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INTRODUCTION

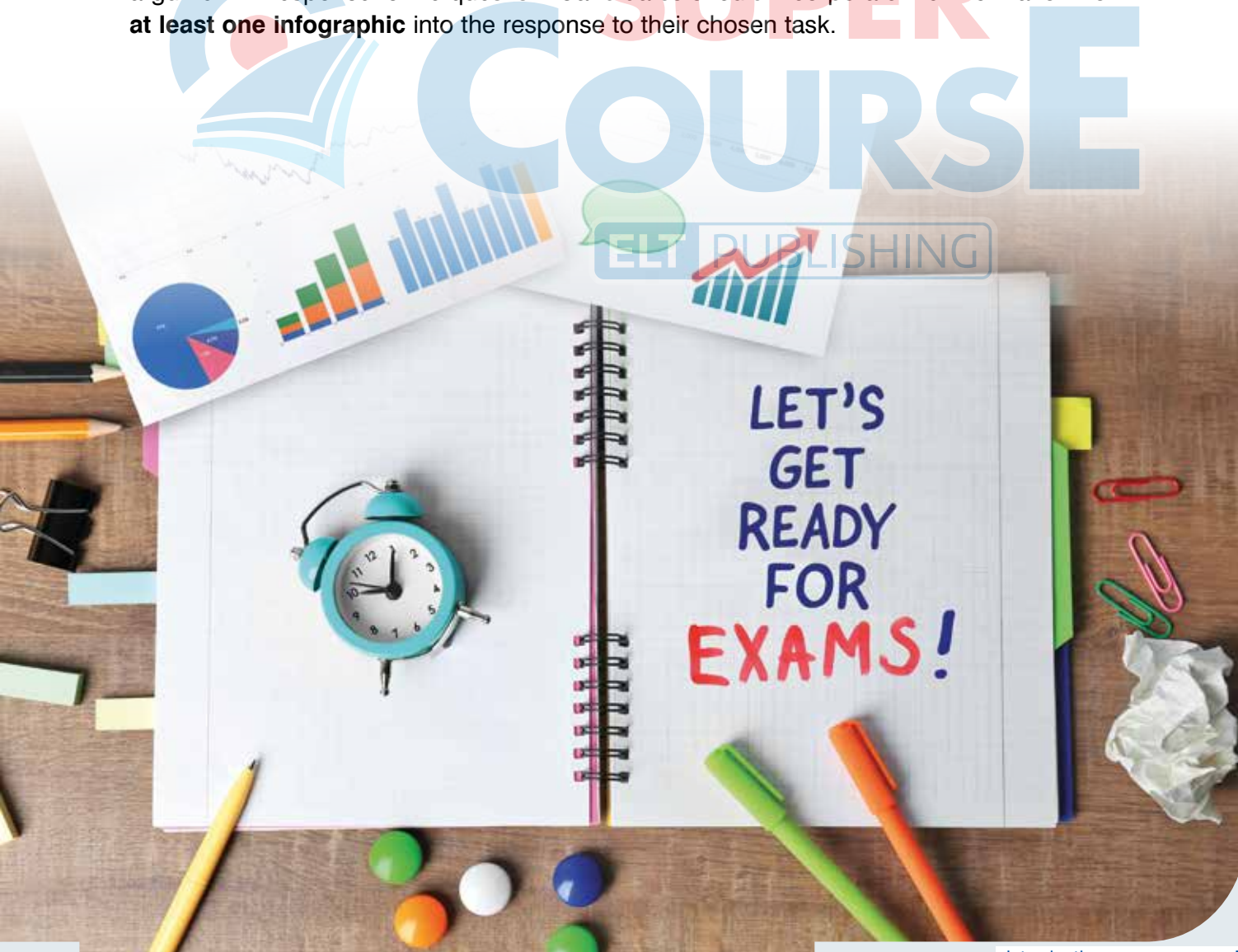
to Writing

for the New ECPE

The new exam format for the Writing section of the ECPE requires candidates to choose **one** of two options:

- **Task 1**, which is either an **article** or a **proposal**
- **Task 2**, which is an **essay**

Three simple infographics are also provided as prompts for students to help them build an argument in response to the question. Candidates should incorporate the information from **at least one infographic** into the response to their chosen task.



TASK 1: ARTICLE/PROPOSAL

TASK DESCRIPTION

A decision/plan and a reaction to it are briefly described, followed by instructions on what to write. Candidates are expected to present the opposing views regarding the decision/plan and express their own opinion.

ARTICLE

Typical Features

An article:

- ▶ is written in order to be published on a news website, in a school newspaper, etc.
- ▶ is written in formal language
- ▶ includes a brief title that expresses the main idea *
- ▶ briefly describes the decision/plan and refers to the opposing views in the introduction
- ▶ presents the opposing views of the decision/plan in the main body
- ▶ includes the writer's opinion and/or recommendation(s) in the conclusion

SAMPLE TASK

The local council is planning to construct a sports complex in a small woodland area outside the town. Some people are excited about this idea, but others are not. Write an article for a local news website explaining the impact of the council's decision and what you think about it.

Model Article & Outline

Provide a title expressing the main idea of the article

Plan for sports complex raises concern

The council's decision to build a new sports complex in a nearby wood has received mixed reactions. Some feel it is important to provide sufficient sports facilities for the town, while others are concerned that the choice of a woodland area for the site is not a wise one.

On the one hand, supporters of the plan claim that a new sports center will benefit the community in several ways. Firstly, it will offer local youth a number of leisure activities and a place to go to at weekends. A recent study into how teenagers spend their leisure time reveals that most of them lead very sedentary lives at home, mostly surfing the Net on their computers. So, the creation of a sports center will provide an incentive for local teens to become more active. Secondly, it will create much needed jobs for local people. According to a regional commercial report, over one hundred jobs are likely to be created as a result of the construction. Consequently, this will help boost the local economy.

On the other hand, there are those who disagree with the idea. Many worry about the potential impact of such action on the local environment. There are concerns about how much countryside will have to be destroyed to make way for the proposed complex. More specifically, an environmentalist expresses fears of a loss of local wildlife resulting from the destruction of natural habitat. He also points out that the potential increase in waste levels is bound to create problems in local waste disposal.

All in all, building a sports center will certainly benefit the area economically and enhance the quality of life, but the concerns raised cannot be ignored. Before implementing this decision, the council should first examine the possibility of alternative sites on which to build in order to minimize the impact on woodland areas. If the council acts responsibly and tries to reduce the environmental impact of the construction, then undoubtedly more people will support their decision.

INTRODUCTION

Briefly describe the decision/plan and refer to the opposing views

MAIN BODY**

Present one view of the decision/plan

Present the opposing view of the decision/plan

CONCLUSION

Express your opinion and/or make your recommendation(s)

* When writing an article, a title is optional, so you do not have to include it. However, it will improve the overall presentation of your article.

** The order of the main-body paragraphs can be reversed. You could also divide the main body into more than two paragraphs as long as they are well organized.

PROPOSAL

Typical Features

A proposal:

- ▶ is written for a specific person - a company president, the local mayor, etc.
- ▶ is written in formal language
- ▶ includes headings that express the main idea of each paragraph *
- ▶ states the purpose of writing in the introduction
- ▶ presents the opposing views of the decision/plan in the main body
- ▶ includes the writer's recommendation(s) in the conclusion

SAMPLE TASK

A local company wants to allow its employees to telecommute three days a week. Some people at the company think that this is not a good idea. Write a proposal to the president of the company evaluating the different opinions on this issue and explain what you think about it.

Model Proposal & Outline

To: The Company President

Address the recipient

Introduction

The aim of this proposal is to examine the suggestion to introduce a flexible working system enabling company staff to work from home three days per week, evaluate the response among employees and make recommendations for the best way to proceed.

Positive Response

The initiative to allow employees to work from home three days a week has of course met with positive reactions. Those married with children generally welcome the opportunity to be at home when their children finish school, and staff who live long distances from the company premises like the idea of being able to work from home for part of the week.

A sales manager who is in favor of this view asserts that eliminating the need to commute will not only reduce employee stress levels but also lead to greater productivity.

Negative Response

Nevertheless, other managers have expressed concern that this freedom of choice may result in a reduction in the overall quality of work, as staff may be tempted to bend the rules in terms of punctuality and the actual number of hours they work. They argue that it will be difficult to monitor employees working from home. A recent study into a company's performance revealed that employees' productivity levels had actually dropped after they started working from home. This may be due to noise distractions from children or not having a proper place to work, making it difficult for them to concentrate.

Recommendation

All things considered, the plan to introduce the option to work from home is worth examining further. There is no doubt that employees who take advantage of this choice will be able to save time and energy, which they can use more productively in their work. However, they should first make sure they can create a quiet working space at home. Then, if the company organizes the working schedules carefully, undoubtedly, more people will support the plan.

INTRODUCTION

State the purpose of writing

MAIN BODY**

Present one view of the decision/plan

Present the opposing view of the decision/plan

CONCLUSION

Make your recommendation(s)

* When writing a proposal, headings are optional, so you do not have to include them. However, they can help you organize your answer more effectively.

** The order of the main-body paragraphs can be reversed.

TASK 2: ESSAY

TASK DESCRIPTION

A topic is briefly described, followed by instructions on what to write. Candidates are expected to present the positive and negative aspects of the topic and express their own opinion.

Typical Features

An essay:

- ▶ has no specific target reader
- ▶ is written in formal language
- ▶ does not include a title or headings
- ▶ makes a general comment on the topic and refers to its positive and negative aspects in the introduction
- ▶ presents the positive and negative aspects in the main body
- ▶ includes a final comment and the writer's opinion in the conclusion

SAMPLE TASK

Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries. What positive and negative impact might this have? Write an essay addressing this topic and explain what you think about it.

Model Essay & Outline

It is a well-known fact that tourism is a popular industry which contributes to the social and economic development of an area, and that is why many countries are turning to tourism as a means of expanding their economy. While this is beneficial in many ways, it is not without its drawbacks.

For one thing, many people are in favor of developing the tourist industry as a source of income. For communities suffering from economic decline, it can revive the region. A recent study into the effects of tourism on a poor coastal area showed that not only did employment figures rise, but local services also improved as a result of investment in hotel facilities. For instance, public transport was developed, and entertainment facilities such as a cinema complex and a bowling alley were built. In addition, the creation of hotels and resorts also increases the demand for produce from local suppliers. According to an online news article, the fishermen of a seaside resort reported a boost in sales of fish following the construction of several new restaurants in the town. So, there is no doubt that tourism can have a positive effect on the community.

*Nevertheless, the cost to the local community is often high. To attract foreign investment, authorities allow big multinational companies to build large hotel resorts and complexes in small seaside towns. These organizations may ignore local architectural styles and show little respect for the natural beauty of the area. Consequently, to a certain extent, the character of a region may be lost. Furthermore, in many cases, tourism has a negative impact on the local environment. According to a US study, pollution levels have increased in coastal areas that host large numbers of tourists. Such long-term effects need to be considered carefully. ***

Taking everything into account, I am inclined to believe that tourism can be beneficial to a country's economy, but the government must ensure that developers and investors take both the needs of the local community and the protection of the environment into consideration.

INTRODUCTION

Make a general comment on the topic and refer to the positive and negative aspects

MAIN BODY

Present the positive aspects of the topic *

Present the negative aspects of the topic *

CONCLUSION

Make a final comment and express your opinion

* The order of the main-body paragraphs can be reversed.

** You could organize the main body into more than two paragraphs as long as they are well organized.

USING THE INFOGRAPHICS

An infographic may contain:

- ▶ a **figure**, **quotation**, **chart** or **graph** including information
- ▶ a **source** which shows where the information was taken from

INFOGRAPHICS

To make good use of the infographics, you must take the following steps:

Step 1. Understand the infographic

Interpret the information provided in the infographic and identify the source.

Step 2. Paraphrase the information

Rephrase the information provided in the infographic using your own words as much as possible. This can be achieved by:

- using **synonyms** for key words in the sentence
- **changing the form** of a key word, e.g. from a verb to a noun
- **reordering** the information in the sentence, e.g. transforming a statement in the Active Voice into the Passive

Step 3. Introduce the source

Incorporate the source into the paraphrased information presented in the infographic.

Exercise 1: Follow Steps 1-3 to make use of the infographics, as in the example. Indicative answers

a. figure



Step 1

a. Look at the infographic and underline the source.

b. What is the information provided?

There are 40 million foreign visitors to the UK per year.

Step 2

Paraphrase the information in the infographic. You can use the words/phrases given and/or your own ideas.

(tourists - visit - from abroad - every)

40 million tourists visit the UK from abroad every year.

Step 3

Introduce the source of the information using the words/phrases given.

(news report - suggests that)

A recent news report suggests that 40 million tourists visit the UK from abroad every year.

b. quotation



Step 1

a. Look at the infographic and underline the source.

b. What is the information provided?

Maintaining a safe workplace will boost employees' confidence.

Step 2

Paraphrase the information in the infographic. You can use the words/phrases given and/or your own ideas.

(providing - secure - working environment - increase)

Providing a secure working environment will increase employees' confidence.

Step 3

Introduce the source of the information using the words/phrases given.

(manager - in favor of the plan - argues that)

A human resources manager who is in favor of the plan argues that providing a secure working environment will increase employees' confidence.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Describing quantity/numbers

- ▶ (almost) 30% / 50% / 65% of ...
- ▶ (approximately) a third of / half of / two thirds of ...
- ▶ a large/great/small number of ...
- ▶ a large/small percentage/proportion of ...
- ▶ most / the majority of ...



Exercise 1: Paraphrase the underlined parts of the sentences using phrases from the box. Indicative answers

1. A UK study mentions that only a small number of teenagers prefer ebooks to printed versions.
A UK study mentions that only a small proportion of teenagers prefer ebooks to printed versions.
2. According to a US study, most high school students participate in sports.
According to a US study, the majority of high school students participate in sports.
3. A company survey indicates that only 30% of the employees approved of the recent technological advances in the workplace.
A company survey indicates that only a third of the employees approved of the recent technological advances in the workplace.

Describing trends

- ▶ (Sales) will increase/decrease (gradually/dramatically) over/within the next (year/decade)
- ▶ It is estimated/expected that (sales) will increase/decrease (by 20%) next (month/year)
- ▶ (Sales) are predicted/expected to rise/fall ...
- ▶ There has been a/an (gradual/dramatic) rise/increase/decrease in (sales) over (the past decade)
- ▶ (Sales) will/may (almost) double ...
- ▶ (17 million cars are sold) per year / each year / every year

Exercise 2: Paraphrase the underlined parts of the sentences using phrases from the box. Indicative answers

1. According to a recent survey, levels of drought are predicted to rise next year.
According to a recent survey, it is estimated that levels of drought will increase over the next year.
2. Results from a survey into traveling trends in the region show that hotel reservations will decrease dramatically over the next summer.
Results from a survey into traveling trends in the region show that hotel reservations are expected to fall dramatically next summer.
3. A manager who welcomes the move asserts that labor costs are predicted to fall over the next month.
A manager who welcomes the move asserts that labor costs will decrease within the next month.
4. A study into the impact of the construction of the mall reveals that there has been a rise in local revenue within the past year.
A study into the impact of the construction of the mall reveals that there has been an increase in local revenue over the past year.
5. According to a news report, it is expected that global investment in infrastructure will increase by 100% over the next decade.
According to a news report, global investment in infrastructure will double within the next decade.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

In your piece of writing, you should not only present the information in the infographics, but you also need to further support it. You can do this by providing:

1. explanations
2. examples
3. results

LINKING WORDS/PHRASES

Providing explanations:

- ▶ This means that ...
- ▶ In other words,
- ▶ That is to say,
- ▶ More specifically,
- ▶ This is because ...
- ▶ This is due to the fact that ...

Providing examples:

- ▶ For example,
- ▶ For instance,
- ▶ ... such as / like ...
- ▶ One typical example of this is ...
- ▶ This is clearly illustrated by the fact that ...

Providing results:

- ▶ As a result,
- ▶ As a consequence,
- ▶ Consequently,
- ▶ In this way,
- ▶ Therefore,
- ▶ So,

Exercise 1: Write supporting sentences for the following arguments using the words/phrases given and/or your own ideas. Indicative answers

1. Results from a study into the effects of noise pollution suggest that it could be harmful to children's health.
(cause problems - hearing loss - which - affect - future lives)
For example, it can cause problems, such as hearing loss, which will also affect their future lives.
2. A high school teacher who welcomes the move asserts that students will feel more confident with the new teaching approach.
(be willing - take advantage of - strengths - work on - weaknesses)
In other words, they will be willing to take advantage of their strengths and work on their weaknesses.
3. A study into the impact of the construction of the mall reveals that there has been an increase in local revenue over the past year.
(standard of living - area - rise - citizens - enjoy - quality of life)
As a result, the standard of living in the area has risen and citizens are able to enjoy a better quality of life.
4. A company survey indicates that only a third of the employees approved of the recent technological advances in the workplace.
(most employees - still - prefer - previous software - presentations - in meetings)
This is clearly illustrated by the fact that most employees still prefer using the previous software for their presentations in meetings.

Exercise 2: Write supporting sentences (explanations/examples/results) for the following arguments using words/phrases from the box. Indicative answers

1. According to a US study, the majority of high school students participate in sports.
One typical example of this is that most teenagers are members in sports clubs or do an individual sport like swimming.
2. Results from a survey into traveling trends in the region show that hotel reservations are expected to fall dramatically next summer.
As a consequence, other local businesses, such as retail shops and restaurants, will also suffer from the drop in the number of tourists visiting the area.
3. A UK study mentions that only a small proportion of teenagers prefer ebooks to printed versions.
More specifically, most teenagers prefer reading printed books because they find them more convenient and more easily accessible.

Lesson 3a

Food

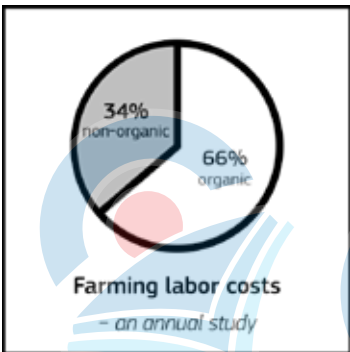
Organic vs. non-organic farming

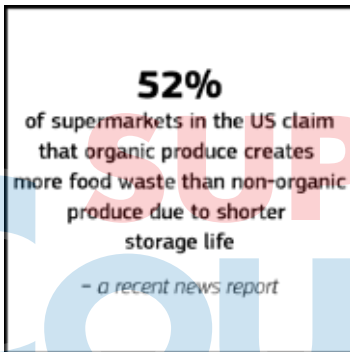
WARM-UP:

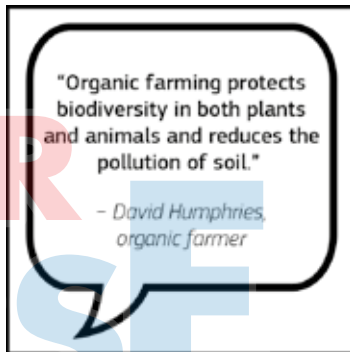
1. Do you eat organic food? What do you think are the benefits of doing so?
2. These are some features of organic farming. In pairs, decide whether each one is an advantage (A) or disadvantage (D) of this farming method. Write A or D next to them.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| • high production cost | <input type="radio"/> D | • lack of adequate financial support from government | <input type="radio"/> D |
| • no use of chemicals | <input type="radio"/> A | • requires more specialized knowledge | <input type="radio"/> D |
| • more nutritious produce | <input type="radio"/> A | • prevents groundwater contamination | <input type="radio"/> A |
| • crops more vulnerable to diseases | <input type="radio"/> D | • considers future generations | <input type="radio"/> A |

WRITING TASK A

1. 

2. 

3. 

Task: Essay

Some farmers today are choosing to grow organic crops. What positive and negative impact might this have? Write an **essay** addressing this topic and explain what you think about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

ANALYZING THE TASK

- 1a. Read the task and underline the essay topic.
- 1b. What are you required to do in your essay? Number 1-3.
2. Look at the infographics and answer the questions.



- a) Which infographics provide information about:
 - i) the benefits of organic farming? 3
 - ii) the drawbacks of organic farming? 1 and 2
- b) What are the arguments in favor of organic farming? Indicative answers
 - i) it protects biodiversity in both plants and animals
 - ii) it reduces the pollution of soil
- c) What are the arguments against organic farming? Indicative answers
 - i) labor costs for organic farming are higher than those for non-organic farming
 - ii) 52% of supermarkets in the US claim that organic produce creates more food waste than non-organic produce due to shorter storage life

MODEL ESSAY

1. Read the model essay and fill in the gaps 1-6 with the phrases from the box.

more vulnerable to	of major importance	maintaining good health
constant care	cultivating crops	a more attractive option for

Nowadays, an increasing number of consumers are becoming aware of the significance of a proper diet in 1. maintaining good health and this is why they are choosing to buy organic food. Although this has led to a demand for farmers to switch to organic agriculture, the number of them who choose to do so remains relatively small. The reason for this is that while organic farming is beneficial in many ways, it is not without its drawbacks.

For one thing, one of the disadvantages of organic farming is that the production cost is quite high. An annual study reveals that labor costs for organic agriculture are higher than those for conventional methods. This is probably because organic crops require 2. constant care and attention from farm workers. Furthermore, crops which are grown without pesticides are 3. more vulnerable to diseases. According to a recent news report, approximately half of the supermarkets in the US assert that organic products have a shorter shelf life resulting in more food waste. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that large amounts of fruit and vegetables end up in rubbish bins as they soon become too ripe for customers to buy.

Nevertheless, some farmers choose to follow this path for various reasons. Firstly, organic products are both tastier and more nutritious than non-organic ones. This is due to the fact that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used in growing them. Secondly, experts raise another argument in favor of 4. cultivating crops in this way, saying that it is also beneficial for the environment. As one organic farmer explains, natural methods support diversity in plant and animal species and decrease the levels of soil pollution. Consequently, the high quality of the soil is preserved, which will surely benefit future generations.

Taking everything into account, the advantages of organic farming are 5. of major importance compared to the disadvantages. In my opinion, the government needs to provide adequate financial support for organic agriculture in order to make it 6. a more attractive option for farmers.

2a. Underline the phrases used to introduce the sources of the information presented in the infographics.

2b. Read the model again and notice how the writer further supports her arguments based on the infographics.

Instruct students to search for explanations, examples and results.



BUILDING WRITING SKILLS

1. Read the model essay again. How has the writer paraphrased the information in the infographics?

- labor costs for organic farming are higher than those for non-organic farming (para. 2)
labor costs for organic agriculture are higher than those for conventional methods
- 52% of supermarkets in the US claim that (para. 2)
approximately half of the supermarkets in the US assert that
- organic produce creates more food waste due to shorter storage life (para. 2)
organic products have a shorter shelf life resulting in more food waste
- organic farming protects biodiversity in both plants and animals (para. 3)
natural methods support diversity in plant and animal species
- organic farming reduces the pollution of soil (para. 3)
natural methods decrease the levels of soil pollution

2. Find words/phrases from the model essay that mean:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. importance (para. 1) | significance | 6. leading to (para. 2) | resulting in |
| 2. request (n.) (para. 1) | demand | 7. healthier (para. 3) | more nutritious |
| 3. change (v.) (para. 1) | switch | 8. variety (para. 3) | diversity |
| 4. rather (para. 1) | relatively | 9. maintained (para. 3) | preserved |
| 5. traditional (para. 2) | conventional | 10. enough (para. 4) | adequate |

3a. Fill in column A1 with the words/phrases from column A2 to form collocations. You can refer to the model essay for help.

A1	
1. become	aware of
2. raise	an argument
3. chemical	fertilizers
4. plant and animal	species
5. financial	support

A2
species
aware of
support
an argument
fertilizers

3b. Complete the sentences with the collocations from exercise 3a.

- Scientists raise an argument against the risks of poor nutrition.
- Governments may need to supply businesses with financial support in order to explore new farming methods.
- Using chemical fertilizers protects crops but it also presents a danger for both farmers and consumers.
- More people should become aware of the health problems that eating disorders may involve.
- Pesticides disrupt biodiversity and threaten many plant and animal species.



Now write your own essay in answer to Writing Task A and complete the checklist.

CHECKLIST

- Does my essay answer the task?
- Does my essay have a clear introduction, main body and conclusion?
- Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence?
- Have I used the information presented in at least one infographic?
- Have I paraphrased the information presented in the infographic(s)?
- Have I supported my points with explanations/examples/results?
- Have I used the appropriate linking words/phrases to assist the flow of my essay?
- Is my essay written in formal language?
- Have I proofread my essay?

COPY YOUR CORRECTED ESSAY HERE:

INTRODUCTION

- General comment on the topic
- Reference to the positive and negative aspects

MAIN BODY

- **1st paragraph**
The negative aspects of the topic*
- **2nd paragraph**
The positive aspects of the topic*

CONCLUSION

Final comment and personal opinion

* The order of the main-body paragraphs can be reversed.



Lesson 3b

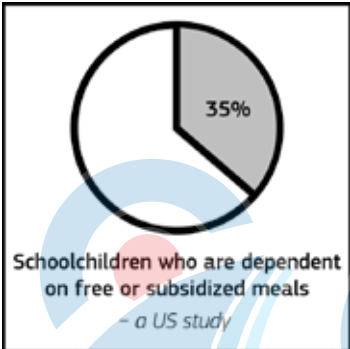
Food Free school meals


WARM-UP:


1. What do children usually like eating at school?
2. Why is it important for students to eat healthily?
3. Should schools offer free meals to students?
Why / Why not?



WRITING TASK B

1. 

Schoolchildren who are dependent on free or subsidized meals
- a US study
2. 

1 in 3
government officials claim free school meals impractical due to huge cost and potential waste produced
- a recent news report
3. 

"Children who have a proper diet are better focused during the lesson."
- Andy Knowles, school principal

Task: Essay

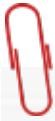
Some schools provide children with at least one free meal a day. What positive and negative impact might this have? Write an **essay**¹ addressing this topic and² explain what you think about it.³ Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

ANALYZING THE TASK

- 1a. Read the task and underline the essay topic.
- 1b. What are you required to do in your essay? Number 1-3.
2. Look at the infographics and answer the questions.
 - a) Which infographics provide information about:
 - i) the view in favor of free school meals? 1 and 3
 - ii) the view against free school meals? 2
 - b) What are the arguments in favor of free school meals? Indicative answers
 - i) 35% of schoolchildren are dependent on free or subsidized meals
 - ii) children who have a proper diet are better focused during the lesson
 - c) What is the argument against free school meals? Indicative answer
 - i) 1 in 3 government officials claim free school meals impractical due to huge cost and potential waste produced
3. How many paragraphs will the main body of your essay have? 2 or 3

PREPARING TO WRITE

1. Complete the introduction for your essay with the correct form of the words in CAPITAL LETTERS.



Nowadays, we are all becoming 1. aware of the importance of proper 2. nutrition in maintaining good health. However, many children from low-income families cannot afford to eat 3. properly. Although this has led to a demand for the 4. government to provide schoolchildren with a free meal each day, there are still a number of 5. officials who are opposed to the idea. The 6. reason for this is that while such a scheme is 7. beneficial in many ways, it is not 8. without its drawbacks.

1. AWARENESS
2. NUTRITIOUS
3. PROPER
4. GOVERN
5. OFFICE
6. REASONABLE
7. BENEFIT
8. WITH

2. Write the information presented in the infographics using as many words of your own as possible.

Indicative answers



Infographic 1: A US study indicated that thirty-five percent of schoolchildren receive financial support for their school meals.

Infographic 2: According to a recent news report, a third of government officials feel that the provision of free school meals is not a viable option because of the high cost and the large amounts of food waste generated.

Infographic 3: As one school principal claims, when children eat properly, their concentration levels in class tend to be higher.

3. Complete the sentences with the words/phrases from the box.

for one thing although moreover
as well as nevertheless

1. Although following a healthy diet is beneficial in many ways, some people seem to ignore this and choose to eat junk food.
2. It has been noted that children's performance at school is affected by good sleep as well as a proper diet.
3. Obesity can cause numerous problems. For one thing, it may lead to diabetes or a heart attack.
4. There are governments which subsidize free meals at schools. Nevertheless, some officials are opposed to such action.
5. Nutritional deficiencies result in the weakening of the immune system. Moreover, they affect mental ability and brain capacity.

4. Choose the correct option.

- The lower cost of organic food would make healthier eating choices more
 a. aware **b. attractive** c. nutritious
- Homemade meals can really people who work or study hard.
a. benefit b. require c. preserve
- Student malnutrition has become a matter of concern for both educators and parents.
 a. viable b. conventional **c. considerable**
- Government argue that innovative farming schemes will be properly supported.
a. officials b. consumers c. principals
- Lots of people pay great attention to their diet in order to a good physical condition.
 a. implement b. cultivate **c. maintain**
- Many studies focus on the impact of regular consumption of junk food on mental health.
 a. vulnerable **b. potential** c. constant

5. Choose the correct group of words/phrases from the box to form collocations.

report / profit / campaign an argument / a question / awareness
 health / consumers / future generations food / crops / agriculture



1. organic food
 crops
 agriculture
2. annual report
 profit
 campaign
3. raise an argument
 a question
 awareness
4. benefit health
 consumers
 future generations

6. Replace the words/phrases in bold with those from the box to write an appropriate conclusion for your essay.

of major importance taking everything into account
 become a more attractive option the provision of



¹**Finally**, the advantages of offering free school meals are ²**very important** compared to the disadvantages. In my opinion, the government needs to find ways to reduce the cost and waste of ³**giving** free food at schools so that it could ⁴**be a better choice**.

- Taking everything into account**
- of major importance**
- the provision of**
- become a more attractive option**



Now write your essay and complete the checklist.

CHECKLIST

- Does my essay answer the task?
- Does my essay have a clear introduction, main body and conclusion?
- Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence?
- Have I used the information presented in at least one infographic?
- Have I paraphrased the information presented in the infographic(s)?
- Have I supported my points with explanations/examples/results?
- Have I used the appropriate linking words/phrases to assist the flow of my essay?
- Is my essay written in formal language?
- Have I proofread my essay?

COMPLETE THE OUTLINE:

COPY YOUR CORRECTED ESSAY HERE:

INTRODUCTION

- General comment on the topic
- Reference to the positive and negative aspects

MAIN BODY

- **1st paragraph**
The negative aspects of the topic
- **2nd paragraph**
The positive aspects of the topic

CONCLUSION

Final comment and personal opinion

Nowadays, we are all becoming aware of the importance of proper nutrition in maintaining good health. However, many children from low-income families cannot afford to eat properly. Although this has led to a demand for the government to provide schoolchildren with a free meal each day, there are still a number of officials who are opposed to the idea. The reason for this is that while such a scheme is beneficial in many ways, it is not without its drawbacks.

On the one hand, there are important practical issues involved. According to a recent news report, a third of government officials feel that the provision of free school meals is not a viable option for two main reasons. Firstly, the cost will obviously be too high to ignore. Secondly, officials are concerned about the potential food waste. In other words, faced with a limited choice of food, some children may not eat their meal or leave part of it.

On the other hand, there are also certain benefits to consider. By providing students with a free meal, the government protects those who are less privileged. A US study indicated that thirty-five percent of schoolchildren receive financial support for their school meals. So, if the government ensures that every single child can enjoy at least one proper meal a day, then it will have managed to solve a crucial problem. Moreover, as one school principal claims, when children eat properly, their concentration levels in class tend to be higher. That is to say, sufficient nourishment helps students not only to be physically healthy but also mentally alert.

Taking everything into account, the advantages of offering free school meals are of major importance compared to the disadvantages. In my opinion, the government needs to find ways to reduce the cost and waste of the provision of free food at schools so that it could become a more attractive option.