1. A magazine is running a series of articles on people’s experiences of being close to nature, for example, visits to beautiful lakes or mountains, or encounters with wildlife. You decide to write an article in which you briefly describe an experience you have had when you were close to nature, and explain what you learned from this. You should also evaluate the role that contact with nature plays in people’s lives. (UCLES b2 test 1) (280-320 words)

2. An English language magazine is running a series on the topic of happiness. You decide to send in an article. You should briefly describe one or two situations in which you have experienced a sense of happiness. You should also analyse what contributes to feelings of happiness for many people, and suggest whether the pursuit of happiness is a worthwhile aim. (UCLES b2 test 3) (280-320 words)

3. An international newspaper has asked for articles from readers on the theme “Small World”. You decide to write an article. You should briefly describe some of the effects of global developments in communications, such as travel and social networking. You should also evaluate how the consequences of these developments may affect your own country’s cultural identity. (UCLES b2 test 4) (280-320 words)

4. An international current affairs magazine has invited readers to contribute articles entitled “Globalisation - good news or bad?” for its next issue. You decide to write an article explaining your personal views on this topic. (UCLES Objectives pg 91) (280-320 words)

5. An academic journal has invited its readers to contribute to a series of articles on new technology and personal freedom. You decide to submit an article describing the effects that new technology, such as the internet, social networking sites and mobile phones, has had on people’s lives and explain whether these changes have led to more or less freedom. You should also evaluate how positive the changes are for society. (UCLES Objectives pg 158) (280-320 words)
6. **An international research body** is publishing a book entitled *Freedom in modern society* and has asked for contributions from around the world. You should **describe the current situation in your country** with regard to education, employment and family life and explain what aspects of freedom an individual has the right to expect. You should also evaluate whether there are too many limits on personal freedom nowadays.

(UCLES Objectives pg 159) *(280-320 words)*

7. **An in-flight magazine** has asked its readers to submit a **light-hearted article** with the title *Space transport in 2050*. Write an article **describing possible future forms of transport** and saying how you would take advantage of them.

(UCLES Objectives pg 174) *(280-320 words)*

8. **An international ecology magazine** has invited readers to contribute an article to a special edition entitled *Ways to save our planet*. Write an article **outlining the environmental measures** you think should be taken by individuals and by governments and evaluating their chances of success.

(UCLES Objectives pg 174) *(280-320 words)*

9. **Your school magazine** is running a special feature on books students have read, which is **entitled Every good book has a message about life**. Write an article about **the set book you are studying**, explaining what you think it has taught you that you can apply in life in general.

(UCLES Objectives pg 174) *(280-320 words)*

10. **A college magazine** editor has invited contributions to a special feature entitled **“Getting around: motorbike or scooter?”**. Write an article outlining your own ideas.

(UCLES Objectives Workbook pg 90) *(280-320 words)*
Task 1. **Style of writing**

Which articles must be written in:
- a chatty, colloquial style?
- a personal, direct, informal style?
- a neutral, informative style?
- a formal, serious and impersonal style? *(like an essay)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>chatty</strong></th>
<th><strong>neutral</strong></th>
<th><strong>formal</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- don’t use formal language</td>
<td>- don’t use 1st person “I”</td>
<td>- don’t use phrasal verbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- use 1st person “I”</td>
<td>- you may use 2nd person ‘you’</td>
<td>- don’t use contractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- use phrasal verbs</td>
<td>- use imperatives</td>
<td>- don’t use ‘I’ or ‘you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- use contraction</td>
<td>- use imperatives</td>
<td>- use advanced vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- use lively punctuation ( ! ? ...)</td>
<td>- use rhetorical questions</td>
<td>- use passive voice / impersonal structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- use colloquial vocabulary</td>
<td>- use more sophisticated punctuation ( : ; () -) to link sentences</td>
<td>- draw analogies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 2. **Title**

Give an eye-catching title. Is there any topic that already provides you with the topic that you have to use?

Topic 1: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Topic 5: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Topic 7: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Task 3. **Introduction**

- It must relate to the title
- It must include a thought-provoking statement that will hold the reader's attention
- It must have a clear angle and inform the reader about the content of the body paragraphs.

Write the introduction for topic 1:

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Task 4. **Body paragraphs**

- Present **balanced views** when you have argumentative topics
- Use a variety of linking devices to **hold the reader’s attention**.
- Be consistent with your style of writing (**register**).

Task 5. **Conclusion**

- **Summarize** your main idea.
- Close with a **punchy final message**.
- Make your target reader feel that it was **worth reading** your article: Give him/her a take home message