Writing a Viewpoint (Paper 2 Q5)

GCSE English Language • Grades 3–8

WORKED SOLUTIONS

Name: worked example Class: _____ Total: 60 / 60

Show all your working. Marks are given for correct method as well as the final answer.

1. Write down the three things you must identify before writing a single word. **[3 marks]**

> *"Homework is a waste of a child's evening and should be scrapped."*
> Write an article for your school newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

form: an article
audience: students and staff
purpose: to explain a viewpoint
getting the FORM wrong caps your mark

Answer: form, audience and purpose

2. Write down three features an article should have that an essay does not. **[3 marks]**

also: a byline, subheadings, direct address

Answer: a headline, an opening hook, short paragraphs

3. Explain why the opening sentence matters more than any other. **[2 marks]**

the examiner forms an impression in seconds

Answer: it sets the tone and shows control immediately

4. Write an opening sentence for the task that is NOT a question. **[3 marks]**

> *"Homework is a waste of a child's evening and should be scrapped."*
> Write an article for your school newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

Last night I spent four hours on homework. I learned nothing.
a rhetorical question opener is the most overused start there is

Answer: a short declarative that states a position

5. Write down a reliable four-part plan for a viewpoint piece. **[4 marks]**

hook: an anecdote or a striking fact
argument: two or three developed points
counter: acknowledge the other side, then answer it
ending: circle back to the opening

Answer: hook, argument, counter-argument, call to action

6. Explain why including a counter-argument raises your mark. **[3 marks]**

Of course, some teachers argue that...
then dismantle it
a one-sided rant reads as unconsidered

Answer: it shows you can handle a whole argument, not one side

7. Explain what it means to *circle back* in a conclusion. **[2 marks]**

it makes the whole piece feel deliberate

Answer: return to the image or idea you opened with

8. Write down two ways to show deliberate paragraphing in an article. **[2 marks]**

a single short paragraph after a long one lands hard

Answer: vary paragraph length; use a one-line paragraph for impact

9. Name the technique in *Four hours. Four hours of my one short life.* **[2 marks]**

and a minor sentence for emphasis

Answer: repetition

10. Write a sentence about homework using a list of three. **[3 marks]**

It steals our evenings, our hobbies and our sleep.
put the biggest item LAST

Answer: three items building to the strongest

11. Write a sentence about homework using direct address. **[2 marks]**

You know the feeling: it is nine o'clock and you have not started.

Answer: address the reader as you

12. Explain why a statistic is persuasive even when the reader cannot check it. **[3 marks]**

Seventy-one per cent of students say...
specificity reads as authority
in an exam you may invent a plausible one

Answer: it sounds like evidence and feels specific

13. Name the technique in *Homework is a thief. It steals the hours we should be living.* **[2 marks]**

the thief idea carries into the second sentence

Answer: metaphor (extended)

14. Explain why an anecdote often works better than an argument in an opening. **[3 marks]**

abstract claims invite disagreement
a story invites sympathy first

Answer: a specific person is easier to care about

15. Write down how many of the 40 marks are for technical accuracy. **[1 mark]**

40% of the question, for spelling and punctuation

Answer: 16

16. Write down three punctuation marks that lift a grade if used correctly. **[3 marks]**

brackets and ellipsis also count
used ACCURATELY -- a wrong semi-colon costs more than it gains

Answer: semi-colon, colon, dash

17. Correct this sentence: *Homework is pointless, it takes up our whole evening.* **[2 marks]**

a comma cannot join two complete sentences
this is the comma splice, the commonest error in the paper

Answer: ____ replace the comma with a semi-colon or full stop____

18. Explain why varying sentence length is worth marks. **[3 marks]**

long sentences build
a short one lands
uniform sentences read as flat whatever the vocabulary

Answer: ____ it controls pace and shows deliberate craft____

19. Plan a full response to the task.

> *"Homework is a waste of a child's evening and should be scrapped."*
> Write an article for your school newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

(a) Write your headline and opening line. **[3 marks]**

THE FOUR-HOUR EVENING
Last night I finished my homework at half past ten.
I could not tell you one thing I learned.

(b) List your three main points and your counter-argument. **[4 marks]**

1. it eats the hours that build character
2. tired students learn less the next day
3. it widens the gap between quiet homes and crowded ones

counter: practice embeds learning -- answer: then make it twenty focused minutes, not four unfocused hours

Answer: ____ headline + hook ; three points and a counter____

20. A student writes: *Homework is bad. It is boring and it takes ages and I dont like it and teachers give too much.*

(a) Identify three separate weaknesses. **[3 marks]**

1. no punctuation variety -- one long and chain
2. dont is missing its apostrophe
3. the reasons are personal, not persuasive

(b) Rewrite it to a grade-7 standard. **[4 marks]**

Homework is not difficult; it is simply endless. Two hours of copying definitions teaches nobody anything -- except that learning is a chore to be survived.

Answer: ____ no variety, missing apostrophe, weak reasons____

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