

1 Essay

►► Exam task – Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style.

In your English class you have been talking about the internet. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

Do you think the internet has a negative effect on people's lives?

Notes

Write about:

1. communicating with friends
2. news and current affairs
3. (your own idea)

Useful phrases

Introducing the topic

To begin with ...
The first point I would like to make is ...
As some of us know, / As we all know, ...
Most people believe ...

Expressing opinions

It seems / appears to me that ...
I agree / disagree with ...
I am in favour of / I am against ...
For me, the most important ... is ...

Discussing pros and cons

On the one hand, ... / On the other hand, ...
However, ...
Nevertheless, ...
There are many arguments against / in favour of ...

Giving examples

For example / instance, ...
One example of ... is ...
... such as ...

Conclusion

To sum up, I believe there are advantages ...
In conclusion, ...
On balance, ...

►► Approach

- Make sure your writing is well organised and clearly paragraphed, starting with an introduction and ending with a conclusion summarising your opinion.
- You need to write about the two elements in the notes, as well as adding an idea of your own. This third idea must be different from the other two, and cannot simply be your conclusion at the end of the essay. Think about what your own idea will be before you start writing. Read the question carefully and write a brief plan so you know what to include in each paragraph.
- The register should be neutral or semi-formal, and even if you have strong opinions on the topic, you should try to express them in an objective way and look at both sides of the argument.

State the general topic in the first paragraph.

The use of the internet is now widespread. It is part of most people's lives, and some believe that its overall effects are harmful to society.

One way of writing this kind of essay is to present the advantages of the statement or situation in one paragraph. Use the two points in the notes and add one of your own (here, the third point is about using the internet to help with homework).

You can present the disadvantages of the statement or situation in a separate paragraph.

As we all know, the internet makes it easy to keep in touch with friends or family, for example by using social networking sites. You can also find out about events in the wider world almost as soon as they have happened. Moreover, students use the internet to find useful information for homework and college projects.

On the other hand, there are disadvantages too. For example, people can spend so much time chatting to friends on their computers that they rarely meet them face-to-face. Furthermore, the news that people see on the internet is not always accurate. Accuracy can also be a problem for students using the internet for their homework: unless it is from a reliable website, it may be incorrect.

Use linking words or expressions to list the main points (advantages or disadvantages) in your paragraph.

Sum up the main points and say whether there are more advantages than disadvantages. Show clearly whether you agree, disagree or partly agree with the statement.

On balance, I think there are more advantages than disadvantages to using the internet. As long as people are careful and do not automatically believe everything they see on it, then the internet can be a positive part of their lives.