

Unit 7.

DIRECTED WRITING

Reading and
writing skills



What is directed writing?

How will it be graded?

Some key terms

Advice

Objectives

Applying your reading skills: directed writing

There are 3 types of writing task that you maybe asked to respond to in your english studies:

As an extended response to reading or a directed writing task

As a composition task

As part of your coursework portfolio





KEY TERMS

- **Extended response to reading:**

Questions are based on a reading passage and you should use details included in the passage to show your understanding of them by developing on information given.





KEY TERMS

- **Directed writing task:**

An exercise that requires you to choose relevant details from a stimulus passage and to focus your response on a specified audience and to write in a suggested or genre.





KEY TERMS

- **Composition task:**

A composition task is a piece of writing such as an essay or narrative in which you respond to a given topic in an original way, using your own ideas and imagination.





KEY TERMS

- **Genre:**

A category of literature: play, novel and so on.

- **Persuasive article:**

Persuasive writing is that produced by writers who are using all their skills to encourage readers to agree with their point of view.



What is meant by directed writing?

‘Directed writing’ means that you are given a clear framework for your writing. You will be given some material to read and the writing task will be very closely linked to this.

Some directed writing tasks are concerned primarily with testing how well you have understood a passage of text.

For the directed
task in Paper 2:

The genres are likely to be a
speech, letter or article.



Writing persuasive article

A **persuasive article** must be clear and well structured. For example, you might well start with a point, develop it and then return to it in the last sentences to emphasise that it is the important point of the article.





KEY TERMS

- **Bias:**

The presentation of a prejudiced view of a topic.

- **Quotation:**

A quotation is when a word or phrase from a text is included in a reader's answer to a question in order to support a point being made. The word or phrase should be indicated by the use of quotation marks (inverted commas).



Exercise 1.

Here is a short example of persuasive writing, taken from a website for car enthusiasts. Read through it and then answer the following questions.

1. Write down the reasons the writer gives for banning cars from city centres, using your own words.
2. How successful do you think the writer has been in convincing his readers to share his point of view? You should consider the language he uses and the examples he gives (and keep in mind that the website is for motorists).





FOCUS

on persuasive writing

Three good reasons cars should be banned from cities

There have been some proposals lately calling for the end of traffic in some cities by the year 2034. In order to get rid of all this traffic, governments are planning to take away one of its biggest contributors — cars. But is this a good idea? Our initial knee-jerk reaction was NO-NO-NO. They're taking away our cars and now they're driving themselves? Oh the insult! But when you ponder the issue a little longer, you have to consider how horrible it is to drive into a very crowded city centre — London, LA, Miami? I'd say very. So should cars be abolished from cities altogether? Yes, and here's why:

As mentioned previously, the one thing that plagues most big cities is the incessant traffic. City layouts simply aren't built to manage that many moving parts. Take away roads

altogether, or transform them into large walkways for city-goers.

If you ever go to a large city centre, you often realize the difficulty some people have with sidewalk-to-sidewalk travel. If you live in LA, people mostly don't know how to walk, and if you live in NYC, there are so many people crossing in such a small area, that it's often difficult to figure out what exactly is even going on. But if cities begin to do away with cars, we'd see an increase in out-of-town travellers more willing to walk about civic centres in safety. We could also see an increase in short-distance transportation, private and public — bikes, cable cars, subways, etc.

The one thing that irks just about any driver is the thought of being stuck in gridlock traffic in the centre of town.



By the end of it all, you're ready to drive off a cliff. But why go through this hassle? If we do away with cars throughout major cities, it gives drivers the opportunity to actually enjoy their vehicles on (more) open roads. It's a strange thought, yes, but anyone will tell you, especially someone who drives a manual — city centres are like driving in hell.

Jeff Perez

Source: adapted from www.motor1.com/news/72063/3-good-reasons-cars-should-be-banned-from-cities



Good luck!

