

## An essay

### Example question

You have had a class discussion on problems with the environment. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay, saying whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

*Every individual should do something, however small, to help the environment.*

Write your **essay**. Write your answer in 120–180 words.

### Example answer

Nowadays pollution is such a big problem for everybody that people say we should all be doing something to help the situation and not just expect the government to sort out the problems.

Give a general introduction in the first paragraph.

Many people think that the government should deal with pollution. In the first place, it is a huge problem affecting whole countries. In addition, factories cause a lot of problems, such as when they put poisonous chemicals into the rivers. Therefore, special laws are the only way to control this.

Think carefully about the first sentence of each paragraph to help the reader follow what you are saying.

On the other hand, we each contribute to pollution in some way. For example, we use plastic bags or make too much rubbish. This is something we can all do something about as individuals and, if everybody did something, it would make a difference.

Use formal or semi-formal language.

Overall, I agree with the statement because I think it is very easy for us to change small things in our lives. If we managed to make these changes then pollution levels would decrease and our environment would be better.

Give reasons to support your arguments.

Give your personal opinion in the last paragraph.

## Useful language

### Supporting one point of view:

*In the first place ...*  
*Furthermore ...*  
*In addition ...*  
*Moreover ...*  
*A final point ...*

### Explaining why:

*Because of this, ...*  
*For this reason, ...*  
*As a result ...*  
*Therefore ...*  
*Due to ...*

### Expressing contrast:

*On the other hand ...*  
*In contrast ...*  
*However, ...*  
*Nevertheless, ...*  
*Although ...*  
*While ...*

### Explaining someone else's opinion:

*According to ...*  
*It is said that ...*  
*Some people say that ...*  
*Many people feel ...*  
*Others think that ...*

### Giving your opinion:

*I agree that ...*  
*I think / believe that ...*  
*In my opinion ...*  
*I am in favour of ...*  
*It seems to me that ...*

### Concluding:

*Overall, ...*  
*To sum up ...*  
*On the whole ...*  
*In conclusion, ...*

## Exam help: Essays

- Remember to stay on the topic of the essay; don't include irrelevant arguments.
- Plan your answer and what to include in each paragraph.
- It is better to have fewer points and expand each point than to list a lot of different points.
- Use a variety of words and expressions to link or show contrast.