Essay writing practice

One realistic task. One clear plan. One carefully checked essay.

Your goal: Write an essay of **220–260 words** in an appropriate neutral or formal style. Allow about **45 minutes** for this task as part of the 90-minute Writing paper.

YOUR EXAM-STYLE TASK

You have listened to a radio discussion about ways to encourage adults to continue learning throughout their lives. You have made the notes below.

Ways to encourage adults to continue learning:

- affordable local courses
- flexible online lessons
- employer-supported training

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

"Courses are of little use if people cannot afford them."

"Busy adults need to learn at times that suit them."

"Businesses benefit when employees develop new skills."

Write an essay for your tutor discussing **two** of the ways in your notes. Explain which way you think would be **most effective** in encouraging adults to continue learning, giving reasons for your opinion.

You may use ideas from the discussion, but express them in your own words as far as possible.

Before you write: Underline the two points you will discuss. Then use page 2 to plan how you will develop each argument and make your final choice.

Plan your answer

Use this page to build an argument, not just a list of ideas.

A. CHOOSE AND COMPARE · 1 MINUTE

My first point: _____

My second point: _____

More effective: _____

The Two-Point Test: “Although both approaches could help, I believe _____ would be more effective because _____.”

B. DEVELOP YOUR TWO IDEAS · 3 MINUTES

POINT 1

Main reason

Example / consequence

POINT 2

Main reason

Example / consequence

C. SKETCH YOUR FOUR PARAGRAPHS · 1 MINUTE

INTRODUCTION	Introduce the issue; signal your focus.
PARAGRAPH 2	Develop point 1 with a reason and example.
PARAGRAPH 3	Develop point 2; compare its impact.
CONCLUSION	Choose the more effective approach and say why.

Write your essay

Aim for 220–260 words. Keep your style neutral to formal and use clear paragraphs.

Exam practice: Try 5 minutes planning, 35 minutes writing and 5 minutes checking. This is a suggested schedule, not a separate exam time limit.

Essay answer sheet

Word count: **Time taken:**

Check and improve

Use the same four assessment areas that Cambridge applies to the Writing paper.

CONTENT

- [ ] I discussed exactly two of the three points.
- [ ] I clearly chose the more effective option and justified my opinion.
- [ ] My essay is relevant and contains 220–260 words.

COMMUNICATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

- [ ] My tone is appropriately neutral or formal throughout.
- [ ] I have explained and evaluated ideas, rather than simply listing them.

ORGANISATION

- [ ] My introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion have clear roles.
- [ ] My ideas follow logically; I use linking language naturally.

LANGUAGE

- [ ] I use varied vocabulary and grammar without forcing complex phrases.
- [ ] I checked articles, agreement, verb forms and punctuation.

ONE FINAL REVISION

Find one sentence in your essay that could be more precise or better supported. Rewrite it below.

MY NEXT WRITING TARGET

Next time, I will focus on:

Independent practice worksheet by **Learn English with Antri Parto**. Not an official Cambridge English examination paper.