
AN ESSAY is usually written for a teacher. It should be well organised, with an introduction, clear development and an appropriate conclusion. The compulsory Part 1 essay question will involve reading two short input texts on a particular topic and summarising and evaluating the key points from these texts in the context of a coherent essay on the topic, including the candidate's own views. The set text essay questions specify what particular aspect of the set text (development of character or significance of events) should form the content of the essay.

PART 1

- Candidates should be trained to read the two input texts very carefully. Each text, approximately 100 words in length, will present contrasting or complementary views on a topic. It is important that students learn to identify the key points in each of the texts, as these points will form the basis of a candidate's essay. Candidates must integrate a summary of these points, an evaluation of the abstract arguments involved and their own ideas on the topic in a coherent essay.
- Candidates may, of course, use key words from the question, but must avoid 'lifting' whole segments of the input. No credit will be given for language or ideas that have not been appropriately expanded on or integrated into their writing.
- Because of the discursive focus of this part of the paper, students need to be equipped to discuss a range of topics. Reading and discussing articles in English on a variety of issues will help them to develop their ideas and extend their vocabulary in order to cover the arguments raised in the texts.