

Exercise walk-through

8.2

Structure: introduction, body and conclusion

IGCSE English

Introduction: original revision attempt

“Since the beginning of time, libraries have been very important in the modern world. There are many advantages and disadvantages.”

Rewrite this **introduction** for the actual library question.

Name the policy and give the reader a clear direction. Avoid an opening that could fit almost any essay.

Introduction: worked revision

“The school library currently closes after lessons. I believe it should stay open on two afternoons a week so students have somewhere quiet to study.”

This identifies the policy, gives a view and introduces a reason.

The introduction should leave room for developed ideas. Two or three sentences is a possible guide, not a required count. A rhetorical question and an essay heading are not compulsory.

Body paragraphs develop, not merely repeat

The **body** explains the argument. A topic sentence, explanation and example form a helpful scaffold.

“Homework is useful because it is good” repeats a judgement. It does not explain how a benefit arises.

Paragraphs group related ideas. The official guide permits different organisations, including related reasons in one paragraph; there is no compulsory three-sentence formula.

Point, explanation and a possible example

an illustrative paragraph

School sport can help students build friendships.

point: a
qualified claim

Team practice gives students time to cooperate and know one another.

explanation:
how it could
happen

For example, weekly practice partners may become friends outside sport.

example:
a possible
situation

This example shows how a claim can be developed. It does not prove that sport always creates friendships.

Develop a reason: original attempt

Starting point: “Homework is good because it is useful.”

Write a short paragraph that identifies one specific benefit, explains how it could arise and gives an example.

Keep the claim realistic: independent work can help, but not every homework task benefits every learner.

Exercise 2.1

2.1 Write a three-sentence introduction (context, issue, position) for: *Should students be allowed to use calculators in every maths lesson?* [3]

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2.1

- one mark each for **context**, **issue** and **position**
- e.g. “Calculators have been standard equipment in maths lessons for a generation. Some teachers argue that using one from the first lesson prevents students from ever developing number sense. I believe calculators should be allowed, but only after the method has been mastered without one.”

Exercises 2.2-2.3

2.2 Identify the claim, support and link in this paragraph. [3]

Reading for pleasure improves writing more than any exercise. Students who read widely absorb sentence patterns without being taught them, which is why their written work varies in rhythm while a non-reader's does not. If we want better writing, the cheapest intervention available is time to read.

2.3 Rewrite this conclusion so that it adds something: "In conclusion, I think school uniform is a good idea because it is cheaper and fairer." [2]

Exercises 2.2-2.3

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2.2

- **claim:** reading for pleasure improves writing most
- **support:** wide readers absorb sentence patterns and their writing varies in rhythm
- **link:** connecting it to what schools should do

2.3 Rewrite this conclusion so that it adds something: "In conclusion, I think school uniform is a good idea because it is cheaper and fairer." [2]

2.3

- add a condition, consequence or recommendation
- e.g. "School uniform is worth keeping, but the argument only holds while the uniform is genuinely cheap: the moment a school specifies a supplier and a badge, the saving it was defended for disappears."

Exercises 3.1·3.2

3.1 “It is better to travel widely than to know one place well.” Write an essay giving your views. Write about 200 words. [8]

3.2 Read this introduction and explain **two** weaknesses. [2]

In this essay I am going to write about whether phones should be allowed in school. There are many arguments on both sides. I will discuss them.

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 “It is better to travel widely than to know one place well.” Write an essay giving your views. Write about 200 words. [8]

3.1

- **content (4)**: position, two developed arguments, a fairly stated counter-argument answered, a conclusion that adds
 - **language (4)**: appropriate register, varied linking, accurate and varied sentences
-

3.2 Read this introduction and explain **two** weaknesses. [2]

In this essay I am going to write about whether phones should be allowed in school. There are many arguments on both sides. I will discuss them.

3.2

- any **two**: it announces the essay rather than beginning it; it takes **no position**; “there are many arguments on both sides” is true of every topic; it wastes three sentences on no content