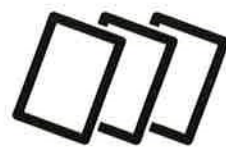


TIMESAVER FOR EXAMS



PHOTOCOPIABLE

Writing

FOR FIRST (FCE)

By
Fiona
Davis



 **SCHOLASTIC**

For
revised
2015
exam

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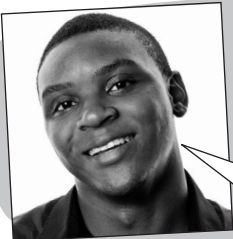
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Digital generation

For teachers' inspection ONLY

- 1** Look at the opinions about using technology. Have you or someone you know ever said the same things? Discuss in pairs.



1 Through social media sites we surround ourselves with people who have the same beliefs and likes. These are the only people we can get along with now.



2 I hate it when I see a mother pushing her child on the swing and talking to someone else on the phone at the same time.

3 I stopped to watch some street theatre on my way home. Suddenly I realised I was the only one watching it. Everyone else was filming it.



4 Conversation is spontaneous. You never know what someone will say next. When you chat to someone online, you can control what you say.



5 Who's in charge? The Internet or you?

- 2** Match these views with the opinions in exercise 1. Which of these views is NOT expressed?

- a) We've forgotten how to enjoy the moment. Virtual reality is much more exciting than everyday life.
- b) Virtual reality is much more exciting.
- c) We are losing the art of conversation.
- d) Social media separates us into cliques.
- e) We ignore those around us because we are too busy texting or phoning.
- f) The way we live our lives is being controlled by our technology.

- 3** Work in pairs. Think of opposite points of view to those expressed in exercise 2. Write one or two ideas for each item.

- 4** With your partner, complete these sentences using some of your ideas, and the opinions in exercise 2.

- a) On the one hand, *they can record moments, relive them and share them with friends.*
On the other hand,
- b) There is no doubt that
However,
- c)
In spite of this,
What's more,

- 5** Which of the phrases in exercise 4 are used to express contrasting points of view? Which phrase is used to provide an additional point of view?

- 6** Look at the phrases below. Mark them C (used to signal a *contrasting* point of view) or A (used to signal an *additional* point).

a) Moreover, ... ☐

e) In fact, ... ☐

b) Although, ... ☐

f) Similarly, ... ☐

c) Above all, ... ☐

g) ..., though. ☐

d) On the contrary, ... ☐

- 7** Read the exam task and look at the essay plan. Make notes for each section using the information in this activity and your own ideas. Include phrases you can use to contrast and add further points.



EXAM TASK

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

Young people live in a world which is increasingly connected, but many of them fail to really communicate. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. meeting people
2. new technology
3. (your own idea)

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

Essay plan

Paragraphs	Content notes	Useful phrases
Introduction (give examples of the digital generation)		
First point of view and opposing point of view		
Second point of view and opposing point of view		
Third point of view and opposing point of view		
Conclusion: stating your final point of view		

- 8** Write your essay.

Exam tip!

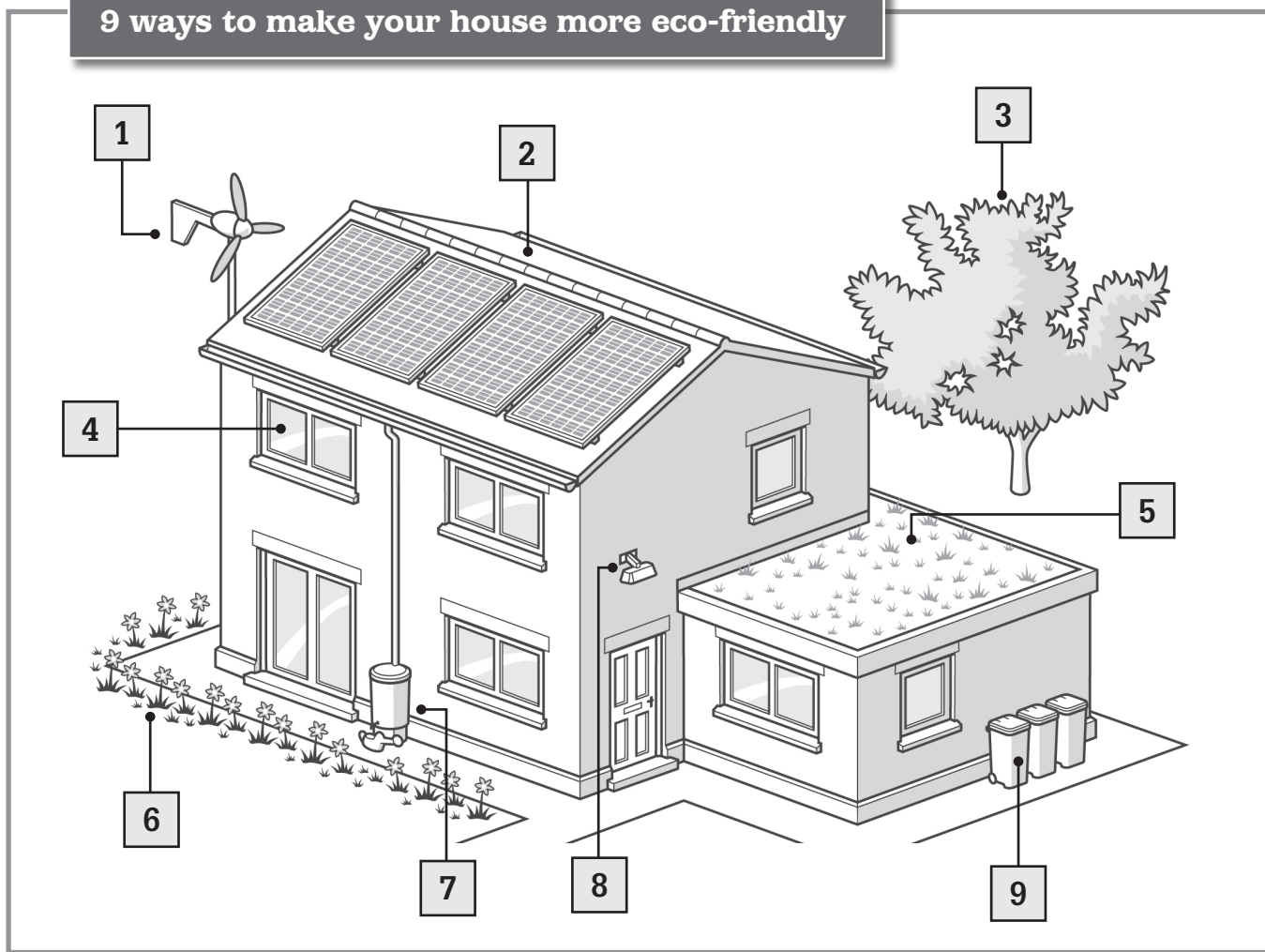
There is more than one way to organise your answer. Try this option too:

- Introduction
- First paragraph: negative points
- Second paragraph: positive points
- Conclusion

An eco-friendly home

- 1 Look at the diagram showing features of an eco-friendly home. Which of these features have you seen in your area?

9 ways to make your house more eco-friendly



- 2 Match these descriptions with the features on the house.

- a) Collect water from water butts for use in gardens. ☒
- b) Native plants will attract native insects like bees and butterflies. The spread of non-native insect species has had a severe effect around the world. ☐
- c) Electricity produced by the wind via a micro wind turbine can be stored in a battery. ☐
- d) Keep heat in with double glazing and save a lot of wasted energy. ☐
- e) Plant a tree in your garden and you've got a place where birds can rest. Ask your neighbour to plant one too and you've got a habitat. ☐
- f) Solar energy from panels can provide enough electricity for your own needs. ☐
- g) Include a separate bin for food waste. Food waste that goes to landfill produces methane (a greenhouse gas). ☐
- h) A green roof will improve air quality for yourself and your neighbours. ☐
- i) Turning off your outside lights reduces electricity bills and is less disorientating for migrating birds. ☐

3 Look at the disadvantages below. Which features in the diagram do they refer to?

- a) The installation of these can be expensive and it could take ten years before your investment starts to save you money.
- b) Animals like foxes and rats can be attracted to them.
- c) Turning off yours may not make a large difference. It needs to be a city-wide policy.
- d) An annual inspection is needed to remove unwanted plants and check there are no roots which could cause leaks.
- e) In many urban locations, they do not generate significant amounts of power.

4 Based on what you have read, make recommendations for using two of the above features in your local area.

In general,

I would definitely recommend that

Generally,

I would therefore recommend that

5 Read the exam task and write your report in 140–190 words.



EXAM TASK

Your local council is considering making buildings and gardens in your local area more environmentally-friendly. You have been asked to write a report. Your report should:

- include different ways buildings and gardens in the area can become more eco-friendly
- recommend which ways could easily be implemented in your area

Write your **report**.

Exam tip!

A final recommendation in a report will often include a generalisation introduced by a phrase, such as Generally ..., In general ... or On the whole ...



In character

- 1 To help you think of ideas for a story, try creating a strong character. Answer these questions using the suggestions to help you.

1 What is your character's name?

2 How does your character walk?

creep dash march plod skip stride stroll tiptoe wander

3 How does your character speak?

*bravely calmly cheerfully excitedly in a loud voice
in a whisper jokingly kindly politely proudly rudely wisely*

4 How does your character look at other people?

examine gaze glance glare peep peer stare

5 What are the key features of your character?

*a beard bald broad shoulders bushy eyebrows dark-skinned fair-skinned
in her early twenties long eyelashes middle-aged of average height
overweight spots stocky wiry wrinkles*

6 Does your character do any of these?

*bite his/her bottom lip fold his/her arms have bitten fingernails
laugh loudly look down at the ground play with his/her hair
scratch his/her chin/head/nose smile broadly tap his/her foot*

7 Does your character have an interest or passion or something he/she hates?

8 Who does your character live with?

- 2 Think about these situations. What would your character do in these situations?

- They meet a new person.
- They walk into an empty hallway.
- They lose their phone.
- They see a robbery.
- They are outside when a bad storm starts.
- They discover a secret room in a house.

- 3a** A story has a beginning, a middle and an end. Choose one of these opening lines from a story. Write the name of your character in the gap.

As the taxi drove away, realised the bag was still on the seat.

..... walked into the room and knew immediately that there was something missing.

..... laughed as soon as he/she saw the tickets.

..... ran as fast as he/she could to the boat.

- 3b** Think of an ending for the story. Make notes about the events that lead up to this. Your story must include: an argument and a door key.

Exam tip!

In the story task of the First exam, you will not be asked to write a description of a character, but having a strong character in mind can help you to come up with ideas for a story.



- 4** Look at the exam task. Create a character for your story, think of an ending and make notes about the storyline.



EXAM TASK

You have seen this announcement in an international magazine for young people.

Stories wanted

We are looking for stories for our new English-language magazine for young people.

Your story must **begin** with this sentence:

Lena walked into the hotel and looked around anxiously.

- a meeting
- a text message

Exam tip!

Adding a couple of lines of dialogue will add interest to your story.

- 5** Write your story.
- 6** Compare your stories in pairs. Are the stories or characters similar in any way?

Answers

Great work (pages 6–7)

1 1b 2d 3a 4c 5e

3 Sample answers

In my country, being a lawyer is well-respected. As a result many students want to become a lawyer after their studies.

In my opinion, nurses are undervalued. It must be very difficult to care for patients and work such long hours.

4 1 Giving your opinion 2 Justifying your opinion

5 Sample answer

Sportspeople work very hard and deserve good salaries. However, there are people in other professions who also work hard and should also be valued more.

Some professional sportspeople, such as footballers, earn very large amounts of money. One reason for this is that becoming a successful sportsperson requires years of dedication and training. They train hard every day and in all weathers. In my opinion, they give a lot of satisfaction and inspiration to many people. Watching the success of a national sportsperson or a sports team can bring people together.

On the other hand, there are other people who also work very hard and do not earn enough. Nurses in my country are underpaid, but we could not live without them. Lifeboat crew save many lives every year and work in dangerous conditions. In my view, they should be well paid, but most of them are voluntary.

As far as I am concerned, it is unfair that sportspeople earn more than other dedicated workers. It is a sign of inequality in our society.

Transport going forward (pages 8–9)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | a) traffic congestion | e) cycle paths |
| | b) urban areas | f) fossil fuels |
| | c) means of transport | g) rechargeable batteries |
| | d) rush hour | h) carbon emissions / zero emissions |

4 b

5 a

6 Sample answer

In today's world, we are all very aware of the need to find alternatives to using petrol. Electric cars are definitely a step forward but there are also a number of disadvantages to owning one.

There is no doubt that electric cars are better for the environment. They produce zero emissions and

they consume relatively little electricity. Electric cars are also quiet and will therefore make a difference to noise pollution in cities.

However, we should remember that most electricity is still produced by burning fossil fuels. Electric cars do not solve the controversial issue of what to do about fossil fuels and the damage they cause to the environment. Furthermore, the technology in electric cars is new and is likely to be expensive and not very efficient. Being quiet can also be a disadvantage as numbers of pedestrians involved in road accidents may increase.

To conclude, electric cars are a great invention but research still needs to be done into forms of transport that are even more eco-friendly.

A meat-free future (pages 10–11)

1 Is a meat-free diet the only healthy diet?

2 The writer mentions **a** and **d**.

3 **a)** in moderation **b)** diabetes **c)** preservatives **d)** livestock **e)** ethical **f)** protein

4 The correct answer is **b)**. Conclusion **a)** contradicts the information in the essay. A new idea is suddenly introduced in conclusion **c)**.

5a To conclude In my opinion For all these reasons, I firmly believe

5b In conclusion, To summarise and To sum up could be used instead of To conclude.

On balance and All in all could be used in place of For all these reasons.

As far as I'm concerned has a similar meaning to In my opinion.

6 Sample answer

Vegetarianism is a choice that many people make for ethical reasons. In today's world, though, there are other important reasons for a meat-free diet.

There are some well-known health risks associated with eating red meat, such as high blood pressure and heart disease. We should also not ignore that chemical preservatives are often added to meat or to the animal feed, and these may also affect our health in the long-term.

We all know that levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere are too high. However, one of the most harmful greenhouse gases is methane. Methane is produced by intensive livestock farming. For this reason, meat production actually contributes to pollution.

	Text A	Text B
STYLE		
Is it the right style for an article? Why / Why not?	It's a good style overall. But first of all and secondly would be more appropriate in the essay task.	It's not appropriate. The style is too serious for an article. Try having more fun with the style!
ANSWERING THE QUESTION		
Does the article answer the key points in the question?	Yes, it does.	Yes, it does.
Are all the points relevant?	The final paragraph is not relevant to the exam task.	Yes.
Is it about the right length?	No, it's too short. Try adding more detail.	Yes, just right.
LANGUAGE		
Give examples of good vocabulary the writer has used.	section manager, bankrupt, quit	cultural, economic, business reasons, negotiating
Has the writer used a variety of structures?	It's quite simple. Try not to overuse the structure <i>make + me + adjective</i> . Check the use of 'told'.	You've tried to include some more complex structures. Well done!
Give examples of any spelling or grammar you would correct.	No spelling mistakes! It made me surprise. It surprised me. I am interested in British music very much. I am very interested in British music. which makes me satisfied very much which is very satisfying.	citys cities, to two, felled-felt, europe Europe, client's-clients, the more I see the city (the more I saw)

6 Sample answer

Last year I quit my job and came to study English here in Queenstown, New Zealand. But why now? And why here? Quitting my job was a big decision and my friends were really concerned. But with good English I can get a better job in the future. Imagine a job interview where there are two excellent applicants, but only one of them speaks good English. Guess which one gets the job? A lot of the internet sites I access are in English now so it's an essential skill.

I love adventure sports and New Zealand is the perfect

place to do them. Since arriving, I've already been zip-lining and travelled down the Shotover River by jet boat! Queenstown is small so there is plenty of opportunity to get to know the friendly people. Meeting the other language students is amazing too. It's truly international here. I've met people from South East Asia, Japan and India.

New Zealand is a great place to learn English and I'm having the time of my life. I'll remember it forever when I go back home. If I go home ...

Take sleep seriously! (pages 24–25)

2 Suggested answer

The article is confusing and difficult to read because there are no paragraphs.

- 3 **Introduction:** Research suggests that many teenagers are getting just five hours of sleep a night. Teachers report teenagers falling asleep in class and many keep their energy levels up with sugary drinks and snacks. But it's not just teenagers. The recommended number of hours of sleep for adults is 7 to 9, yet a survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation in the US found 39% of people in the UK and 66% of Japanese people slept for less than 7 hours on work nights.

Paragraph 1: The cortex – the part of the brain which controls thinking, speech and memory – needs time off at the end of the day. Without sleep, we become forgetful, less able to maintain conversations and find it harder to concentrate. Long-term sleep loss makes us more vulnerable to illness and mood swings. A study of the sleeping habits of 12 to 18 year olds shows that those that sleep less than five hours a night are 70% more likely to suffer depression. So why do we do it?

Paragraph 2: In today's society we are constantly pushing ourselves to achieve more, and cutting into our sleeping time is inevitable. Many of us are using our smartphones way into the night to keep in touch, keep up-to-date and not miss out. Stimulants like caffeine and sugar are delaying our sleep at night.

Paragraph 3: Believe it or not, there's now a thing called sleep-training. And their advice is: get some exercise during the day and don't nap in the afternoon. Eat a full meal in the early evening and avoid eating chocolate or drinking coffee before bed. Don't text, use a computer or watch TV for half an hour before going to bed and sleep somewhere which is not too warm and not too bright.

Conclusion: In short, it's time we started to look after ourselves and take sleep seriously.

4 Sample plan

Introduction: Lots of people don't get enough sleep. But for me a good night's sleep is the most important thing.



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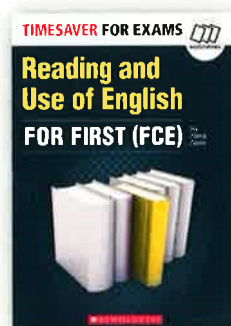


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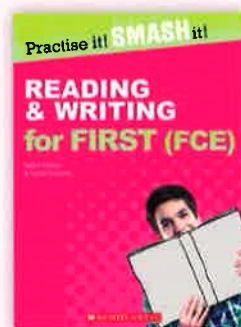
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