**ELP 1020: Lecture 2**

**Task 2: Text Structures**

**Text 1:** The easiest way to get to work during rush hour is to follow these simple steps. First, remember to prepare some good music and a mug full of coffee for the trip. While travelling, check the local radio station for traffic updates. Subsequently, decide which route to take. During the commute, breathe deeply and quiet your mind. Little by little you will get closer to your destination, and in the end, you will arrive to work in a more rested state.

sequential

**Text 2:** Head injuries account for between 4% and 22% of all sport injuries and most of these can result in concussions, some with long term effects. The most common cause of a concussion during group sport is when one player’s head strikes another player’s head. The second most common cause of soccer related concussions is when the ball is kicked from close range and hits a player’s head. Heading the ball does not cause head injuries, as long as it is done properly.

Cause + effect

**Text 3:** Obesity has become a major health issue for North Americans, and this problem is aggravated by the lack of physical activity in large segments of the population. In addition to healthier eating habits, one solution would be to make it easier for obese North Americans to exercise on a daily basis. This could be done at work, before and after the shift, to ensure full participation in the programme. This programme would be beneficial to obese employees as they would be required to participate twice daily to help decrease obesity among North Americans.

problem/solution

**Text 4:** The Mayans and the Aztecs had a lot in common. Although the Mayan civilization died out as the Aztec empire came into power both tribes still have full-blooded members living today. At their peaks, both tribes were skilled in warfare. In religion, they both believed in the same gods, and built temples pyramids for their gods. Both the Mayans and the Aztecs were very fond of trading with other tribes or nations. Both tribes also kept slaves. In conclusion, these tribes had a lot in common.

Compare / contrast

**Text 5:** Cinder cone volcanoes have steep, straight sides, between 30 and 40 degrees, and a single, large summit crater. They are constructed primarily of tephra, which is fragmented pyroclastic material. Composite volcanoes have an upwardly concaved slope and a small summit crater. They are constructed of alternating layers of hardened lava and pyroclastic flows. Shield volcanoes have an upwardly convex slope, averaging less than 15 degrees and flatter on top. They are comprised almost entirely of lava flows from a central vent, cluster of vents or rift zones along their flanks.

Descriptirb

**Text 6:** Languages are the most essential part of human communication. However, out of 6,500 languages worldwide there are four languages which are most popular on our globe. First is English with 1.132 billion speakers in various corners of the world. Next is Mandarin Chinese with a close 1.117 billion speakers. The third most spoken language is Hindi since 615 million people use it to communicate. This is followed by Spanish, which is spoken by 534 million people, ranking the language as the fourth most popular language on the planet.

Order of importance

**Task 1: Read the following texts and answer the questions that follow:**

While there were many contributing factors to the French Revolution, a primary cause was a financial crisis brought on by royal extravagance. (2) For years before the revolution finally exploded in 1789, the royal government had been borrowing heavily to cover deficit spending (Cobb, 1988.) (3) Even though France’s high courts of appeal cautioned against such borrowing, the royal’s extravagance continued, eventually resulting in a financial crisis that required the government to institute a series of taxes. (4) As the press highlighted the government’s spending with cartoons and stories, the peasants, already burdened by high taxes, low wages and poor harvests, began to resent the demands of the royals. (5) Finally, in 1789, the Third Estate—the common people—became so enraged, they demanded a new constitution and refused to compromise with the existing government until it was written. (6) This demand set off the first sparks of revolution.

1. What is the topic?

Factors contributing to the French revolution.

1. *What is the main idea?*

Royal extravagance is the principal reason that led to the French revolution.

1. *What is the text structure?* Is it logical?

Cause + Effect

1. *Does the paragraph contain a topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentence?*

Yes.

1. *Which tense/s is/are used?* Why?

Past tense, since the french revolution is a concluded past event.

1. *Are pronouns used consistently?*
2. *What is the function of the linking words that are used?* Are they used effectively?

**Task 2: Read the following texts and answer the questions that follow:**

(1)During the past five years, the number of Americans killed annually in car accidents has climbed to more than 55,000. (2) This needless slaughter on streets and highways can be attributed to three general causes. (3) Mechanical failures, especially those related to faulty brakes and bald tyres, account for a significant number of fatal accidents. (4) Environmental conditions such as blind corners, narrow streets, heavy fog, intermittent rain or snow resulting in slippery roads also contribute to the grisly accident statistics. (5) But without doubt the most frequently reported factors in car accidents are errors of human judgment – all the way from such follies as excessive speed and drunken driving to such momentary lapses as failure to signal a turn or a change from one lane to another. (6) In conclusion, there are a number of causes to the number of deaths on American roads, but the man behind the wheel is often his own worst enemy.

1. What is the topic?

Causes of accidents

1. What is the main idea?

Man is its worst enemy on the road.

1. What is the text structure? Is it logical?

Lack of linking word, jumping from one point to another

1. Does the paragraph contain a TS, supporting sentences and concluding sentence?

No TS, straight into a fact. Has poorly linked SS and a indicated CS.

1. Which tense/s is/are used? Why?

Present its an ongoing 1

1. Are pronouns used consistently?
2. What is the function of the linking words that are used? Are they used effectively?