
Practice 1 • 2019-20 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for your local newspaper about shops to visit in your town.

You should include:

- one shop you like to visit
- who you go with
- one other shop you like and why
- one shop you don't like and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

Best Shops in My Town

My favourite shop is Greenway Supermarket because it has fresh food and good prices. I usually go there with my sister, and we do our weekly shopping together. The staff are friendly, and the shop is easy to get around. I also like the bookshop near the library because it has useful English books.

I often visit the bookshop alone, but sometimes I go with a friend. There is also a clothes shop on High Street that I do not like. The clothes are quite expensive, and the changing rooms are often untidy. Overall, I think our town has plenty of useful shops.

Practice 2 • 2019-20 • Paper 4 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for your college or work magazine about a day out.

You should include:

- where you went
- how you got there
- what you liked about it and why
- what you disliked about it and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

A Great Day Out

Last Sunday I went to Brighton with my cousin. We travelled by train, and the journey took about one hour. We walked along the beach and visited the pier. I liked the sea view because it was beautiful and relaxing.

We also ate fish and chips, and the food was delicious. I enjoyed the small shops, but some of the souvenirs were expensive. I disliked the crowded train home because there were not enough seats. Overall, it was a fun day out and I would like to visit again.

Practice 3 • 2020-21 • Paper 1 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for a magazine about a place you have visited.

You should include:

- the name of the place
- how you got there
- what you liked about it and why
- what you didn't like about it and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Visit to Edinburgh

Last summer I visited Edinburgh in Scotland. I travelled there by train with my sister, and the journey took about four hours. I liked the old buildings because they were beautiful and full of history. We also walked up to Edinburgh Castle, and the view over the city was amazing.

I enjoyed the small cafés, but some places were very busy. I did not like the rainy weather because we had to carry umbrellas all day. The city was easy to explore, and there were many interesting places to see. Overall, I had a great visit and would like to go back.

Practice 4 • 2020-21 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

You recently went on a day out.

Write an article for your college magazine about your day out.

You should include:

- where you went
- who you went with
- what you did on your day out
- what you enjoyed about your day out.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Day Out in London

Last Saturday I went to the Natural History Museum in London. I went with two friends, and we travelled there by Underground. We looked at the dinosaur displays and took lots of photos. We also had lunch in the museum café because we were hungry.

I enjoyed the dinosaur section, and the large blue whale was amazing. The museum was free, but it was very crowded in the afternoon. I liked learning new facts because the displays were easy to understand. Overall, it was an interesting day out and I would go again.

Practice 5 • 2020-21 • Paper 3 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

You have started a new course at college.

Write an article for your college magazine about your new course.

You should include:

- what your course is
- who you study with
- what you like about it and why
- what you dislike about it and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My New English Course

I have started an English course at my local college. I study with twelve other learners, and everyone is friendly. I like the speaking activities because they help me feel more confident. Our teacher also gives us useful writing practice, and I enjoy working in pairs.

I like the classroom, but it can sometimes be a little noisy. I do not enjoy long grammar exercises because they can be difficult. The course is useful, and I am learning new words every week. Overall, I am happy with my new course and I want to continue.

Practice 6 • 2021-22 • Paper 1 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for a local magazine about a music event.

You should include:

- where the event was held
- how long the event lasted
- what you liked about the event and why
- what you didn't like about the event and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

A Great Music Event

Last month I went to a music event at the town hall. The event started at 6 p.m. and lasted for about three hours. I liked the live band because the singers were excellent. The audience was friendly, and everyone joined in with the songs.

I also liked the lighting, but the hall became very warm. I did not like the long queue for drinks because we waited nearly twenty minutes. The music was exciting, and the final song was my favourite. Overall, I enjoyed the event and would happily go again.

Practice 7 • 2021-22 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about your dream holiday for your college magazine.

You should include:

- where you want to go and why
- who you want to go with and why
- how you would get there
- one thing you would do on your dream holiday.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Dream Holiday

My dream holiday is to visit Japan because I have always wanted to see Tokyo and Kyoto. I would like to go with my sister, and we both enjoy learning about different cultures. We would travel by plane because it is the quickest way to get there. I would like to stay for two weeks so that we have enough time to explore.

I would visit the old temples, and my sister would like to see the busy shopping areas. I also want to try Japanese food, but I would start with simple dishes. We would take lots of photos because the scenery looks beautiful. It would be an exciting holiday, and I hope I can go one day.

Practice 8 • 2021-22 • Paper 3 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for a magazine about your favourite celebration of the year.

You should include:

- what the celebration is and why you like it
- when the celebration takes place
- who you usually celebrate with and why
- what you do to celebrate.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also, because.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Favourite Celebration

My favourite celebration is New Year because it feels like a fresh start. It takes place on 31 December and 1 January, and my family usually celebrates together. I like celebrating with my family because we are often busy during the year. We prepare a special meal and decorate the living room.

In the evening we watch a film, and later we count down to midnight. I enjoy the fireworks, but I do not like them when they are too loud. On New Year's Day we visit relatives and wish everyone a happy year. It is a cheerful celebration, and I always look forward to it.

Practice 9 • 2022-23 • Paper 1 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

What do you do in your free time? Do you have a hobby, play sport or spend time with friends?

Write an article for your college magazine about what you do in your free time.

You should include:

- what you like to do in your free time
- where you spend your free time
- who you spend it with
- what you enjoy about it.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

What I Do in My Free Time

In my free time I enjoy walking and reading. I usually walk in the local park, and I often go there after work. At weekends I sometimes meet my friend Sara, and we walk together. I enjoy walking because it helps me relax.

I also like reading English books at home. I read in the evening, but I do not usually read for more than an hour. Reading helps me learn new words, and it also gives me interesting things to think about. These simple activities make my free time enjoyable.

Practice 10 • 2022-23 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about the town or city where you live.

You should include:

- the name of the town or city
- how long you have lived there
- what there is to do
- why you like living there.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My City

I live in Birmingham, and I have lived here for six years. It is a busy city with many shops, restaurants and places to visit. There are large parks, and there are good bus and train links. I often visit the library because it has useful books and quiet study space.

At weekends I can go shopping, meet friends or visit local cafés. I like living here because most places are easy to reach. The city centre can be crowded, but there is always something to do. Overall, Birmingham is convenient, and I am happy to live here.

Practice 11 • 2022-23 • Paper 3 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article for a magazine about someone who has helped you.

You should include:

- the name of the person
- what the person did to help you
- how this help has made your life better
- what you like about the person and why.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

Someone Who Helped Me

My friend Anna helped me when I was looking for a new job. She read my CV, and she showed me how to make it clearer. She also helped me practise interview questions because I was nervous. After her help, I felt more confident and applied for several jobs.

Anna is patient, and she always listens carefully when I need advice. I like her because she is kind but also honest. I got a job a few weeks later, and her support made a big difference. I am very grateful to her, and I hope I can help her in the same way one day.

Practice 12 • 2023-24 • Paper 1 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about going for a college or job interview.

You should include:

- what interview you have been to
- what you should wear for an interview
- what to take to an interview
- what to do in an interview.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

How to Prepare for an Interview

I have been to an interview for a customer service job at a local shop. I wore smart trousers and a clean shirt because I wanted to look professional. You should wear neat clothes, and you should make sure they are comfortable. Take your CV, the interview letter and a pen with you.

Arrive early, and speak politely to everyone you meet. During the interview, listen carefully and answer each question clearly. You should ask a question at the end, but do not interrupt the interviewer. Good preparation helps you feel calmer, and it can help you make a good impression.

Practice 13 • 2023-24 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about what you hope to do in the future.

You should include:

- what job you want
- why you want to do this job
- where you want to live
- why you want to live there.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Plans for the Future

In the future I want to work as a teaching assistant. I want this job because I enjoy helping children learn. I would like to work in a primary school, and I hope to take a suitable course first. I know the job can be busy, but I think it would be rewarding.

I would like to live in Manchester because it has good transport and many job opportunities. I also have family there, and I would enjoy being closer to them. I hope to find a quiet home near a park so I can relax after work. These plans may take time, but I am excited about my future.

Practice 14 • 2024-25 • Paper 1 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about your favourite time of year.

You should include:

- what your favourite time of year is
- why you like it
- what you like to do
- where you like to go.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

My Favourite Time of Year

My favourite time of year is spring. I like spring because the days become longer and the weather is warmer. I enjoy walking in the park, and I often take photos of the flowers. I also like sitting outside with a cup of tea when the weather is dry.

At weekends I visit the countryside, and I usually go with my family. We take a picnic, but we sometimes eat in a café if it rains. Spring feels fresh and cheerful, and it gives me more energy. That is why it is my favourite time of year.

Practice 15 • 2024-25 • Paper 2 • Question 4

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

Write an article about using social media.

You should include:

- how you use social media
- what you like about social media
- what you dislike about social media
- some tips for people who are new users.

Write at least 8 sentences. These must include at least 3 compound sentences that use conjunctions, for example: and, but, also.

Use at least 2 paragraphs.

MODEL ANSWER

Using Social Media

I use social media to keep in touch with friends and family. I also follow local news pages, and I sometimes watch short learning videos. I like social media because it is quick and easy to use. It is useful for sharing photos, but people can spend too much time on it.

I dislike false information because it can confuse people. New users should keep their accounts private, and they should use strong passwords. They should also think before they post and avoid sharing personal information. Social media can be useful, but it is important to use it safely.