

**How to write an article for an exam?** Here's a sample topic that has been divided into paragraphs and each of the sections explained.

You must answer this question.

You see this competition in an international magazine.

### **COMPETITION**

**Imagine you were on a desert island. What would you miss most? Write an article briefly describing an important object, person or place in your life and give reasons for your choice.**

**The best article will be published and the writer will receive £500.**

Write your article in 140- 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

Sample answer:

#### **Life away from home**

**How would you feel about living on a desert island? I can't imagine anything worse. I would miss a lot of things, but most of all I would miss my home.**

You start with Paragraph 1- **Introduction**

**In the introduction you :**

- think of a **title** that will catch the reader's attention
- include the topic- you might not know the **reader** personally, but still, you can **address** him/her **directly** (e.g. ask them a question)

**Phrases you can use in the introduction:**

**Addressing the reader**

Have you ever..

You absolutely must ...

Can you imagine ...

I'm sure you'd agree

I must tell you about ...

You wouldn't believe..

**REMEMBER:** It's a **semi-formal/ informal** piece of **writing** make it **interesting** by including a range of language, e.g. adjectives and adverbs, phrasal verbs, collocations, relative clauses, linkers, one or two idioms.

**DON'T copy out the task- use synonyms**

**My home is a small house on the outskirts of a city. It was built about fifty years ago and has a small garden. In the summer our country gets very hot but our house is always cool.**

Note that the question/topic says the description should be 'brief'.

**Phrases you can use to in the 2nd and 3rd paragraph:**

**Giving a strong opinion**

It's absolutely stunning / terrible (strong adjective).

It took my breath away.

I will never forget it.

There's nothing in the world like it.

**Adding and developing ideas**

For a start .. Secondly. / Thirdly./ Finally....

And then there's the fact that ..

On top of that....

Apart from that....

I must also mention ...

As if this wasn't enough, ...

**Giving examples** ... such as ../.. particularly ../ ...like...

**You would probably think our house is nothing special, but I have lived there all my life and all my friends live nearby. It is a happy place, where I feel completely safe. Whenever I go away, I look forward to coming back, lying on my bed, reading a book and listening to my brother and sister arguing downstairs!**

**In the 3rd Paragraph you :**

- give specific examples to bring your article to life
- use informal language to involve the reader
- don't forget to express your opinion
- be personal

**I love travelling and meeting new people, but if I were on a desert island I would be away from the place I love most — my home — and I would hate that.**

**In the last paragraph you :**

- finish with a sentence which summarises what you have said
- end with an interesting last sentence
- give your opinion or express your feeling

**Phrases you can use to end the letter**

*Giving a personal response*

For me, / To me.....

Personally, I think / find / believe ...

It seems to me ... In my view.... One thing I love / remember ...

I'll never forget ...

Over to you:

You have seen this advertisement in an international magazine.

### **INSPIRING PEOPLE**

**Tell us about a person you admire and why they inspire you.  
We will publish the most interesting articles next month.**

Write your article . Write your answer in 140- 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

Once again, over to you:

You have seen this advertisement on an international travel website.

### **CITY BREAKS**

**What's your favourite city, and why? Write us an article:**

- describing the city.
- saying why it is special for you.

**We'll publish the most interesting articles online next month**

Write your answer in 140- 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.