

**Writing** Essay (Paper 2 Part 2)**Lead-in****1 Discuss these questions.**

- 1 Would you prefer to live alone or with someone else? Why?
- 2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Make notes.

**Understand the task****2 Read the task below and answer the questions.**

- 1 WHO is going to read the essay and what is its PURPOSE?
- 2 Will you just give your OPINION, or will you give both sides of the argument (FOR and AGAINST)?
- 3 What STYLE will you use?
- 4 What do you think makes a GOOD essay?

After a class discussion on different kinds of relationships, your teacher has asked you to write a composition, giving your opinions on the following statement.

Living alone is more enjoyable than living with someone else.

Write your **essay** in **120–180** words in an appropriate style.

**Plan your essay****3 a Look at your notes from Exercise 1 and decide on the two most important advantages and disadvantages.****b This is a possible paragraph plan for the essay. Which of your points would you include in each paragraph?****Paragraph 1: Introduction**

A general statement/rhetorical question  
Qualifying the argument

**Paragraph 2: Advantages**

Introduction  
Advantage 1 → Reason → Specific example  
Advantage 2 → Reason → Specific example

**Paragraph 3: Disadvantages**

Introduction  
Disadvantage 1 → Reason → Specific example  
Disadvantage 2 → Reason → Specific example

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

Summing up/Balancing the argument  
Your overall point of view

**Language and content****4 a Choose the best statement for the essay from each pair below.**

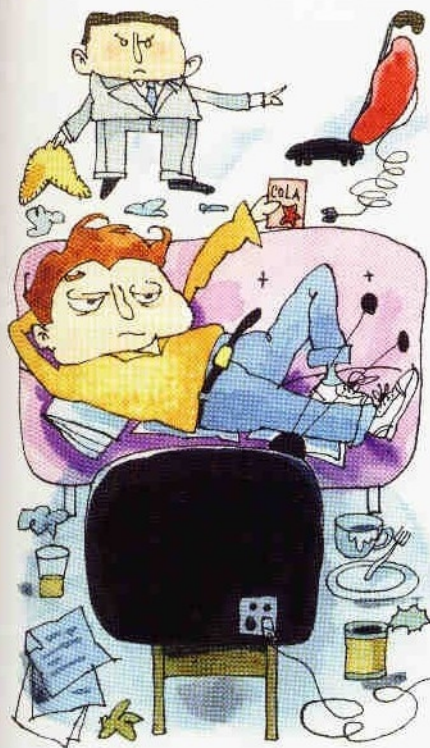
- A** 1 On balance, despite the various advantages, it would be difficult to live alone.  
2 Fine, yes there are good things about it, but overall, no, not really.

- C** 1 I like being with my mates, don't you?  
2 Most people would find it lonely and miss the friendship.

- B** 1 I agree with this statement.  
2 Nowadays more people are deciding to live by themselves.

- D** 1 There is nobody to tell us what to do.  
2 We make the decisions – no one else.

**b Match the statements (A–D) to the paragraphs in Exercise 3.**



- c Complete some of the expressions below with your own ideas for the essay.

<b>Introducing the topic</b>	<i>First of all I'd like to say that ...</i> <i>The first point I'd like to make is ...</i> <i>I'd like to begin by ...</i> <i>Many people think that ...</i> <i>Some people say/claim ...</i> <i>Why do some people believe ... ?</i> <i>However, if that is the case, then why ... ?</i>
<b>Advantages</b>	<i>In the first place ...</i> <i>The main advantage is that you are free to ...</i> <i>There is no one else to ...</i> <i>Then there is ...</i> <i>What's more ...</i> <i>Another advantage is that ...</i>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<i>On the other hand ...</i> <i>Secondly, ...</i> <i>Another disadvantage is ...</i> <i>Last but not least, ...</i>
<b>Summarising</b>	<i>In conclusion (I believe that) ...</i> <i>To sum up, there are arguments ...</i> <i>However, in my view ...</i>

### Write your essay

- 5 Now write your essay, using the ideas and some of the language above. Write your answer in 120–180 words.

### Check and improve your essay

- 6 Which of the statements are true about your essay?
- I have answered the question.
  - The sentences and organisation are clear and logical.
  - Arguments are followed by reasons and examples.
  - Both sides of the argument are given equal treatment.
  - It is clear what I think by the end.
  - The style is consistent and neutral.
  - I have checked: length, grammar, spelling, punctuation and linking expressions.

✎ Writing reference page 203

## LANGUAGE SPOT: linking expressions

Mark the correct phrase in each pair.

- Flatmates often don't get on very well at first. *In addition* / *In fact*, they can have a lot of arguments.
- Flats in my city are very expensive for one person. *In addition* / *In other words*, I like sharing.
- Most people share household tasks. *For instance* / *That is to say*, they take it in turns to wash up.
- I haven't got room for a flatmate. *Moreover* / *For example*, I like living on my own.
- I think that house would be too expensive. *Similarly* / *Besides*, it's a long way from the centre.
- He's a nice guy to live with. *Nevertheless* / *What's more*, he needs to help out more.
- The flat's on the fifth floor, and there's no lift. *Because of this* / *Even so*, we decided to rent it.
- It's not very big. *Even so* / *On the other hand*, it's right in the centre.