

THE ORGANIZATION OF CONTENT

There are several ways for organising your ideas logically into paragraphs, following there are three of them which can be very helpful for the PAU English Paper. These are 'comparison/contrast', 'for and against' 'cause and effect'. Each of them is not an end in itself but a way to support and develop ideas in writing.

'COMPARISON AND CONTRAST' ESSAY

When we compare, we point out similarities; when we contrast, we point out differences. There are usually no comparison without some contrast since there would not be not need to compare two identical items. Likewise, contrast implies some comparison since there would be no purpose in contrasting two items that did not have some element in common.

It is commonly used when the writer is trying to convince the reader of the advantages of one point of view compared to another.

Guided exercise: 'comparison and contrast' essay

Write an essay .

Topic: Eating habits in Spain during the last hundred years.

Thesis. The eating habits in Spain have much changed since the beginning of the XX century.

Supporting ideas:

| IDEAS | BEFORE | NOW |
|----------------------|--------|-----|
| Type of food. What ? | | |
| How much food? | | |
| Way of cooking. How? | | |
| Who cooks? | | |
| Timetable. When? | | |
| Place to eat. Where? | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Social scope: -table manners -company. | | |
| Taste | | |
| Health | | |

‘FOR AND AGAINST’ ESSAY

It includes the discussion about advantages and disadvantages, or ‘pros and cons’, on a matter. Although you should try to be objective, you may still state your personal reaction or opinion about the issue. Many times, you are asked to discuss the matter from a personal point of view or said whether you agree with a particular statement.

You can get more information about writing this type of composition in the section ‘The ‘argument’ composition.’

The title for you to write this type of composition does not have always to be stated in terms like: ‘Write about the advantages and disadvantages of . . . ‘ You can choose this way of organizing the content if you are asked to write about a public issue which divide public opinion, for example, ‘Euthanasia should be made legal’ or ‘All armies should be abolished’; or an issue that has two sides like “If you went to England to learn English, would you prefer to live with an English family or on your own?”

Guided exercise: ‘for and against’ essay

Write an essay

Topic: Should euthanasia be legalised?

Thesis statement: Although euthanasia may be a sensible decision to take by a person suffering from an incurable and painful illness, some other people strongly disagree with euthanasia.

| The case against legalisation | The case for legalisation |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life is sacred | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The definition of the ‘natural dying process’ has to be |

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives life and only God can take it away • All suffering has a purpose – God knows • There is the risk that euthanasia may not be the person’s free choice. • Legalising euthanasia may mean to open a door to new dangers, like the losing of the sense of the intrinsic value and dignity of human life | <p>revised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical advances mean that more people are living longer but dying of incurable diseases • The quality of life, not its length, is what should concern us. • Not everyone dies well. About 5% of terminal pain is still uncontrollable • Everyone should have the choice of a dignified and peaceful death |
|--|---|

‘CAUSE AND EFFECT’ ESSAY

In determining the order of ideas for a paper, we have to examine the causes or effects to see which are more or less important, which occurred first, or which are more familiar . We must also to decide whether we want to emphasize cause or effect, or if we should place equal emphasis on both. We must consider as well the relationships between causes or effects since in some cases one effect have an effect of its own.

A ‘cause and effect’ essay should include the following aspects:

- Problems involved
- Possible causes
- Personal and social consequences
- Possible solutions or alternatives
- How the solution can be obtained?
- Who should provide it?

guided exercise: ‘cause and effect’ essay

Write a composition

Topic: The survival of the planet

Thesis: The last thirty years have witnessed the growing destruction of nature and the rampant pollution of environment that threaten to end up with the life on the planet.

| PROBLEM | CAUSE | EFFECT | POSSIBLE SOLUTION |
|---|--|--|---|
| The rate at which we are using up natural resources | People's desire to make money. Greed Lack of awareness Selfishness | Tropical and other forests disappearing; land badly cultivated; many species of plants and animals lost; desert spreading; end of coal, oil and gas. It contributes to air pollution and affects worldwide rainfall patterns | Manage natural resources better |
| The growing amount of waste | Increase consumption | Disposal problems. Pollution. | Consume less Waste less |
| The 'greenhouse effect' | Harmful gases produced in big quantities from burning fossil fuels trap the sun's heat | The world may get hotter. Changes in climate and risk of drought and flooding | Efficiency in our use of energy so as to reduce CO ₂ emissions. |
| The thinning of the ozone layer | Some man-made chemicals (mostly CFCs) in aerosols and fridges. | A layer in the atmosphere which stops most of ultra-violet radiation from reaching the earth is destroyed | Stop the production and use of CFCs |
| Air pollution | Power stations and other industries, vehicles produce harmful gases | Health risk. 'Acid rain' which falls down to earth killing fish and damaging plants, animals and buildings | Consume less energy Use public transport More efficiency in the use of energy |
| Water pollution (river, lakes, seas, beaches, drinking water) | Pollutants get into water through the drains and other discharges. Oil spillages leaked into the sea from oil tankers | Thousands of dead animals, and fishing stocks severely affected. Soil contaminated Health risk | Clean up the polluted water Prevent further pollution |