

**Everyone has to write the part 1 essay. It is a formal type of writing where you have to explain different ideas and decide which one best answers the question.**

## INGREDIENTS

**INTRODUCTION:** Start with a bold statement to catch the reader's attention, like It is often said/claimed/argued that + phrase OR Why is + topic + so important?

**EXPRESS OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS:** Some people think/claim/maintain that + phrase  
It is sometimes said that + phrase      It could be argued that + phrase

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** whereas      while      however      although  
In spite of the fact that + phrase      Despite + gerund  
The fact of the matter is + phrase      Otherwise  
On the one hand + phrase      On the other hand + phrase  
Having said that + phrase      While that may be true, ...  
Conversely + phrase      On the flipside, ...

### TALK ABOUT ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES:

There are x main advantages to + noun/gerund  
On the other hand, there are several disadvantages to + noun/gerund  
Noun/gerund + is important for the following reasons...  
However, there are some disadvantages attached to + noun/gerund

### ADD INFORMATION or EXAMPLES:

In addition      furthermore      (dis)advantages      firstly      secondly  
moreover,      not only +inversion      but      therefore      so

### CONCLUDING:

To sum up      In conclusion      On balance, I feel that      All in all,  
In my view      In my opinion      I firmly believe that  
It seems to me that      As far as I'm concerned

### AMBITIOUS GRAMMAR:

Verb + ing OR infinitive      Passive & reporting verbs (it was thought)  
so/such      too/enough      Negative adverb + auxiliary + subject + main verb  
3<sup>rd</sup> Conditional      Present and past perfect

### TOPIC VOCABULARY

Use synonyms and paraphrases of important nouns, verbs, and adjectives so you don't repeat the same words many times.

# Recipe for a great B2 Essay

## METHOD

1. Read the exam question carefully. Identify the topic, the question, and the style (formal).
2. Decide on your *own idea*.
3. Think of examples for each idea.
4. Decide which idea you have the most to say about. This will be your penultimate paragraph.
5. Select some ambitious language from the ingredients to include in your writing.
6. Slowly and carefully write your essay. Think about how you finished the previous paragraph, and how you can connect your ideas together.
7. If you can, leave your writing for a few minutes after you've finished.
8. Read the exam question again. Have you included all the necessary information?
9. Check your work carefully for your typical mistakes. This will take about 5 minutes.

