

English Notes – Paper 1 (Expository Writing)

Composition – Transitional Words, Phrases

Expository

Addition:

also, again, as well as, besides, coupled with, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly

Consequence:

accordingly, as a result, consequently, for this reason, for this purpose, hence, otherwise, so then, subsequently, therefore, thus, thereupon, wherefore

Generalizing:

as a rule, as usual, for the most part, generally, generally speaking, ordinarily, usually

Exemplifying:

chiefly, especially, for instance, in particular, markedly, namely, particularly, including, specifically, such as

Illustration:

for example, for instance, for one thing, as an illustration, illustrated with, as an example, in this case

Emphasis

above all, chiefly, with attention to, especially, particularly, singularly

Similarity:

comparatively, coupled with, correspondingly, identically, likewise, similar, moreover, together with

Exception:

aside from, barring, besides, except, excepting, excluding, exclusive of, other than, outside of, save

Restatement:

in essence, in other words, namely, that is, that is to say, in short, in brief, to put it differently

Contrast and Comparison:

contrast, by the same token, conversely, instead, likewise, on one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather, similarly, yet, but, however, still, nevertheless, in contrast

Sequence:

at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, for now, for the time being, the next step, in time, in turn, later on, meanwhile, next, then, soon, the meantime, later, while, earlier, simultaneously, afterward, in conclusion, with this in mind,

Summarizing:

after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in any case, in any event,

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in brief, in conclusion, on the whole, in short, in summary, in the final analysis,
in the long run, on balance, to sum up, to summarize, finally

Diversion:

by the way, incidentally

Direction:

here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above,
to the left, to the right, in the distance

Shown: show • be a sign • demonstrate • mean • make clear • reflect • illustrate • tell • be
evidence • reveal

Writing an expository essay outline

In order to create a profession expository essay it is necessary to follow three golden rules:

1. The statements taken from different articles must be clearly stated in the essay and the development of this statement in the essay should not be different from its development in the original article. Therefore no “meaning deformations” will occur, but the main point of the original article will be emphasized.
2. The analysed event of situation should be review from the position of several sources thus making the expository essay stay focused on the context and very objective.
3. The conclusions in an expository essay should never be a surprise for the reader as they need to be easily traced throughout the essay. The analysis and the conclusions have to be always connected to each other. The reader should **never have to guess** what the author meant and never have a problem following the essay’s reasoning.

Expository essay Structure

A proper structure of an expository essay is a way to make it as effective as possible.

1. A narrow topic is presented
2. A thesis statement must express the main essence of the essay
3. The topic is developed through different opinions
4. The conclusion is made according to the summary of the presented above opinions

Expository essay format

The expository essay format implies some vital specifications:

1. The paragraphs supporting the thesis statement are supposed to have one main topic-line. The rest of the sentences are to be directly related to this topic-line. This makes it easier for the reader to trace the logical movement of the essay.
2. Conclusion is a place of logical end of the essay analysis but not for nay type of new information.
3. The conclusion in an expository essay always restates the thesis sentence and supports the main topic-line of the essay. The ending must be memorable.

Useful Composition Phrases

2007/1 – If you were drawing a set of school rules for a new school what would they be? Explain which of these you think are the most important.

1. A school is one of the **fundamental** building blocks which “man can effectively pass on his knowledge.”
2. “As time progressed, schools **have** become far more rigid”
3. “*Studies have found that* a large number of teenagers in America are not even able...”
4. It would **instinctively** create a thought in them that...
5. “A person is always happy when he or she is doing what he or she likes”
6. **For instance** if a student... (For example)
7. This would make a.... healthy whilst at the same time promoting...
8. ..that books cannot do.
9. “the students are made to feel at the bottom of the ladder”
10. “students would occupy almost equal status as their educators”
11. This would create an environment where there is **mutual trust, acceptance** & respect between the...
12. “However should this environment be depredated, then the culprit will face most severe punishment indeed”
13. **Alas**, these are
14. Motivate my students to “think beyond the superficial boundaries which bind them and shackle their creativity.”

2007/2- Nowadays people live longer than before. What problems does this present and how can these problems be dealt with?

1. Today, people live longer than before as a result of better nutrition & better healthcare.
2. In many developed countries, including Spore, it is becoming the **norm** that people...
3. This increase in **longevity** is a positive development, but at the same time, it brings challenges & *problems that have to be faced*.
4. One of the **major** problems is the health of...
5. One of the **key issues** is whether they will... or will they...
6. When the elderly develop major health...,
7. It will be a strain, both emotionally & financially, on other family members who are...
8. There needs to be more... specialised in geriatric medicine, a branch of medicine...
9. "They also feel that retirement *leaves an empty void in their lives*",
10. And they do not know how to fill up their days **productively**.
11. Depression is quite a common problem **amongst** seniors.
12. The family plays a big role in providing **companionship** & love...
13. "When people find out that others have the same problem as they do, they feel less helpless and can share solutions."
14. **It is a fact** that seniors do face discrimination in their job search due to their age.
15. Another problem is how to ensure...
16. To achieve this, ...

2006/3- What do you think secondary schools can do to ensure the health, well-being and safety of their students?

1. Schools are places where we learn not only to be good students, but also to be better individuals.
2. We spent a great amount of time in school each week.
3. As such, it is very important to establish an environment conducive to the...
4. Firstly, it is important for the ... to establish a ...
5. A clean school not only contributes to student's physical health, **but** also to student's mental health.
6. When we are in a clean, neat environment,.... Are better able to absorb...
7. "A student's day is **hectic** with **its** schedule of classes."
8. But there are...
9. Schools should provide places...
10. Students can find "some peace & quiet **amidst** all the bustle of schools."
11. Some examples of this are..., ... perhaps with...
12. Well-being can be described as *state of being healthy & happy*.
13. Apart from a clean environment, a pleasing environment also plays a... in ensuring...
14. Plants and flowers brighten up an environment.
15. At the same time looking at the greenery is very **soothing**.
16. Many schools have **recognized** this fact, and make great efforts in...
17. "Also important is the..."
18. This **will** reduce stress and unhappiness and aid in improving overall well-being..
19. Students who are in good relationships with the staff will be able to put their best in..
20. The condition of the school canteen also plays an important role in ensuring...
21. As a place where food is served and eaten, a high standard of hygiene need to be...
22. "Courtesy always adds a *positive note to interaction* among people."
23. Thus, the school staff...
24. Many of us would have heard of...
25. As shown above, there is much that can be done to ensure the health, well-being and safety of students in secondary schools.
26. But the responsibility is shared jointly by the staff and as well as the students.

2005/4- Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions to be made in life. What factors will affect your choice?

1. After being put thru school and the rat race for paper qualifications,
2. There **inevitably** comes a time when we have to make a decision which would affect...

3. Some of us may already have a career in mind since we were small.
4. However for most of us life is not as **simplistic** as...

5. “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs **postulates** that one needs to take care of...”
6. **Similarly**, my primary consideration when choosing a career would be...

7. I do not wish to live in excess...
8. I am fine with being in the middle-class **strata** of society

9. Subsequently, I would consider how safe the ... is.
10. I would not choose a.... ...

11. **As I feel** no amount of money can compensate a life lost.

12. Travelling time is also a concern for myself as... <family time>

13. After all, *one takes up a career* to support not only himself, rather his whole family.
14. “To work at the expense of less interaction with family would not make us any happier, I imagine.”

15. **Ultimately**, no single factor would influence my career **prospects** most;
16. for me, I look at the emotional, spiritual aspects in **tandem**.

17. Though the above **shall** be my guiding principles in choosing a..,
18. It is still important for me to be flexible & open to other...

2005/5- Marriage

1. Marriage can be defined as a legally and spiritually accepted relationship between...
2. It is also the social institution that is central to the raising and **nurture** of children.
3. ... Why has marriage never gone “out of style” despite the many changes in lifestyles?
4. One of the reasons is that marriage fulfills...
5. In our childhood, we belong to a unit consisting of...
6. As we become adults, we **desire** to...
7. Today, most people want to marry the person they...
8. Therefore, marriage is also seen as the...
9. *Thus, today*, it is recognized that before a person...,
10. He or she should be prepared for the **reality** and **challenges** they will encounter.
11. **One may ask:** *for all the hard work that a person puts into a marriage, what are the rewards? The answer is many.*
12. **Studies** have shown that...
13. One of the reasons for this is that **spouses**...
14. Studies have also shown that married couples...
15. This is because...
16. While the many benefits of marriage are acknowledged, the decision to marry or to be single is a choice that an individual has to make for himself.
17. If he or she ..., then ...
18. “The couple who **embark** on the journey of marriage will find it to be a fulfilling and exciting journey with many challenges and joys along the way.”

2004/1- It is said that school uniforms give students a sense of identity and encourages good discipline, Do you agree?

1. School uniforms – love it or hate it, they are something all students in Singapore have to live with.
2. On the other hand, countries like...
3. **Ostensibly**, there is a strong believe in that **notion** here in Spore.
4. Already, we are beginning to see signals that ... may just not be successful in achieving that purpose at all.
5. *“Opening the scope further so as to avoid having a parochial view, let us look at example of <Japan> first.” <<*
6. **“Focusing back to Singapore”**, though, the situation has not become that extreme yet..
7. **Fundamentally**,...
8. It is easier to accept than refute...
9. Revisiting the notion and how closely it reflects Singapore again,
10. Hence, in conclusion, part of the notion is true – that school uniforms give students a sense of identity.
11. In **contrast**, discipline cannot be improved just by the clothes one wear...
12. As for me, I still remain **ambivalent** regarding uniforms but I...

2004/3- Should both parents go out to work when both their children are very young?

1. “Ever since the beginning of the human race, men went out to bring back food
2. for their wives & children while women stayed at home to take care of their children.”
3. Nowadays, it has becoming increasing common...

4. Personally, I feel that the ones **who** should raise a child from birth and be there when he takes his 1st steps, should be his parents.

5. “The way a child is brought up is what **moulds** the child into the type of person he becomes later on in life.”

6. If both parents go out to work...,
7. There is no way of ensuring that the children learn proper values or behavior.
8. Childcare centres may boast about their many...
9. But they may not be able to provide things that can only be **obtained** from home
10. Such as **“tender loving care”**

11. With so many kids to attend to,
12. ... Definitely not be able to provide **ample** attention to every single child.

13. Another factor to be considered on whether... possibility of abuse..
14. “There have been numerous cases of” child abuse by ...
15. Just recently, a maid suffering from stress...
16. Both died. <<

17. This is the kind of incident that I feel would be prevented if a child’s loving parents look after the child.

18. It can be very stressful to look after young children day after day and **be woken** up in the middle of the night to the sound of a child crying.

19. **Thus**, some parents would prefer to...

20. **In conclusion**, I feel that it is worth the stress to be able to be in control of **what is** going on in your child’s 1st few years.

21. This allows you to help shape his character and ensure that **no harm** come to him.

==END OF PART 1==

1997/4 – We were surprised when we heard how lucky John had been.

1. It was my second year in secondary school-the steaming year.
2. That year's exam results will determine which class & steam I will go to the following year
3. Thus, that was the year of extreme importance as the steam that I go to will shape my future.

4. "David,... and myself" had decided we were all going to do equally...
5. It took a great deal of discipline to revise everyday & sacrifice the joys of life such as...
6. To do so, I had to remind myself that only through hard work could I reap the rewards

7. My friends also ...,
8. With the exception of John.
9. John claimed he was...

10. I arrived at Gopal's house ten minutes late.
11. David too had just arrived,
12. We decided to wait for John before starting.
13. Half an hour later, John was still nowhere to be seen & we proceeded with...
14. I was happy with the way things went but the absence of ... disappointed me.

15. ...I confronted John...
16. And ask him why he had not turned up ...
17. John said he forget and mumbled some apology. (Mumbled means quiet talking, hard to unde...)

18. The rest of the 2 months continued in a similar fashion.
19. Finally, the day we had been working towards arrived,
20. I was a confident man as I strode into the...
21. I caught a glance of John & saw that he was extremely nervous.
22. "He was sweating buckets"
23. "Serves him right, I thought as I ...

24. The examinations were a breeze.
...It was so unfair.

25. Oh well, that is what exams are all about, next year, we ...

26. "Exams are formidable for even the best prepared may not be able to answer what the greatest fool might ask."

English Notes – Paper 1
Composition Reflections Two

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30. Then, I too heard the ...
31. Never had that wailing sound been so pleasant to my ears.

32. As the ambulance sped away from the scene,
33. I looked at my brother's face which was now looking as if he were in deep sleep.
34. I thought about how much I loved him.
35. No matter how this turned out,
36. I knew my life would never be the same again

Mega Lecture

1997/4 – You were on a journey with someone who was suddenly taken ill

1. We were in a rented van on the highways of West Malaysia.
2. We had already been travelling for...
3. On this seemingly ever-stretching highway.
4. I was bored to death looking out of the window at the extremely monotonous scenery of...
5. We were all really looking forward to spend our holiday just relaxing ... sprawling gardens surrounding the...

6. I decided to do something to get rid of my boredom.
7. I took out a pack of cards from my ...
8. "At least this will give me something to do for the rest of my journey, I thought."

9. "Hey, Ahmad," I called to my younger brother.
10. "Do you want to play 'snap' with me?"
11. "Sure! I'll ...," he replied enthusiastically.

12. ... I was surprised that...
13. I glanced up and received the shock of my life.

14. Ahmad's face was a ghastly shade of blue
15. And he was trying to gulp in air through his mouth like a goldfish.
16. He was having one of his asthma attacks.
17. Immediately, I alerted my father who was in the front seat.
18. He braked hard...
19. By now, strange noises were coming out of Ahmad's throat.
20. His face was "contorted grotesquely" and he was certainly in great needs of immediate medical attention.
21. Meanwhile, my mother...
22. That did not seem to help clear...

23. I saw a car approaching and desperately waved my arms.
24. Thankful that he had stopped, I...
25. ... Straightaway, he... and without wasting any more precious seconds,...
26. I was assured that an ambulance would arrive in a few minutes.

27. "As luck would have it," the man whom I flagged down was a doctor.

28. "My mother was fast losing hope."

29. Suddenly, a big smile lit up my father's face.