

B2 First Writing Part 1

Teacher's notes

Aims of the lesson	to familiarise students with Part 1 of the Writing paper and give them practice at planning an essay
Time needed	50 minutes
Materials required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worksheet 1 • sample Part 1 question

Procedure

1. As a warmer, write on the board:

Environmental problems

Solutions

and elicit some environmental problems and possible solutions to these problems (for example: problem = too many cars; solution = provide better public transport).

2. Tell students that they're going to look at the Part 1 task from the B2 First writing paper. Give out worksheet one and let students work in pairs to read through the questions in Exercise 1 – they can have a guess at the answers if they like as this will show what they already know about the test.
3. Give out the sample task. Students continue to work in pairs to complete the exercise. Go through the answers.
4. Focus on the fact that students have to write about the two points in the question and they then need to add their own point. Elicit how students could structure their essays. There are different ways of structuring an essay, but one way that works well for this type of question is:

Paragraph 1	introduction
Paragraph 2	point one – problem + solution
Paragraph 3	point two – problem + solution
Paragraph 4	point three – problem + solution
Paragraph 5	conclusion

5. On the table in their worksheet (Exercise 2) get students to fill in the right hand column by making some notes about the reasons for the problem and potential ways of solving the problem. Monitor and help students.
6. Now explain to students that they are going to look at some candidate answers to the question, but before they do so, they are going to look at how the examiners mark the writing. On the board write: Content, Communicative Achievement, Organisation and Language and elicit from students what they think these things mean. Then get them to do Exercise 3 on the worksheet (matching definitions to each area). Go through answers.
7. Now ask students to look at the candidate answers to the sample question and to put them in order, with the strongest answer first. When they do this, they can think about how each candidate has done in each area (although this won't be looked at in detail, it may help them to assess the answers). Let students read and order the answers individually and then compare with a partner.
8. Go through the answers and get feedback from students about why they ordered the answers in the way they did. If you want to look in more detail at the marking, examiner comments and a breakdown of the marks are available in the B2 First Sample material on the website.
9. As a follow up, or for homework, let students use the plans they have made to write their own essay.

B2 First Writing Paper: Part 1- answer key

Worksheet 1– exercise 1

1. In the exam, do you have to do this question? *yes, it's compulsory*
2. How many words do you have to write? *140 – 190 words*
3. Who are you writing the essay for? *your teacher*
4. How many ideas must you write about? *at least three*
5. Which two ideas must you include?
transport
rivers and seas
6. You need to provide the third idea yourself. Think of at least two ideas.
e.g. factories and the pollution they make
alternative energy – solar power

Worksheet 1–exercise 3

1C, 2D, 3B, 4A

Ordering candidate answers

C is the best answer as it fully answers the question and displays a good range of language

A is the second-best answer – it is marginally better than B due to the content

B

B2 First Writing Paper: Part 1-Student's worksheet 1

Exercise 1 – Look at the Part 1 task and answer the following questions:

1. In the exam, do you have to do this question?
2. How many words do you have to write?
3. Who are you writing the essay for?
4. How many ideas must you write about?
5. Which two ideas must you include?
6. You need to provide the third idea yourself. Think of at least two ideas.

Exercise 2 – Essay Plan

	Reasons for Problem and Solution
A. Introduction	
B. Idea 1 – transport	
C. Idea 2 – rivers and seas	
D. Idea 3 – -----	
E. Conclusion	

Exercise 3 – Examiner mark scheme

1. Content	A. Is there a good range of vocabulary and grammatical structures?
2. Communicative Achievement	B. Is the essay easy to follow? Is it in a logical order?
3. Organisation	C. Did the candidate cover all the points? Is everything about the topic?
4. Language	D. Does the candidate get his/her message across to the reader?

B2 First Writing Paper: Part 1- sample task

Part 1

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

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about the environment. 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.



Every country in the world has problems with pollution and damage to the environment.
Do you think these problems can be solved?

Notes

Write about:

1. transport
2. rivers and seas
3. (your own idea)

Candidate A

to begin with pollution and damage to the environment is the *most* serious and difficult problem for countries of all over the world. Scientists of different countries predict a global ecological catastrophe if people *won't* change their attitudes to our planet.

First of all a huge damage to the environment brings a transport. People can't imagine their living without cars, buses, trains, ships and planes. But it's an open secret that *one of* disadvantages of these accustomed things is harmful exhaust. Needless to say that use of environment friendly engines helps us to save atmosphere from pollution.

In addition to this our rivers and seas are *not* less dangerous. It's a fact of common knowledge that numerous factories and plants pour off their waste to ponds. Obviously that cleaning manufacturing *water* helps to avoid extinction of *ocean* residents.

Apart from this I'm inclined to believe that every person can and must contribute to solving this important problem. Doing a little steps for protection our environment every day we will be able to save our Earth. And it's a task of each of us.

Candidate B

I think that my country has problems with pollution to the environment like all other countries. This problem is normal for Russia. We have big problems with transport because there are too much cars in our country. And because of that we have problems with atmosphere, air in my city and in all Russia is really dirty and sometimes I can't make a sigh because it smells around me and of course around that cars on the road. I've heard about radiation of one country. They don't go anywhere by car one day a month or a year, they just use bicycle or their feet. I think it could be very good if we had a tradition like that.

So, what about the rivers and the seas? Yeah, there are so many really good and clean rivers and seas where you can go. but there are not many of them. Once I saw the river Ob in my city, it was about two years ago but I still remember that in some places it was not blue, it was green or purple I didn't really understand because it had different colour.

I don't know what should we do. Maybe we should just open our eyes and look what we did. But Russian people don't care about the world around them many people care only about themselves and that's all.

So, the best idea is look around and try to do something good for our planet and for us and our children.

Candidate C

DEVELOPMENT VS ENVIRONMENT

If we surf the web looking for pollution and environmental catastrophes, we will find out that every country in the world suffers from them. This is a natural consequence of the struggle between development and environment.

If a country decided to live isolated from the rest of the world, living on what it can naturally grow and produce, it surely wouldn't be highly polluted. But we all want exotic food and technological items from all over the world, so we have to pay the price.

Investing on electrical transport would benefit the environment a lot. Even more if this electricity came from a natural source of energy like wind, rivers and solar boards. It's difficult to achieve this because petrol companies will fight against these actions.

We also have to take care of our rivers and seas. We all have heard about factories throwing highly toxic substances to rivers, without minimizing their poisoning effects. A really strict law should be applied to fine these factories and make them change their policy.

But what about ourselves? We also can do a lot! If, when possible, we bought larger packs of food, we would be producing less rubbish. And this is only an example!