## Answer Key Academic English

## Unit 9: Controversies

**1 Understanding the writer’s opinion**

**1.2.a**

Understanding a writer's opinion is clearly a key academic skill. For example, when quoting or paraphrasing a writer's article or book, It is important to represent their point of view accurately. Sometimes their opinion may be obvious, but at other times it may be less easy to identify. In such situations, the ability to be critical (to think deeply about a particular subject rather than just look at the 'surface' meaning) is important. This can help reveal potential problems in areas such as bias, subjectivity and logical fallacies (where the arguments and conclusion do not match). Aside from the actual content of a piece of writing, there are a number of language and grammar areas which, upon close analysis, may provide clues as to the writer's opinion. These include:

- the first sentence ofthe paragraph, which may provide a useful overview of the paragraph;

- keywords (repeated language, synonyms, defined terms may indicate central ideas);

- signposting language (e.g. *however* indicates a contradictory point of view, therefore a conclusion);

- direct language (e.g. *it is clear that...).*

**1.2.c**

Suggested answers:

A: negative comments - social programs and educational systems may be stressed; ethnic

tensions may rise; difficulty assimilating; higher costs of bi-lingual education

B: positive comments - tremendous economic and cultural benefits from the energy, creativity, and

productivity that diversity generates

C: negative comments - Increases the demographic pressures on a country's environmental resources; reduces the amount of natural, undeveloped land, leaving it farther away from many people and more crowded;threatening plant and animal species; contributing to air and water pollution

D; negative comments - delays modernisation of planets, facilities and farms

E: positive comments - political and economic potential of international migration; injection of young immigrant workers

F: positive comments - the nation, as a whole, gains from Immigration; immigration increases

the size of the economic pie available to natives

**2 Idenitifying main ideas and supporting information**

**2.2**

Paragraph 1: b

Paragraph 2: c

Paragraph 3: b

Paragraph 4: a

**3 Recognizing General Nouns**

**3.1**

1 *activities =* getting access to Information and commercial services

2 *features* (of the Internet) = making it easier to main contact with people, and reducing the need

to engage in social contact (in order to conduct the everyday business of commercial and social

life)

3 *consequences =* making it easier to form 'virtual communities', and maintaining contact with

friends and relatives using both words and images.

4 (these) *arguments =* arguments that the Internet has had a beneficial impact (for the reasons

given in 3)

**4 Understanding hedges**

**4.1.a**

2 The Internet has helped to make the world a smaller place.

3 The ability to engage in 'on-line' social activity could help to stimulate greater 'off-line' social

activity too.

4 Those engaged in a virtual network may spend less time participating In their local social

networks.

5 One of the activities that might be displaced by spending time on the internet is socialising with

friends and family.

6 Whereas watching television can. In fact, be turned into a communal activity, using a

computer is usually a solitary activity.

**4.1.b**

Suggested answers

1 The advent of the internet has been among the biggest developments in the history of

communications technology.

2 The internet has been a factor in making the world a smaller place.

3 The ability to engage in 'on-line' social activity may/can help to stimulate greater 'off-line'

social activity too.

4 It is possible that those engaged in a virtual network would spend less time participating In

their local social networks.

5 One of the activities that could/may be displaced by spending time on the Internet Is

socialising with friends and family.

6 Whereas watching TV can, in fact, be turned into a communal activity, using a computer is often a solitary activity.

**4.1.c**

Suggested answers

2 The internet has helped to make the world a smaller place.

4 Many of those engaged in a virtual network may spend less time participating in their local social

networks.

6 Whereas watching television can, in fact, often be turned into a communal activity, using a

computer is usually a solitary activity.

**5 Vocabulary building: formal and informal verbs in context**

**5.1**

2 acquire

**3** create

4 maintain

5 derive; afforded

6 form; sustain

**6 Vocabulary building: Opposites**

**6.1**

*2* strengthened - weakened

3divergent - similar

*4* face-to-face communication

5 on-line - off-line

6 engaged in - withdrawn from

7 subsequently-previously

8 solitary-communal

**7 Tutorials: asking for and giving more information**

**7.1**

Raquel: Does anybody want to ask any questions at all?

Niki: Yes, Raquel, you used the abbreviation. FOE. What does that stand for?

Raquel: Oh, right, that means Friends of the Earth (...)

Elena: You only talked about the advantages of GM crops. So are vou saving that there are

no disadvantages?

Raquel: Well, no, not at all. What I'm saving is that at the moment there's no actual evidence

of health risks, (...)

Elena: Raquel you talked about 'selective breeding' of plants. What does that mean exactly?

Raquel: Well, what it means is that researchers grow plants that have particular characteristics (...)

Tim: You said that GM foods have better nutritional value. Why is that?

Raquel: To be honest, I don't know. I'll need to check on that.

Tutor: OK. Thanks Raquel.

**7.2.a**

**Asking for information:**

You used the abbreviation (...). What does that stand for?

You talked about (...). What does that mean exactly?

You said that (...). Why is that?

Are you saying that . . .?

**Introducing more information:**

That means ...

What I'm saying is that ...

What it means is that . . .

**Saying that you don't know**

I don't know ... I'll need to check on that

**7.2.b**

Suggested answers

**Asking for information**

Could you say a little more about...

Could you clarify what you mean by .

**Introducing more information**

At this point I would add ...

Let's not forget about...

**Saying that you don't know**

That's an interesting question. Can I tell you later,

I could give you an answer, but I'm not sure how accurate it would be.

**8 Pronunciation: intonation in wh- clefts**

**8.2.a**

1B: What I think is that they need to target children more.

2B: What I found was that older students were better motivated than younger ones.

3B: What I was talking about was how difficult some websites are to use.

4B: What I actually said was that it was the most important communications device invented.

5B: What I suggest is that you have a look at the WHO website

**9: Describing information in figures and tables**

**9.2**

1 detail

2 column

3 aspect

4 statement

5 significance

6 limitations

**9.3.a**

1d 2b 3f 4e 5a 6g 7c

**9.3.b**

1 d (introduces the general topic of surveys of time use)

2 b (explains what is given in the table)

3 a, f, e, g (f and e highlight main findings from the final column on men and women together as

a group; a and g highlight differences between men and women - a is a general statement and

g provides supporting detail for this)

4 c (comments on a possible limitation of the information in the table)

**10 Language for writing 1: referring to figures and tables**

**10.1**

Passive + in Figure/ Table

*1* (are shown in Figure 1)

4 (is presented in Figure 3)

as + past participle in Figure/ Table *...*

2 (As shown in Table 1)

8 (as illustrated in Figure 2)

*See* + name of table/ figure ...

3 (See table 4)

6 (See table 2)

Name of table/figure + present simple ...

5 (Figure 1 shows)

7 (Figure 1 gives)

**11 Language for writing 2: referring backwards and forwards**

**11.1**

1 as follows (forwards)

2 As mentioned earlier (backwards)

3 the above rules (backwards)

4 as noted above (backwards)

5 as previously described (backwards)

6 the following reasons (forwards)

7 the reasons discussed below (forwards)

**11.2**

*2 : As mentioned earlier:* the phrase 'it was' can be omitted in such circumstances as it can be

inferred

3: *to the above factors:* the definite article is needed because there is a specific set of factors being

referred to

*4: As being noted above:* the present simple rather than the present continuous is needed - the

verb describes a state rather than an unfinished activity

*5: As previously described:* objectivity vs subjectivity ('I' should generally be avoided in academic

writing); 'previously described' is more formal language than 'described before'

*6: The reasons are as follows:* word-class problem - 'following' is acting as an adjective rather than a

verb

*7: the reasons discussed below:* this is the correct word order, as it is an example of a reduced

relative clause (the full form would be 'the reasons which are discussed below')

## Grammar and Vocabulary

**1: Verbs followed by a noun phrase or that-clause**

**1.1**

Noun phrase or that-clause: show, demonstrate, illustrate, indicate, reveal, suggest

Noun phrase only: summarise, compare, contrast, display, give, list, present, provide

**1.2**

2 The table ~~provides~~ shows/reveals/suggests/ indicates that

3 X Table 4 compares ~~that~~ the readership

4 Correct

5Table 1 ~~gives~~ illustrates/demonstrates/ indicates/suggests that

6 V

7 V

8 Figure 1 ~~presents~~ demonstrates/illustrates/indicates/ reveals/ suggests that

**2 Non-finite relative clauses**

**2.1**

3c 4g 5a 6h 7f 8d

**2.2**

2+b Simmons (2008) talks about the increased opportunities for employment being created

by the development of green technologies.

3+a The government will give more funding to research that they hope will have immediate

economic benefits.

4+c The police began by arresting demonstratorshanding out political leaflets.

5+eUltrasound energy is a form of therapy being studied as a possible cancer treatment.

6+h An Investigation was held to investigate the patients' claims that they were receiving

inadequate care in the hospital.

7+dThe Education Department is to introduce a new curriculum aiming to improve science

teaching in schools.

8+f'Verbatim' is a Latin term used to mean 'word for word'.

**3 Adverbials used to comment**

**3.1.a**

2 As might be expected

**3** actually

4 interestingly

5 In fact

S arguably

**7** probably

8 Surprisingly

**9** Certainly

10 predictably

**3.1.b**

a express certainty (e.g. no doubt, certainly)

b express a level of doubt (e.g. arguably, probably)

c say what we think is really the case (e.g. in fact,

actually)

d say that something is expected (e.g. as might be

expected, predictably)

e give our reaction to what we are talking about

(e.g. Interestingly, surprisingly)

**3.2**

2 When students (100 in total) were asked what they intended to do after completing their first

degree, surprisingly not one of them said they wanted to go on to do postgraduate studies.

3 The abstract is arguably the most important part of an article in an academic journal because it

is the only part of an article that many people read.

4No doubt there are many limitations o f t he research, but I would like to point out two.

5 Although creativity seems to be a simple phenomenon. It Is in fact very complex.