

AN OPINION ESSAY

General Tips and guidelines

1. Plan your composition by writing an **outline**. It is recommended to use a **list** in order to write the **main idea** and **supporting details**.
2. Make sure you understand the subject and write exactly what's required.
3. Write 4 paragraphs. Skip a line between paragraphs.
Clear handwriting! Write with a pen only – black or blue. If you type your essay, leave double space between the lines.
4. Your sentences must be **short and clear**. Make sure your ideas are **clear** to you and your readers.
5. Use **sentence connectors** to connect sentences and paragraphs.
6. Start each sentence with a **CAPITAL LETTER** and end it with a **full stop (.)**
7. Pay attention to **grammar**. Be Sure to include at least 4 advanced grammar structures.
8. *Structure of your composition:*
 - a. **First paragraph** – introduction of the topic you are going to write about and your opinion. You may restate the given topic but the number of words written will not be included in your total word count.
 - b. **Body of the text** – 1-2 paragraphs that must contain your claim (in the topic sentence) explanations and examples related to your claim.
 - c. **Last paragraph** – summary or conclusion of your composition. You may restate opinion.
9. Each paragraph should have a **topic sentence** at the beginning. It should tell the reader what the paragraph is about. The topic sentence should be followed by examples and/or explanations that support your claim.
10. After you finish writing, read your composition again in order to make sure that what you wrote is clear and correct your mistakes. Check your dictionary for **spelling**.
11. This model can help:

Paragraph 1: Introduction. Get the reader's attention. Introduce the topic of the essay and state your opinion. The reader should know from the beginning what you are going to discuss and what your opinion is.

Paragraph 3: State the second claim (topic sentence). State the supporting detail(s). Make sure that your arguments are related to the main idea you introduced to your reader in the beginning.

Paragraph 2: State the first claim (topic sentence). Present the supporting detail(s), such as, explanations, examples, arguments or facts to support your argument.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion. Restate your main idea. Leave the reader with a good impression. That is, your reader should feel that you have presented your ideas clearly and convincingly!

This [TEMPLATE](#) can help you with your own essay of opinion. It is just a suggestion!

Many people claim that/ It is claimed that/ _____. **In my opinion**, the opposite is true for several reasons which I will present in this essay.

First, _____. **For example**, _____.

Second, _____. **That is**, _____.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that _____.

THE FOLLOWING PHRASES CAN HELP YOU BEGIN YOUR PARAGRAPHS:

Opening Paragraphs	Middle Paragraphs	Closing Paragraphs
... is a phenomenon which demands our attention. In my opinion,	First, it's essential to remember that...	In conclusion, never have I been more convinced that...
Many people believe that... In my opinion, it is true / the opposite is true for a few reasons.	To begin with, it's worth mentioning that...	All things considered, I strongly believe that....
There are some factors which must be taken into account...	First and foremost, it is important to state that...	To sum up, as I have mentioned above, I am totally convinced that ...
Lately, we have become increasingly aware of ...	Opponents / Proponents of ... take a different view about..... F&A	To conclude, it is necessary to remember that... / It is essential ... / It is vital...
When discussing the issue of... I firmly believe that... In this essay, I'll point out arguments which support my opinion.	On the one hand, On the other hand, F&A	In conclusion, bearing this in mind, I unequivocally believe that...
In my point of view... / Personally... / In my opinion.../ As I see it...	Another point that should be taken into consideration is (that).....	All in all, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages...Therefore, I'm quite certain that
... is a controversial issue. Some people claim.... while others believe... (I tend to agree with the former / the latter). F&A	A further argument against / in favor of..... is.....	Finally, after considering the pros and cons I think that...
	One/Another commonly heard objection to this argument is...F&A	To sum up, in light of the arguments presented above, I tend to agree with...

USING CONNECTORS FOR WRITING:

- Connectors are very important in an essay. Not only do they connect between paragraphs, but also they connect between sentences in the same paragraph adding to the flow and coherency of the paragraph.
- It is important to use a suitable connector according to context.

PURPOSE	EXAMPLES
<i>To add points on the same topic</i>	And, in addition to, moreover, besides, furthermore, also, too, what's more
<i>To describe similarity</i>	Similarly, likewise, in the same way
<i>To express contrast</i>	But, however, nevertheless, yet, still, although, even if, even though, in spite of, despite
<i>To introduce opposing points</i>	On the one hand... on the other hand, in contrast, contrary to, it can also be argued that, there are people who say that F&O
<i>To describe cause or reason</i>	Because (of), since, due to, for this reason, that is why, one/another reason for... is...
<i>To describe a result</i>	So, therefore, consequently, thus, as a result (of),
<i>To state a purpose</i>	in order to, so that, so as to
<i>To make general statements</i>	In general, generally, on the whole
<i>To give examples</i>	For example, for instance, such as, like, particularly, in particular, especially, specifically
<i>To describe reality</i>	In fact, as a matter of fact, actually
<i>To express personal opinions</i>	In my opinion, I (strongly / firmly) believe/ think/ feel (that)
<i>To list points</i>	To begin with, in the first place, first of all, first/ firstly, secondly, thirdly, after that, then, next, finally
<i>To conclude</i>	In conclusion, to sum up, in short, all in all, all things considered,
<i>To show time</i>	When, while, before, after, until, as soon as, by the time
<i>To show sequence</i>	First, at first, in the beginning, next, then, later, earlier, meanwhile, after that afterwards, at last, finally, eventually, in the end
<i>To rephrase</i>	In other words, that is, namely, that is to say



Connectors List

Cause & Effect	Comparison	Contrast	Persuasion	Opinion
Because Since For So Consequently Therefore Thus Hence Owing to As a result of Causes As a consequence of Leads to Contributes of Brings about Results in Because of this For this reason Stems from Comes from Results from Is the result of Is the consequence of Is due to Is caused by	Equally As with Likewise In the same way Similarly Like Of contrast Despite this In comparison In contrast Even though	However Nevertheless Alternatively Despite this On the contrary Yet Whereas Apart from Even so Although In spite of While	Of course Clearly Evidently Surely Indeed Undoubtedly Decidedly Certainly For this reason Besides Again	I think I believe I feel In my opinion In my view As far as I know It seems likely It seems to me In my experience I believe that As for me, I think If I am not mistaken What I mean is I'd say that Personally, I think
	Conclusion	illustration	Addition	Emphasis
	To conclude In conclusion Finally On the whole Summarising Overall To sum up Evidently	For example Such as For instance Such as In other words An instance As revealed by To show that In the case of As an example For one thing	And Also In addition Further Furthermore Besides In addition to Moreover Additionally Not only ... but also Then Again Finally	Significantly Notably In particular In fact To be sure Truly Actually In reality As it happens



INCORPORATING ADVANCED STRUCTURES

Gerund as a subject:

- ***Being** a woman is not easy in some countries where they are discriminated against, especially in the work place.
- ***Living** in a city has got its advantages and disadvantages.

Present perfect + for / since :

- *I **have known** my best friend **since** we were at school / **for** a long time.
- ***Since** the invention of the Internet we **have been able** to get all kind of information.

Passive:

- *Many women *are mistreated* all around the world. I think laws *should be changed*.
- **Will* human beings *be cloned* in the future?

Conditionals:

- *If governments *spent* less money on weapons, the poor countries *would receive* more food and medicines. (2nd cond.)
- *How *would* some people *survive* if they *didn't* have a mobile phone ? (2nd cond.)
- *If we, human beings, **make** a little effort, we **will be able** to save the planet. (1stcond)

* Relative clauses:

- *Global warming, **which** is one of the most important environmental problems at present, is causing the rise in temperatures s all around the world.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ESSAY. WHAT ADVANCED STRUCTURED HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED?

Recently, a curfew law for students has been enacted. As a result, students have to be in their homes by 22:00 on week days and 12:00 am on weekends. Do you agree with this law? State and explain your opinion.

<u>Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce your topic• State your opinion	Recently, a law was enacted stating that students have to be in their homes by 10:00 pm on week days and 12:00 am on weekends. The purpose of this law is to protect teenagers from danger and for them to improve their studies. Although this law is controversial and likely to incite opposition, I am in complete support of it.
<u>Supporting Paragraph #1</u> <u>Topic</u> → Protection from Danger	First, this new curfew law will protect students from danger. Research has shown that most violence occurs late at night. Many attacks and robberies occur when the perpetrator can hide in the dark. At night there is less parental supervision and more people on the streets who are out drinking and causing trouble. This law will keep teenagers out of harm's way and safe in their homes.
<u>Supporting Paragraph #2</u> <u>Topic</u> → Improvement of Studies	Secondly, the new curfew law will help improve teen study habits. Students that are out at night are not home studying or resting . Students feel the pressure to go out with their friends at night in place of studying for exams. This law will remove the peer pressure and temptation. Students will also be able to go to sleep early. If they go to sleep at a decent hour they will feel refreshed for class the next day. Therefore, the law will improve attendance and punctuality.
<u>Conclusion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclude your essay• Restate your strongest reason & opinion	Society has a responsibility to look out for the best interest of teenagers. While the new curfew law is sure to result in anger amongst many teens, the benefits clearly outweigh any possible negative effects. That is why I am in in favor of the new curfew law.

HOW WILL YOUR ESSAY BE GRADED?

Criteria	Explanation
Content and Organization 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Express yourself clearly. Make sure you answer the question as required and that you are on topic.* Write relevant and well organized information – include main ideas and examples.* Make sure to write according to the structure (Intro, Body and Conclusion)
Vocabulary 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Use rich and varied vocabulary – don't repeat yourself! Use appropriate register – you are not writing to your friend, so don't use slang or inappropriate words.* Make sure to use the words you choose correctly.
Language Use 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Use the 5 basic tenses accurately.* Don't forget to include 4 advanced language structures (conditionals, perfect tenses, passive, connectors, prepositions, relative clauses, gerunds etc.)
Mechanics 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Correct spelling.* Capital letters – at the beginning of a sentence.* Correct punctuation - , : ?.* Clear paragraphing – skip a line between each paragraph. It should be clear where a paragraph begins and where it ends. <u>Short and clear</u> sentences are a MUST!

THE OFFICIAL RUBRIC CAN BE FOUND IN THE BELOW LINK

<file:///C:/Users/user/Pictures/Module%20G%20Writing%20Rubric.pdf>

WRITING PRACTICE

Let's practice! Here are some examples of writing tasks from previous Bagrut Exams:

Summer 2020 Moed Bet

What advice would you give to someone starting school? Explain why you think it is important?
You may write about one piece of advice or more.

Summer 2021

What do you think is more important in life - good luck or good decisions?
Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion.

Summer 2021 Moed Bet

Do you think teenagers should spend less time on social media?
Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion.

MODULE G

OPINION ESSAY WRITING

