

**Action plan**

- 1 Read the instructions and the title to find out what kind of text it is and the topic.
- 2 Quickly read the questions and underline the key words.
- 3 Go quickly through the first section to see which questions it answers.
- 4 When you find information that seems to answer a question, read the question again and study the evidence in the text carefully.

**Tip!** Different texts or parts of the text may contain similar ideas, but you have to read carefully to decide which say **exactly the same thing** as the questions.

**Tip!** You will need to use the same option for more than one question, e.g. four answers might all be A.

**Follow the exam instructions, using the advice to help you.**

You are going to read an article from a travel magazine. For questions **43–52**, choose from the sections **(A–D)**. The sections may be chosen more than once.

**Which section**

recommends paying the entrance fee?

states that the beach has featured in advertisements?

says visitors may be surprised by the water temperature?

points out that the water is quite shallow?

suggests visitors should take photos of the beach?

says visitors can walk on the beach in their bare feet?

mentions a pleasant smell from the trees?

advises visitors to get to the beach early in the day?

states that it is not always possible to visit the beach?

warns visitors to the beach to protect their skin?

**Advice**

**43** Look for a reference to money that must be paid.

**44** Be careful: one paragraph only *imagines* it in an advertisement.

**45** Focus on the temperature of the water, not the air.

**46** Look for a description of depth in relation to the human body.

**47** Think of a short word for 'photos'.

**48** Take care: on one beach this isn't a good idea.

**49** Think of another word for 'smell'.

**50** Make sure it is about the morning, not later on.

**51** Look for a phrase that means in one season only.

**52** What do sunbathers use to protect their skin?

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## 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.

**Understanding the task; ordering points or reasons; adding information**

**1** Fill in the gaps in this text about Writing Part 1, using each item from the box once.

against	both	each	formal	idea	linking
notes	opinion	own	plan	range	140

In Writing Part 1, you write an essay giving your **(1)** ..... on a particular topic in at least **(2)** ..... words. You are given two very brief **(3)** ..... to guide your writing, and you also have to add an **(4)** ..... of your own. You can choose to write for or **(5)** ..... the statement or question that forms the topic, or else give arguments on **(6)** ..... sides, followed by your **(7)** ..... opinion in the conclusion. As your essay is for a teacher, you should write in a fairly **(8)** ..... style, using a variety of **(9)** ..... expressions such as *Firstly*. You need to be careful with grammar, spelling and punctuation, and try to use a wide **(10)** ..... of words, phrases and structures. You should always make a **(11)** ..... for your text before you start writing, listing the points you are going to mention about **(12)** ..... of the three notes.

**2** With your partner, if you have one, think of two linking expressions for each of 1-4.

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 to make the first point | 3 to make the last point      |
| 2 to make more points     | 4 to introduce the conclusion |

**3** Which of these linking expressions can be used at the beginning of a sentence, followed by a comma? Which cannot?

also as well as well as that besides furthermore in addition too

**4a** Look at this Writing Part 1 exam task and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the topic of the essay?      2 Which two points must you discuss?

In your English class you have been talking about the problems of 21st-century urban living. 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.

**Cars should be banned from city centres.**

**Notes**

Write about:

- 1 noise and pollution
- 2 transport
- 3 ..... (your own idea)

- b** Now read the model essay below, ignoring the gaps for now, and answer the questions.
- 1 Does the writer argue for or against the statement, or give arguments on both sides?
  - 2 In which paragraph does the writer discuss each of notes 1 and 2?
  - 3 Which other main point does the writer discuss, and where?
  - 4 What is the writer's opinion and where is it stated?

- c** Fill in gaps 1–8 with suitable linking expressions. In most cases more than one answer is possible.

*In cities everywhere, there is growing concern about the effect of motor vehicles on the inhabitants' quality of life. Some people want to prohibit cars from urban areas, and to a great extent I agree.*

(1) ..... , these vehicles poison the air with their exhaust fumes, contributing to the clouds of smog that hang over many cities, especially in sunny weather. (2) ..... , the sounds of engines and car horns destroys the peace of our neighbourhoods, even at night.

(3) ..... , the huge amount of traffic nowadays makes cities less pleasant places to live. For instance, crossing busy roads often takes ages. (4) ..... , they can be dangerous, especially for children, and for old or disabled people, (5) .....

(6) ..... , there are often alternatives to travelling by car, such as the tube, buses or trams. (7) ..... , if there were no cars, far more people would cycle to work, or they could walk there in the fresh air.

(8) ..... , urban areas without cars would be much better places to live. As long as other means of transport are available, therefore, I believe our cities should become totally car-free.

