



ESSAY

WHAT IS AN ESSAY

An essay is a formal composition in which you express your opinion on a specific topic. You must argue your position with reasons and examples in order to generate a final conclusion. It is also important to present the opposing view to your position.



WELCOME TO
REALITY

CONTEXTUALISATION

You may be asked to write this text in an academic context.

LAYOUT

Section	Explanation/Definition
Introduction (paragraph 1)	Introduce the topic of the essay. State the main idea and argument with a thesis statement.
Body (paragraphs 2, 3/4)	Evidence to prove and persuade the reader to accept the writer's point of view.
Conclusion (paragraph 4/5)	Summary of the content and findings of the essay.

CHECKLIST – WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE



Register	Formal
Lexis	Don't use everyday phrases. Use a wide variety of formal vocabulary, depending on the topic.
Recommended grammar structures	Don't use contracted verb forms or imperatives. Don't omit words either. Write complex sentences using a variety of full verb forms and passive forms, among others.
Expressions	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is often said that... - This is a hotly-debated topic. - This is a topic that is often discussed but rarely solved. - Many people feel that... <p><u>Giving opinions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It seems to me that... - In my opinion, this is... - From my perspective, this seems to be... - To be honest, I feel that...

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As I see it - To my mind - To put it simply - I personally feel that - I strongly believe that - I feel very strongly that - I completely agree with - I am convinced that - I'm in favour of - I would like to add one more point - The way I see it - Personally, I have no doubt that - It could be argued that <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Conclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To sum up briefly, it seems to me that... - On balance, I feel that... - Taking all the arguments into account, I would say that... - As shown above, ...
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Linking words	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Contrasting ideas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While many may agree with this, it may still be a mistake. - Conversely, it may be inappropriate for this situation. - On the contrary, it is seen by many as an excellent solution to the problem. - While I can see some benefits, these may be outweighed by the disadvantages.
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EXAMPLE

INSTRUCTIONS

- Which aspect of our daily lives has been affected most by technology?

Communication, relationships, working life

- Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

'It's great to be able to communicate with people 24 hours a day.'

'It's so hard to make personal relationships - everyone's online all the time.'

'People have an easier working life because they can work from home.'

Write an essay discussing two of the points in your notes. You should explain which aspect of daily life you think has been most affected by technology, giving reasons in support of your answer.

EXAMPLE ANSWER

Technology is such a feature of everyday life that it is difficult to remember what we did without it. It impacts on almost every aspect of our daily lives. But where has technology's greatest impact been?

Firstly, technology has affected the way we make relationships and our expectations of them. It is increasingly common to find people with more friends on the internet than in real life, and they spend more time chatting to cyber friends than they do to real world friends. Although feeling part of a wider community like this can be positive, it could also have a negative effect on people's ability to relate to others on a personal level. In turn, this could make it hard not only to establish relationships

initially but to maintain them. The impact of this development on society is clearly enormous.

Another area in which technology has affected people's lives is in the workplace. Sitting in open-plan offices working at computer screens creates an unsatisfying and unsupportive environment. On the plus side, technology also enables people to work from home, which can lead to a healthier work/life balance. Of course, people may also find this difficult as it can lead to isolation.

To sum up, it appears that the impact of technology has been greatest on the way we form relationships, because this affects people emotionally as well as practically. However, given that it is impossible to return to a world without technology, we must accept its increasing impact on our lives in as many areas as we can.