet has almost eliminated the need for conventional letters \_\_\_\_\_ many postmen have lost their jobs.

## Crime – Upgrade the paragraph

Lots of people think that people commit crimes because they are addicted to drugs. They steal things to sell so they can buy more drugs. This is a bit true but not all crime is committed by drug addicts. Other things cause crime too.

Due to the fact that...	Nevertheless/ Nonetheless	In order to
Lead to	Feed their habit.	A life of crime
Partially	It is widely believed that...	It is simply not the case that...
Take into account	Other factors	

Rewrite the paragraph using the phrases in the boxes and any other impressive grammar and vocabulary you can think of.

**Useful language for essays**

<p><b>Expressing an opinion</b>  It is probably true to say that ...  There can be no doubt that ...  It is simply not the case that ...</p> <p><b>Commonly held views</b>  It is widely believed that ...  No one would dispute the fact that ...  Few people would contest/dispute (the fact) that ...  It is generally agreed that ...</p>	<p><b>Saying what other people think</b>  There are those who argue that ...  It has been suggested that ...  It is often claimed that ...  Opponents/Supporters/Proponents of (hunting) argue that ...</p> <p><b>Referring to sources</b>  All the evidence suggests that ...  A recent survey proved that ...  Judging by the comments made by ...  Interviews with (students) have revealed that ...</p>
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Essay task for homework.

## Writing: an essay

- 1 Read through the following question, and underline key words and phrases in the question that you would need to include in your answer.

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### Introduction Phrases:

More and more families are choosing to have only one child.

The trend nowadays is towards having smaller families.

Over the past ten years or so the media have frequently carried reports of .....

Recent research indicates that the number of teenagers who smoke is increasing.

Hardly a week goes by without another report of ..... appearing in the media.

This raises the issue of whether .....

Although most people would generally agree that ..... few would deny that .....