

Writing an Essay

IGCSE English ■ Topic 8

IGCSE English



Writing an Essay

What we will cover

- 1 Discursive vs argumentative
- 2 Planning
- 3 Essay structure
- 4 Body paragraphs



1 Approach

Two kinds of essay

discursive 论述的

look at **both** sides – for and against, then perhaps your view

argumentative 议论的

argue for **one** view with strong reasons & examples

Plan 计划 first: decide your points & reasons before you write.

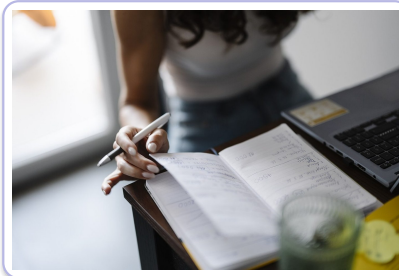


Close reading needs quiet attention

Essay structure

- **introduction** 引言 – name the topic (2–3 sentences)
- **body** 主体 – one main idea per paragraph
- **conclusion** 结论 – sum up; **no** new point

Plan 计划 first: points and reasons before you write.



Plan clear points, examples, and a firm conclusion

Body paragraphs

the point



reasons



examples

Start each paragraph with the idea, then back it with reasons & examples.

Body paragraphs

one body paragraph

Firstly, school sport builds real friend-
Playing in a team means you win and
lose together, so
For example, my closest friends are
the players I have
trained with every week since Grade 8.

— start with the idea
— (a topic sentence)
— then the **reasons**
— behind it
— then an **example**
— that makes it real

- Put one main idea in each **body** 主体 paragraph.
- Start the paragraph with the idea, then add reasons and examples.

2

Recap

Worked example – an essay paragraph

Write a body paragraph arguing that students should wear uniform, and handle the other side.

- **Point:** “Uniform reduces the pressure to compete over clothes.”
- **Explain:** “Poorer students are not judged for what they wear, so fewer feel excluded.”
- **Counter:** “Some say it stifles individuality; **however**, students express themselves through what they *do*.”
- ⇒ **one idea per paragraph, the other side answered.**

Answering the counter-argument is what lifts a top essay. Signpost it: **however, although, on the other hand**. One paragraph = **one idea**.

Topic 8 – key takeaways

1 Two kinds

discursive (both sides) vs
argumentative (one)

2 Plan

decide points & reasons first

3 Structure

introduction, body, conclusion

4 Paragraphs

point, then reasons & examples

Check yourself

- 1 Which essay shows both sides?
- 2 How long should an introduction be?
- 3 How many main ideas per body paragraph?
- 4 Should the conclusion add a new point?



Answers 1. a discursive essay 2. short – 2–3 sentences 3. one 4. no