

## WRITING TASKS FOR EXAM PREPARATION

### 1. Write an essay based on the following topic:

The world today faces a serious challenge: we don't really understand the ways in which technology is changing our lives: our work/education, our leisure, our communication, our relationships - everything. And if we don't understand today's world, how can we make sure tomorrow's world is a good one for ourselves, our children, our children's children...?

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### 2. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:

What's the value of art? Isn't it only a way to make money in modern society?

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### 3. The editor of an international magazine have asked you to write an article about people and technology. They would like you to deal with the following:

- What experiences does the average person have of technology in his/her daily life?
- Do you think technology helps us or does it just cause problems?
- How do you predict technology will affect our life in the future?

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### 4. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.

The more you work, the more money you earn.

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### 5. You have received the following note from the editor of the student magazine you sometimes write articles for. Write your article.

In the next month's edition, we're going to focus on transport. I would really appreciate it if you could write an article about transport situation in your town.

- What are the main problems people in your town are facing today?
- What are the reasons for this?
- What are the possible solutions?
- How likely do you think it is that these solutions will be applied?
- What predictions would you make for the future?

**6. Write an essay for or against the following statement:**

People should be encouraged to get out of their cars and find other ways to travel, like public transport or cycling and walking.

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**7. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

How do devices make our life better? Can technical progress influence a person's moral progress? Are informational technologies dangerous nowadays?

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**8. Write a review for a student magazine about a book you have enjoyed reading. Your review should include the following information about the book:**

- the title
- a brief outline of what happens
- what you think is interesting about it
- what you think its best aspects are
- who you would recommend it to

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**9. You recently attended a performance (music, theatre, dance, etc). Write a letter to tell your penfriend about it. Include the following:**

- who you went with
- what event you went to
- why you chose this event
- what you liked about it
- what you didn't like about it

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**10. Write an essay for or against the following statement:**

Physical Education should only be an optional subject at school because not everyone's equally good at sports.

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**11. Write a letter to your penfriend. Tell him or her about your personal experiences of sports. Include the following information:**

- which sports you have played
- what your attitude is to sport
- how you think sport can help people in their lives

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**12. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Can one person do something to combat global ecological issue?

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**13. Here is part of a letter you receive from an English-speaking friend:**

*...and that's why I'm so curious to know about your country's food. I mean, what are the national dishes? What are your own personal favourites? When do you eat your main meal of the day? Is everything very traditional, or is it, like in so many countries these days, all changing? ...*

**Write your reply to your friend, answering his questions.**

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**14. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Building recycling plants in cities: pros and cons.

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**15. You have seen this job advertisement and have decided to apply. Write your letter of application.**

**Wanted: people with  
the right attitude!**

Our town is growing in popularity with foreign tourists. We need guides to show them round. Guides need to:

- have a friendly manner
- speak good English
- know about our city – facilities, history, etc.

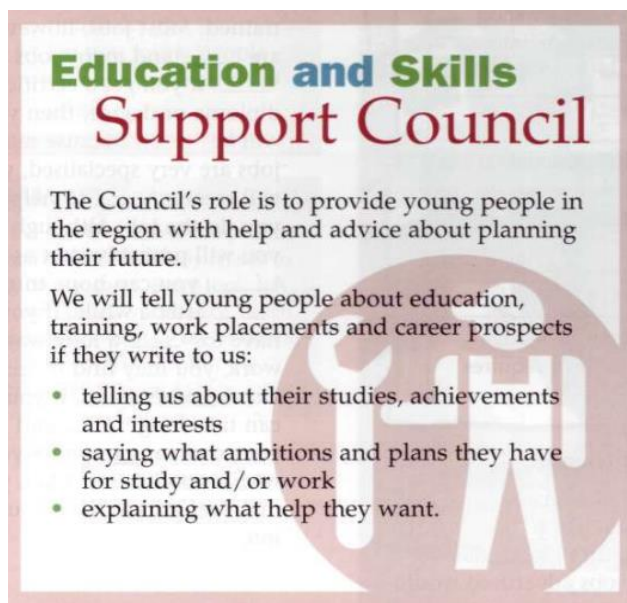
If you fit this description, send us a letter of application, addressed to the Officer for Tourism.

**16. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

What can a human learn from nature? Is a human a harmonious part of nature?

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**17. You have seen the following announcement, and decided to write a letter to the Council.**



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**18. Write an essay about the issues included in this question:**

Should you start a career or enter the university at 18?

**Consider the following:**

- earning a living
- starting a family
- gaining experience
- meeting new people

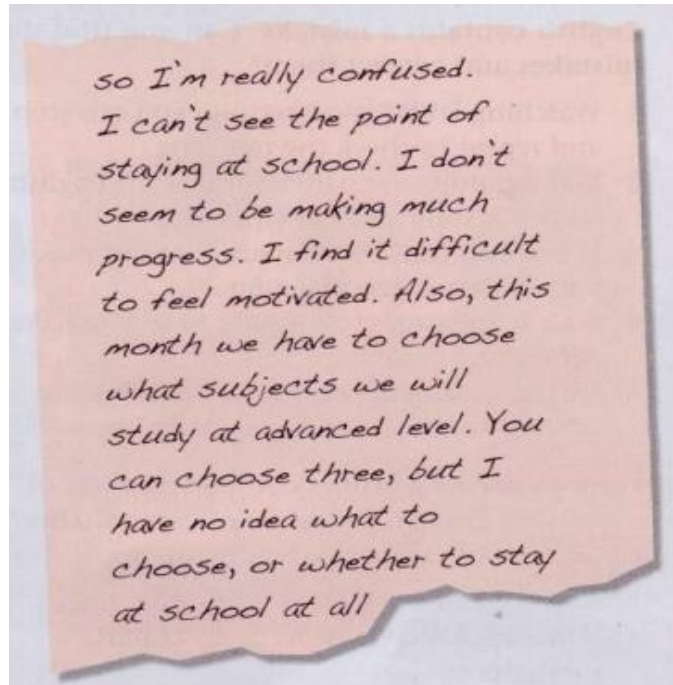
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**19. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Extreme sports are dangerous but they are becoming more and more popular with teenagers. Extreme sports should be banned.

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**20. Here is part of a letter you have received from your penfriend Sam:**



**Write a reply to Sam:**

- telling him about ways to improve motivation
- suggesting subjects for him to study
- explaining the benefits of staying at school

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**21. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

What has real value in human life?

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**22. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Technological inventions don't make our lives better. They simply create more products we are expected to buy.

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**23. Read the following statement. Do you agree or disagree? Make arguments to support your views. Write a for or against essay.**

Animal testing is immoral and unnecessary, and it should be banned.

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**24. Write an essay about environmental issues. In your essay, consider the following aspects:**

- current threats to the environment
- the relationship of business issues and the environment
- any action that you believe should be taken

**Give reasons for your ideas.**

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**25. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Why is it important to know history lessons? Can history be true if it's usually written by winners.

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**26. Write an international magazine about protecting the environment in your country.**

**Include the following information:**

- what threats to the environment there are in your country
- what you recommend people should do
- what you think will happen to the environment in the future

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**27. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Is limitless freedom possible in society?

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**28. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Some people believe that our modern lifestyle is very unhealthy. However, we tend to live longer than 100 years ago.

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**29. Write an article for a student magazine about housing situation in your area or city.**

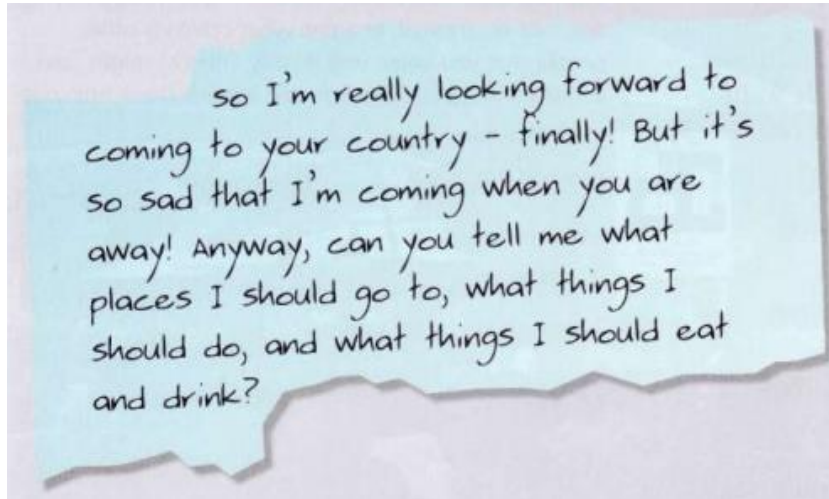
**Consider the following:**

- different types of houses and flats
- what problems there are regarding housing
- what improvements should be made

- how you think housing will develop in the future

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**30. Read part of a letter you have received from your penfriend abroad. Write a reply.**



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**31. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Benefits and drawbacks of studying hard

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**32. You recently returned from a holiday organised by SunTravel. The holiday was not a success: you had a number of problems. Write a letter of complaint to Customer Services at SunTravel, including the following information:**

- brief details of the holiday you booked
- a description of what went wrong
- an explanation of how this affected you
- a request for compensation

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**33. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

How can responsibility help in achieving success in life? Can irresponsibility be dangerous? Why (not)?

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**34. Imagine your friend lost his/her mobile and is really upset. Write him/her to calm.**

**Say:**

- where you have heard about his/her accident
- that you had such a situation before
- cheer him/her up and tell why he/she shouldn't worry

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**35. You would like to persuade your friend to come abroad with you. Write a letter to him/her and say:**

- where you are planning to go
- why you have chosen this place
- why your friend should go with you

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**36. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

What labour earns more respect: manual or intellectual?

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**37. You want to persuade your parents let you go to a summer camp abroad. Write a letter to your friend to ask him for a piece of advice:**

- describe why you're writing
- state why your parents don't want to let you go
- ask for his/her opinion and advice regarding your issue

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**38. Write an opinion essay on the following topic.**

How is it better to succeed? On your own or as part of a team?

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**39. You found an add in the newspaper and would like to get the job of a waiter. Write a letter of application in which you tell:**

- why you fit for the job
- that you will be able to work late hours and at the weekends
- ask all the questions that interest you



**40. Write a letter of complaint in which you tell:**

- the reason why you're writing: the bus was late for 2 hours
- that you missed your flight
- ask for full refund

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**41. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

How to achieve harmony in life? Is harmony possible in human life?

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**42. Write a letter to your pen-friend in which you tell him/her:**

- whether your parents influence your choice of books to read;
- what is your favorite literary genre and why;
- where you usually get books you'd like to read.

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**43. Write a letter to your friend asking for advice. In your letter write about:**

- what your problem is (you cannot decide where to go on holiday)
- how you can persuade your parents to let you go somewhere. They don't want you to go anywhere at all
- why you think your friend can help you

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**44. You would like to work in Great Britain this summer. And you have read this advertisement in a newspaper**

**London Language Summer School**

*is looking for the young energetic helpers.  
Duties include helping with different outdoor  
activities. Helpers must be good organizers, keen on  
sports and be able to work at any time, including  
evenings,  
from 1-st - 30-th August.  
Intermediate level English is essential.  
Please apply in writing to Tom Griffin. The deadline  
for application is June 15-th*

**Write a letter of application. In your letter write about:**

- why you are writing
- your personal qualities, language skills and experience with children
- why you think this work experience would be important for your future

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**45. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Is it always right to trust people? How can extrovercy help achieve success?

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**46. Imagine you visited a place in your country which you really liked. Write a letter to your friend about it using the paragraph plan below:**

- greeting; some words about where the place is situated and why you went there.
- further details about the place; weather conditions.
- what you saw and what you did there.
- how you feel about the place and whether you recommend to visit it or not; closing remarks.

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**47. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Is it possible to form a perfect society without a perfect family?

Why is family important/not important? What ruins a family?

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**48. Imagine that you read some people's thoughts on the topic of dependence on computers. You have decided to write a letter to the editor of the newspaper. In your letter:**

- describe the pros and cons of computers
- is this dependence on computers good or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?
- argue whether it is better to read a book or search for sth on the internet

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**49. Write an essay, for or against the following statement:**

Post offices should close. In the age of the Internet, they are no longer necessary.

**50. The editors of a student magazine have asked you to write an article about friendship. They would like to include the following:**

- what qualities make people a good friend
- how friends can help each other
- whether it is better to have a wide circle of friends or a few close friends

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**51. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

Can happiness be bought for money?

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**52. Write a letter to your penfriend in the UK. She or he wants to know about your life in your country. Tell him/her about:**

- being a teenager
- friendships
- what you think about marriages

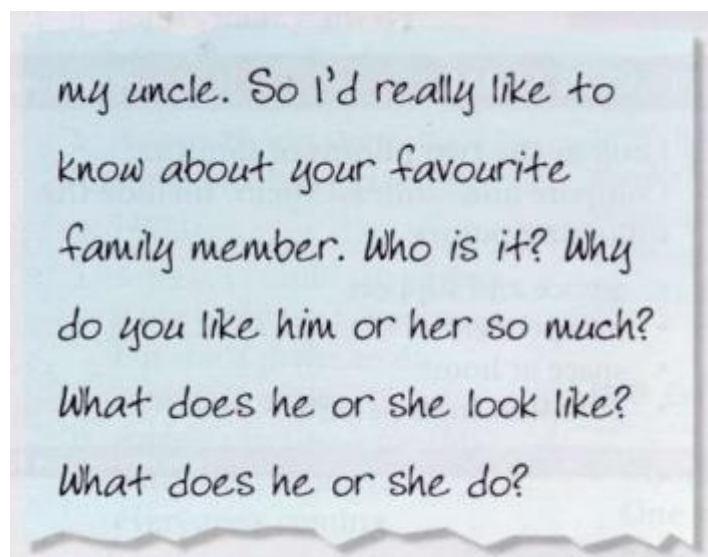
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**53. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

What makes a group of people a nation? Is the feeling of nationality important in human life?

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**54. Below is part of a letter you receive from your penfriend abroad:**



**Write an answer to your friend in a letter.**

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**55. Read the following statement. Do you agree or disagree with it? Write a for and against essay.**

Mothers should stay at home to look after their children until they're old enough to start formal education.

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**56. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

Women should be in charge of housework and raising children, as men are responsible for earning a good salary to support their families.

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**57. Read the following statement. Write an opinion essay.**

Is mass tourism a threat or a blessing for local communities?

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**58. Imagine you would like to apply for a really challenging job, which your friend has already done. Write him/her and:**

- explain why you think you would be suitable for it
- ask him/her about their own experience
- ask him/her about their opinion regarding you taking this kind of job

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**59. Write an opinion essay on the following topic.**

Why practical skills are more important than theory?

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**60. Read the following statement and decide if you agree or disagree. Write a for and against essay with your opinion.**

The kinder the people, the better the world.

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**61. Write an opinion essay about education. Answer the following questions:**

Should higher education be for everybody or only for those, who are the best?

Can higher education replace practical skills?

Is a person, who did higher degree smarter than the one, who was self-educated?

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**62. Write an essay for or against the statement:**

People used to think that family played an important role in society but times have changed and now the family is much less important.

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**63. Imagine you received you order, which is completely wrong, so you decided to write a complaint to the store manager. In your complaint include the following information:**

- when you made an order and what you purchased
- what goods you received instead
- why such a mistake created inconveniences
- what solution you suggest to compensate

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**64. Write a letter to your friend asking for advice. In your letter write about:**

- the problem that your parents do not approve your style of clothing
- how you tried to persuade your parents to agree on what you wear
- ask for his/her advice

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**65. Write an opinion essay on the following topic:**

What makes a good husband/wife? What personality traits should he/she have?

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*\* Some of the topics are taken from "Exam Excellence" book from Oxford University Press: [www.oup.com/elt](http://www.oup.com/elt), others are created by Language Paradise.*