

Part B: Question 6

Question 6 is Part B of the exam. It is a **writing** question, so you can forget about the reading sources from Part A.

Question 6 has **two options**. Depending on what type of student you are, one may suit you more than the other. There are benefits and drawbacks to both which we will discuss later.

While the two options are very different, the mark scheme (so the types of skills the examiner is looking for) is the same.



Part B is 40 marks so **40% of your exam**. It is therefore important to leave enough time for it (around **45 minutes**).

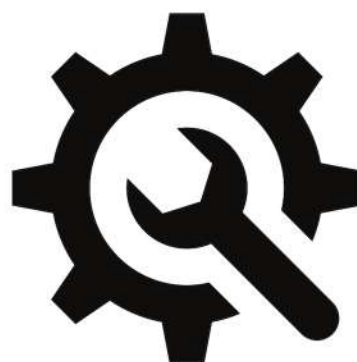
As we will discuss, it is worth considering doing this question first as a strong question 6 is the key to passing.

The two options in section B will build on the theme from section A. While you don't need to read the sources to do question 6, you can therefore **use the sources as inspiration to help you build your idea**.



AO5: Content and Organisation

- a) Communicate **clearly, effectively** and **imaginatively**, selecting and adapting **tone, style** and **register** for different forms, purposes and audiences.
- b) **Organise** information and ideas, using **structural** and **grammatical** features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.



AO6: Technical Accuracy

Candidates must use a **range of vocabulary** and sentence structures for **clarity, purpose** and **effect**, with accurate **spelling** and **punctuation**. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

Mark Scheme Breakdown

As **organising** is a key part of the marks, you should **plan** your answer before you write. You can come up with **general ideas** for how to construct your answers before the exam and then **adapt** them.

While **SPaG** (spelling punctuation and grammar) is more important in this question than any other and this can be intimidating, especially for second language students, the marking doesn't tend to be too harsh in this area so as long as you are clear at all times, you can score reasonably.



Whether you choose 6A or 6B, it is important that you include your own **language devices** (much like the devices you've been spotting in questions 3, 4 and 5).

You also want to use **varied** and **sophisticated language** where possible. However, don't try to sound fancy for the sake of it as this can have the opposite effect.



Push your **vocabulary**,
your **sentence structures** and your
variation of
punctuation to its limit
but not beyond.

Reading is a great way
to broaden your
vocabulary.

Mark Scheme Breakdown

As **cohesion** is so important in this question, **discourse markers/connectives** that link the sentences together are vital. It's so important that your work **flows** as one cohesive piece rather than a mix of separate points, barely joined together.



Equally, bearing this is mind, while you need to write enough to hit all areas of the mark scheme, **quality is more important than quantity**. It's better to write 5 well crafted paragraphs that a larger stream of consciousness.

Question 6a

This will be an opportunity to present **your view on a statement**. You may be asked to **agree or disagree**. You could be asked to **explain what you think of something**.



Theoretically, you may be asked to write a **letter/article/text for a leaflet/text for a speech/essay**. Of these, an **article** is by far the most probable, though it can be anything from a blog to a broadsheet. Speeches and letters have been known to come up. From experience, leaflets and essays are very unlikely as they have not appeared in recent history, even in the GCSE. It is important that you pay attention to the form and write in this format.

Question 6a: Article



It is good to include a **heading** and potentially a **subheading** with the **name of the author** (you) underneath. While this is not essential, it helps sell to the examiner from the start that you are writing in the correct format.

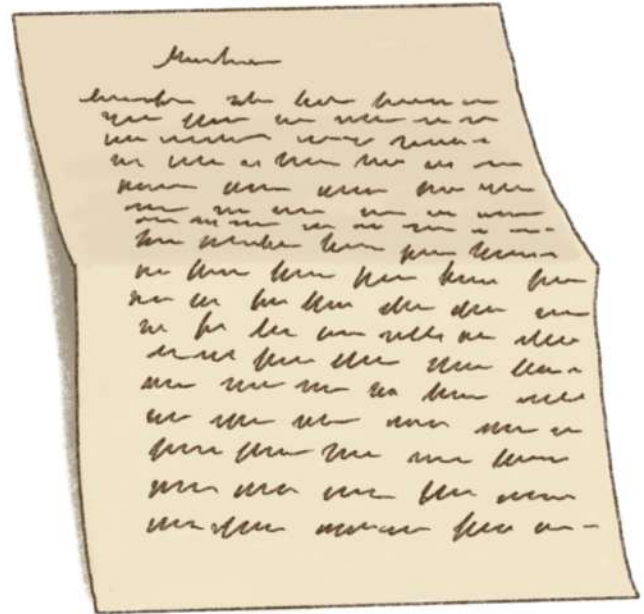
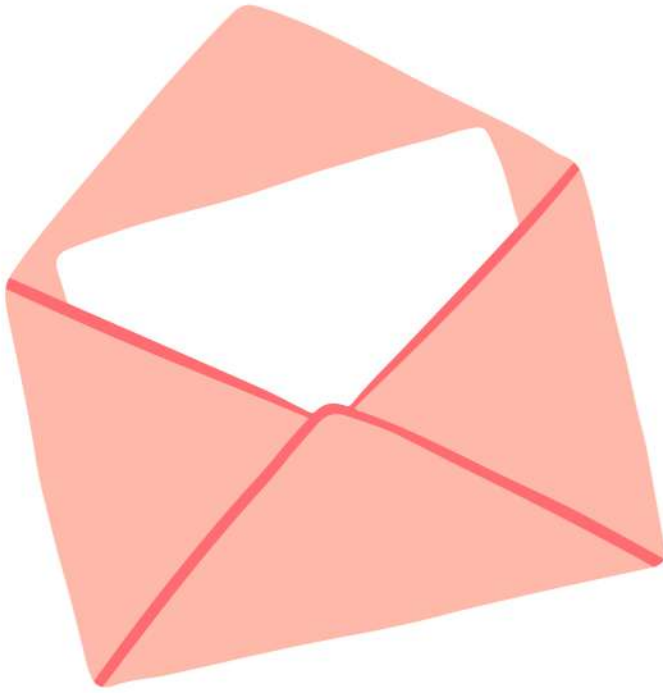
Think about your **language**. If it is a **broadsheet**, you are going to write more **formally** whereas a **blog** will be more **informal**.

Remember that you are being tested on your ability to **construct the format**, not your knowledge of the subject. You can therefore use **language techniques** such as '**factual language**' and '**expert opinion**', even if they are invented.

Techniques such as **rhetorical questions** and **rule of three** are also very useful for articles. Also remember that just like in the articles you see in section A, you can still use figurative techniques such as similes and metaphors.

Broadsheet articles are likely to be written impersonally but a blog may be more personal.

Question 6a: Letter



For letters, you can put an **address** to sell to the exam the format you are writing. You can start by writing...

'Dear...

I am writing to you in regards to...'

Remember to **sign it off** with Yours sincerely if you know the recipient and yours faithfully if you don't.

Use lots of **personal pronouns** (I and you)

Question 6a: Speech



Remember to use **inclusive language** to talk about yourself and your audience.

Think how you would write a speech in real life. You need to keep the audience's **attention** and writing overly long complicated sentences can be counter productive.

Again, **rhetorical devices** such as **rhetorical questions**, **repetition** and **rule of three** and **emotive language** can be particularly useful.

Question 6a: Audience

Regardless of the format, It's very important to read carefully **who you are writing to** and to change your **tone** accordingly.

How you would write to **teenagers** is **different** to how you would write to **adults**.

How you would write to a **friend** is **different** to how you would write to a **business**.

You may be asked to explain/instruct/advise/argue/persuade. Adapt your content according to which purpose.



Question 6a: Example Question

‘People protest about the cruelty of keeping animals in captivity, but they seem happy enough to eat meat, keep pets and visit zoos. All animals should be free!’

Write an **article for a magazine in which you explain your point of view on this statement.**

(24 marks for content and organisation 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Question 6a: Potential Structure

The below is a **general essay structure** but can be **adapted** to other formats. Also, this is only a plan if you are lacking structure. If you can keep together your own well structured plan in your own voice, originality is rewarded so encouraged in this question.

1. **Introduction paragraph.**

What is the **topic**, and what **format** is it?

Introduce what you are going to write about. Refer back to the question and make clear that you are directly writing about it. You should **paraphrase** the **statement** (eg: all animals should be free) but not directly say you are writing about a students statement as you wouldn't say this in a real article) In this case, as you are writing an article, you could start with a **heading** and the **author's** name:

eg: Should all animals be free?
by Joseph Davis

Question 6a: Potential Structure

2. Middle of the answer

Write a minimum of **3 paragraphs** with **different points** which you have introduced in the introduction.

A paragraph based on your strongest point
Follow with a paragraph with your second strongest point and any further
Any counterpoint

In this case, as we are given **three clear topics** (meat, zoo's and pets), we could focus on them **separately**. A penultimate paragraph showing a counter argument in order to defeat this can naturally flow into a conclusion.

3. Conclusion

Summarise the points you've made linking the conclusion back to the introduction. Talk about how the paragraphs you have written can combine to make your overall point. The **rule of three** can be an effective way to summarise your main arguments.