

## Four of the world's best beaches

Which are the best beaches on Earth? Here are our top four.

### A Rodas Beach, the Cies Islands, Spain

Some of Spain's most spectacular beaches lie in Galicia on the Atlantic coast, and perhaps the most stunning of these are on the Cies Islands. These unspoilt and uninhabited islands are a national park, with public access limited to the summer months, and contain the perfectly-shaped Rodas Beach with its pure white sand and clear blue sea. At first sight it almost seems tropical, until dipping your toe in the water encourages you to spend a lazy day on the beach rather than dive in for a swim. There you can enjoy the quiet, the warmth of the sun and the scent of pine from the nearby woods, and later on have an excellent meal in the reasonably-priced fish restaurant close to the beach.

### B Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Islands, Australia

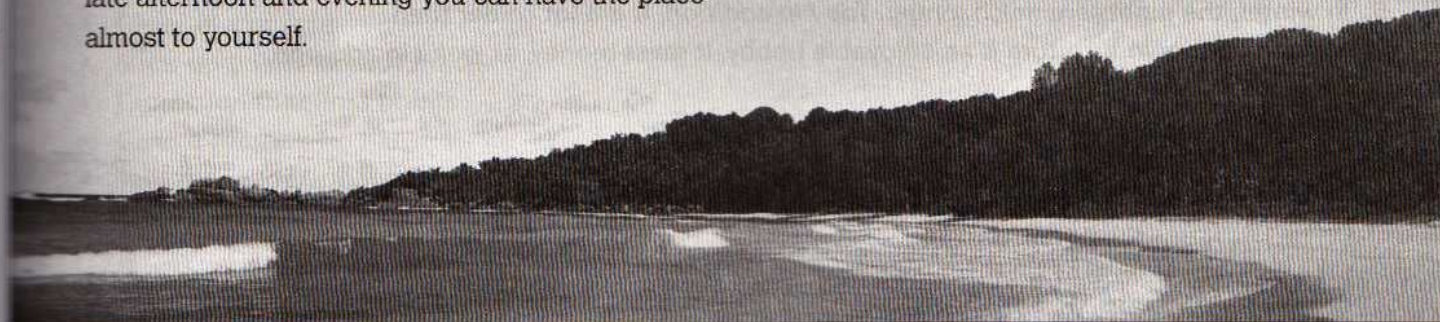
Australia is famous for wonderful beaches, and Whitehaven must surely be one of its very best. Set against a background of amazingly-green tropical forest, and with views across the clear blue ocean to distant small islands, the sandy white beach is like something from a picture postcard or a TV commercial. As you would expect in such a sunny climate, the water is pleasantly warm, ideal for swimming on or below the surface. The sand, in contrast, always remains cool as it is of a type that reflects the sunlight, so you won't need sandals. As the island has no permanent inhabitants, and most day trippers leave by boat quite early, in the late afternoon and evening you can have the place almost to yourself.

### C Matira Beach, Bora Bora, Tahiti

Matira Beach on the Pacific island of Bora Bora has incredibly white sand, beautiful fish swimming in clear blue-green water, and stunning sunsets. The air temperature hardly varies around the year, and neither does that of the ocean – which is only waist-high even hundreds of metres from the shore. And unlike windier beaches nearby, Matira is quite well sheltered. There isn't, however, much shade, so it is advisable to use plenty of sun cream, and the sand can feel uncomfortably hot unless you wear beach shoes or something similar. There is no charge to visit the beach, yet it rarely becomes crowded at any time of day. Everyone should go there at least once in life, and when you do, make sure you have your photo taken as the sun goes down.

### D Anse Source d'Argent Beach, Seychelles

This must be one of the most photographed beaches in the world, so don't forget to get some shots of your own, especially of the sea and the sand framed by the background of enormous pink rocks, with tall palm trees right behind them. It's easy to see why commercials have been made there. The patches of brilliantly white sand between those beautiful rocks make it the perfect place to spend a relaxing day, and it is well worth the small amount it costs for access. The best spots – those with both sunshine and shade – quickly get taken, so make sure you arrive well before the sun starts to beat down and the sand heats up.



**Tip!** Don't expect to find answers in the text that use the same words as the questions. Look for words, phrases and sentences that express the same ideas.

**Task information**

- The essay task in Part 1 tests your ability to write an 'opinion' essay for the teacher of an English class.
- There is a question or statement to discuss and you are also given some notes to guide your writing. You should write between 140 and 190 words.
- You should allow about 40 minutes for this task, including time to plan your work and check for mistakes at the end.
- Your essay must be well organised into paragraphs, with good linking expressions.
- As your reader will be a teacher, you should use fairly formal language.
- You should write full sentences with correct grammar and punctuation, using a good range of language with accurate spelling.

**Useful language: ordering points or reasons; adding information**

**1** Where would you use these linking expressions? Put them under the correct headings.

Finally,	First of all,	On balance,
In conclusion,	Next,	Lastly,
Last but not least,	To sum up,	<del>Firstly,</del>
Then	To begin with,	To conclude,
Secondly,		

for the first point	for further points	for the last point	in the conclusion
Firstly			

**2** Some linking expressions are used at the beginning of a sentence, but some are not. Circle the correct words in italics.

- 1 In the city there are more places to go. *Also* / *Too*, they stay open later.
- 2 Working in a coal mine is a hard job. *Furthermore* / *As well*, it can be dangerous.
- 3 Travelling by train is more relaxing than driving. It is better for the environment, *besides* / *too*.
- 4 You have to find somewhere to play. *As well* / *As well as that*, you need to buy all the sports equipment.
- 5 In winter, the nights are much longer. *Too* / *In addition*, it is a lot colder then.
- 6 Making your own furniture is an enjoyable hobby. It saves money, *as well* / *in addition*.

## Focusing on the question; text organization

### 1 Look at this exam task. Would you answer 'yes' or 'no' to the question?

In your English class you have been discussing animals. Now your teacher has now asked you to write an essay.

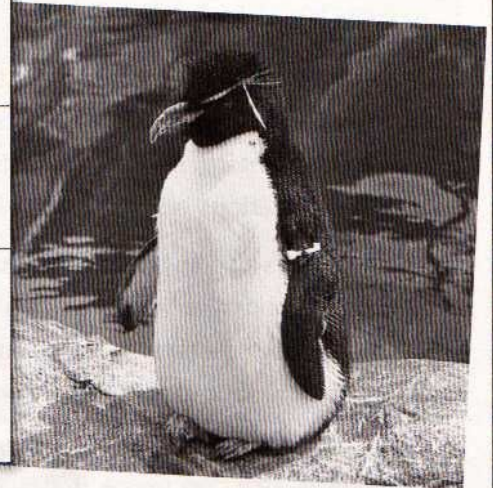
Write an essay, using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

**It is wrong to keep animals in zoos?**

#### Notes

Write about:

- 1 how the animals are treated
- 2 learning about the animals
- 3 ..... (your own idea)



Write your answer in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.

### 2 Quickly read the essays on page 36 written by strong First candidates, A and B (language errors have been corrected). Ignore 1–10 and answer these questions about each essay.

#### 1 Does it include

- only arguments that answer 'yes' to the question, followed by the writer's opinion?
- only arguments that answer 'no' to the question, followed by the writer's opinion?
- arguments on both sides, followed by the writer's opinion?

#### 2 In which paragraph does the writer discuss note 1?

#### 3 Where does the writer discuss note 2?

#### 4 Which point is the writer's own idea?

### 3 Now read the essays again and complete questions 1–10 with the following notes. You can use the same note more than once.

- Writer's own opinion
- Gives an example
- Sums up points already made
- Expression that links points
- Gives a reason
- Tells the reader what to expect
- Contrast link

## Essay A

In my opinion, keeping animals in zoos is not as cruel as people say – sometimes it is even useful – for three main reasons.

First of all, they take care of the animals, giving them the best food. The animals are cleaned every day and they live in good conditions. There is a large number of scientists that care for the animals, for instance if they catch a disease.

Secondly, there are some animals that are disappearing because they have been hunted without any control. At the zoo they are away from these hunters, so they are safe and it is possible to prevent them disappearing.

Finally, there is also an educational reason. Children can see different animals from all over the world alive and from my point of view this is the best way of learning. They also learn to take care of them and the most important thing, to love them.

In conclusion, I believe keeping animals in a zoo is no more cruel than keeping them at home. The only important thing is to care for them.

Writer's own opinion

Gives a reason

(1) Tells the reader what to expect

(2) .....

(3) .....

(4) .....

Sums up points already made

## Essay B

Keeping animals in zoos is an important issue today because there are many people in favour of animal rights. In this essay I intend to examine the arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos.

One of the strongest arguments in favour is the fact that children can see animals from other countries. Consequently, visiting zoos can help them learn about nature. Furthermore, zoos can help protect some kinds of animals, which might be in danger of extinction.

On the other hand, there are several arguments against it. To begin with, it is known that animals in zoos suffer from loneliness since they are not living in their natural environment. Secondly, they do not behave as they would do if they were free, because they have to get used to a new way of living, even if they have been born in the zoo. Lastly, people can use them to carry out experiments.

On balance, I am not in favour of keeping animals in captivity because, as I have shown, that is like prison, which is very sad.

Outlines the background

Gives a reason

(5) .....

Says which side comes first

(6) .....

(7) .....

(8) .....

(9) .....

(10) .....

**Action plan**

- 1 Read the instructions, the question or statement, and the two notes you are given.
- 2 Decide whether to write for or against, or whether to give arguments both for *and* against.
- 3 Think of a third idea to add to the notes you are given. Write this down, then make a plan.
- 4 Write a short introductory paragraph, commenting generally on the topic, e.g. *The climate is changing, so many people are saying ...*. You can give your own opinion here *and/or* in your last paragraph.
- 5 Write in a fairly formal style, including linking expressions from *Useful language* on page 34.
- 6 Write at least two sentences about each main point, giving reasons and possibly also examples.
- 7 Give your opinion by summarising your main points in a concluding paragraph.
- 8 Check your essay for mistakes – and that you have written at least 140 words.

**Tip!** Note down a few useful expressions for each paragraph, but don't write a full draft – you won't have time in the exam.

Read the exam task below.

- 1 Who are you writing for?
- 2 What must you write about?
- 3 What two main points must you include?
- 4 Which other main point will you add?



You have had a discussion in your English class about different ways of watching music concerts. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

**Which is better: attending a concert, or watching the same concert at home, for example online or on TV?**

**Notes**

Write about:

- 1 convenience
- 2 atmosphere
- 3 ..... (your own idea)

**Tip!** If you want to think of points you disagree with, imagine what someone who disagrees might say.

**Tip!** If you are going to write for *and* against, list your points in two columns so you can balance the essay.

**Write your answer in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.**