

***The formal essay in part 1 requires you to choose two of the three ideas and write an essay explaining and evaluating how these ideas answer the question. Try to avoid writing in the first person***

## INGREDIENTS

### A 3-sentence INTRODUCTION

- 1) Introduce the topic
- 2) Paraphrase the essay question
- 3) Outline what points you will discuss

It is often claimed that + idea

A widely-held belief is that + idea

People nowadays are often concerned about + idea.

### GET A HIGH MARK BY EXPLAINING YOUR IDEAS

For this reason...

As a result

Therefore

This is due to...

Some people say that

Arguably,...

According to + person, idea...

### COMPARE and CONTRAST your ideas

Whereas

While

On the one hand

On the other hand

Conversely

Similarly

Likewise

Alternatively

### REFERENCE PRONOUNS avoid repetition of important nouns and concepts

Use *the former* and *the latter* to refer to two different nouns at once.

Use *the aforementioned* + nouns to refer to all the things you spoke about before

### A 3-sentence CONCLUSION

- 1) State which of the two ideas best answers the question
- 2) Explain why this is the case.
- 3) Make a general statement about the importance of the topic. Try to repeat an idea from the introduction.

Overall... To conclude...

In light of these facts...

Drawing to a close...

Ultimately...

Arguably...

On balance...

### USE AMBITIOUS GRAMMAR TO SHOW YOUR C1 LEVEL AND EXPRESS MORE COMPLEX IDEAS:

#### CLEFT SENTENCES

*What affects the environment the most is how we behave.*

What + verb phrase + be + clause

*It is our behaviour which most affects the environment.*

It + be + noun phrase + clause

#### NEGATIVE INVERSIONS

Rarely has the issue of the environment concerned so many people.

Negative adverb + auxiliary + subject + clause

Not only are we concerned about the environment, but also the cost of being environmentally friendly  
Not only + auxiliary verb + subject + clause, but also + clause

#### MIXED CONDITIONALS

Speculate about the result of a hypothetical situation in the past:

*If we had used resources more responsibly, there would be less damage now.*

If + past perfect + would + infinitive

Speculate about the past result of a hypothetical situation in the present:

*If fossil fuels didn't have negative effects, scientists would have worried less.*

If + past + would have + past participle



# Recipe for a great C1 Essay

## INTRODUCTION

Start with a strong statement or a rhetorical question to introduce the topic. Explain the topic in your own words, and say why it's important. Outline what your essay will discuss.

## MAIN IDEA ONE

Introduce the topic, and use examples and explanations. You should also evaluate the idea: how important is it to the question, and why?

## MAIN IDEA TWO

Introduce the topic, and use examples and explanations. Evaluate how the idea answers the question, and make links back to your previous paragraph.

## CONCLUSION

Remember that a conclusion is where you decide which idea answers the questions best. Don't add any new ideas here. Leave the reader with something to think about.

## METHOD

1. Read the exam question carefully. Identify the topic, the question, and the style (formal).
2. Decide which two ideas you have the most to say about.
3. Think of examples for each idea, or how to paraphrase the opinions you've been given in the question.
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. Read the exam question again. Have you included all the necessary information?
8. Check your work carefully for your typical mistakes. This will take about 5 minutes.

