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SCHOOL, ADAMA BRANCH**

Writing: An essay

Essay is a composition for the purpose of sharing idea with the reader. It is composed of at least **introductory, body and concluding** paragraphs.

Introductory paragraph: introduce the reader about the topic, informs the reader why the writer writes on that specific topic and what points would be included in the essay.

Developing paragraph: develops the main idea of the topic. (Exemplification, Definition, Explanation, Reason out, Comparison etc.)

Terminating or concluding paragraph: ends the essay by summarizing the main points or making generalization or conclusion.

A paragraph is a group of sentences dealing with a single topic or idea. Usually, one sentence, called the **topic sentence**, states the main idea.

Example: Study this paragraph.

My father was a master storyteller. He could tell a fine old story that made me hold my sides with rolling laughter and sent happy tears down my cheeks. He could tell a story of harsh reality that made me He could tell stories of beauty and grace, stories of gentle dreams etc. His memory detailed every event of ten or forty years or more before, just as if it had happened yesterday.

In the first sentence, the writer states the topic sentence “**My father was a master storyteller**”. In the remaining sentences, the writer supports that idea of describing many kinds of stories that the father told.

The supporting sentences in a paragraph must relate to the single idea or topic sentence. This is called **paragraph unity**.

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Not only must the entire sentences in a paragraph relate to one idea, but they must also logically relate to each other. When all of the sentences in a paragraph follow one another naturally, the paragraph has coherence.

Example:

- A. All these are very bad.*
- B. It causes lung cancer.*
- C. Smoking is a very dangerous habit.*
- D. It also causes throat infection.*

A) c a b e d B) b a c d e C) b d a c e D) c b d a e

➤ *Smoking is a very dangerous habit. It causes lung cancer.
It also causes throat infection. All these are very bad. It is,
therefore, good to avoid smoking altogether.*

PARAGRAPH COHERENCE RELATED QUESTIONS

1. *A. John and Mary met at a party one Saturday night in June.*
B. They are very angry.
C. They fell in love and got married the following month.
D. Mary rang her parents and told them that she was married
E. And decided not to see her again.

A) A b c d e B) A c d b e C) a d c b e D) a c b d e

2. *A. My father rises before any more.*
B. We eat breakfast and jump in the car.
C. He then wakes up my brother and me.
D. Dad drops us off on his way before he gets Mom to work.
E. our family has a daily routine to get us to work and school.

A) a c d b e B) e a b c d C) e a c b d D) d e a c b

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3. *A. it saves you from such confusing words.*
B. For example, try the words “flammable” and “inflammable”.
C. When you are unsure of the meaning of a word, look it up.
D. A dictionary is a valuable tool to help you improve your English.
E. A good dictionary will provide you with the most exact meaning.
A) c e a b d B) e d c b a C) d e c a b D) d e c b a
4. *A. Graphology is the study of handwriting.*
B. They also consider the spacing between words.
C. To do this, they look carefully at the slant of the writing.
D. For example, a person with a printing like handwriting is said to be creative and witty.
E. Geologists believe they can analyze personalities through their handwriting.
A) a e d c b B) e b c d a C) e a c b d D) a e c b d
5. *A. Others put the estimate between 300 and 325 million.*
B. Of these, 145 million live in USA, about 55 million in the UK and Israel, and some 30 million in the British dominance.
C. This in short means that the language is spoken by about one-seventh of the world population.
D. Exact information on this point is not available, but an estimate of 250 million cannot be very wide of the mark.
E. How many people in the world speak English as a native language?
A) e d b a c B) e d a b c C) a d b c e D) e a d b c
6. *A. It eats about a ton of food each day.*
B. The lion need about 15 pounds of food.
C. Different animals had different food requirements.

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- D. The record holder for the amount of food eaten each day is the blue whale.*
E. The relatively small chimpanzee, for example, eats an average of 4.5 pounds of food each day.

A) c e b d a B) c d a e b C) b e d a c D) e b d a c

7. *A. Avoid any distraction once you start your work.*
B. Frist, find a place that is quite and comfortable.
C. Take some rest in between to relax your mind and body.
D. Then, have all the study materials you need ready.
E. You must be organized when you study.

A) b a e c d B) e b d a c C) a b c d e D) e a b d c

8. *A. but Alexander Fleming made this possible.*
B. Before that, people used to die even with simple infections.
C. Penicillin was discovered in 1928 and used in training infections from 1984.
D. He was instrumental in saving countless lives.
E. There was no way for them to fight diseases

A) c b e a d B) b c e a d C) c b e d a D) c e b d a

9. *A. But we have been together for 15 years.*
B. It is amazing how time flies.
C. We must be thankful for our lasting friendship.
D. We have lived through bad and good times.
E. It looks like it was yesterday when we first knew each other.

A) b e a d c B) b c e a d C) e d c b a D) b c e a d

10. *A. And most important of all, he is not a politician.*
B. He is not a writer
C. He cannot be otherwise.
D. Or he is not a commentator.

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E. A reporter is just a reporter.

A) e a b c d B) e a d c b C) e c b d a D) e c a b d

I. For questions number 31-34 five statements are given, read these statements carefully and identify one statement that can be an appropriate topic sentence for the rest statements.

- 11.A. There are three movie theater in Adama town.
B. The people are friendly.
C. There is very little crime.
D. Adama is a pleasant place to live in.
E. There is no bad smell coming from the town dump.
- 12.A. you can review your notes a few hours the night before the test.
B. There are many ways to study for a test.
C. You can study with friends and help each other.
D. You can get up early the morning of the test and study
E. You can study an hour a night the week of the test.
- 13.A. The baby keeps spitting out her food.
B. She keeps playing with her food.
C. She turns her head when I try to feed her.
D. Her stomach looks stuffed.
E. The baby isn't hangry this morning.
- 14.A. Registration this semester was very confusing.
B. Many of the offices I wanted were closed.
C. I had to go to six different buildings to register.
D. I couldn't find the teachers whose signatures I needed.
E. The computer for registration was not working very well.

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Four Major Types of Essay

Distinguishing between types of essay is simply **a matter of determining the writers' goal.** Does the writer want to tell about a personal experience, describe something, explain an issue, or convince the reader to accept a certain point of view? The four major types of essay address these purposes.

1. Narrative Essay: Telling a story

The writer tells a story about a real-life experience or fictitious story. When writing a narrative essay, writers should try to involve the reader by making the story as vivid or colorful as possible. In fact, narrative essay are usually written in the first person helps engage the reader. "I" sentences give readers a feeling of being part of the story. A well-crafted narrative essay will also built towards drawing conclusion or making a personal statement.

Example: *The day I picked my dog up from the fight happened around was one of the happiest day of both of our lives. I had just lost my puppy because of disruption took place. I went the place with the idea that I would just "look" at a puppy. Of course, filled with hope I thought I would get puppy..... But it wasn't until I saw him. Unfortunately, I found my puppy scrolling under the flood pit.*

2. Descriptive Essay: Painting a Picture

It paints a picture with words. A writer describes a person, place, object, memory of special significance. In this kind of essay, the writer should show, not tell, through the use of colorful words and sensory details. The writer should try to create the image of the description in the mind of the reader.

Example: *Families cover the earthen floor of their house with fresh grass, slaughter one sheep per house, and then light a fire and wait for the*

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arrival of the Holy New Year. Children form a circle around the fire and dance.....

3. Expository essay: just the fact

An expository essay is an informative piece of writing which presents the analysis of the topic. The writer explains or defines the topic using facts, statistics and examples. It includes cause and effect essay, compare and contrast and “how to” or process essay.

Example: did you know 7 out of 10 students have cheated at least once in the past year? Did you know that 50% of these students have cheated more than twice? These shocking statistics are from a survey of 9,000 high school students. Incredibly, teachers were encouraging their students to cheat! Last year

4. Persuasive Essay: Convince me

While like an expository essay in its presentation of facts, the goal of the persuasive essay is to convince to accept the writer’s point of view. Unlike the expository essay, the reader will be taking a stand for or against the topic. The writer must build a case using facts and logic, as well as expert opinion and sound reasoning.

Example: Throw out the bottles and boxes of drugs in your house. A new theory suggests that medicine could be bad for your health, which should at least come as good news to people who cannot afford to buy expensive medicine. However, it is a shock to the medicine industry. This new theory argues that healing is at our fingertips; we can be healthy by doing isometrics regularly.

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Exercise on Essay Type

15. *Everyone seemed hungry when we got to Adama. So we suggested a stopover to which all agree. Strangers as we were, we didn't know which restaurant to go to.* What kind of essay is this most likely taken from?
- A. Descriptive B. Expository C. Narrative D. Argumentative
16. *She took his right hand and placed it against hers, palms touching. He didn't get the point at first. Then he realized that she was comparing the size of their hands.* What kind of essay is this most likely taken from?
- A. Descriptive B. Expository C. Narrative D. Argumentative
17. *My friend said that she had made him remember Mona Lisa. Her smiles and beauty were indescribable and as she had come strait looking in to his eyes, he had said nothing and feel speechless. She got closer and closer and her eyes shone awfully brighten. -----* This is taken from a piece of writing that is most likely:
- A. Descriptive B. Argumentative C. Narrative D. Expository
18. *Hollywood has long been known for the expensive and impressive movies. Its directors are keen at making. The budget of just one movie of such directors as Michael Bay can probably surpass the budget of a small country; considering the mostly entertaining nature of Hollywood cinematography, it generally means that visual effects and stunts in the modern movies are amazing.....* This is taken from a piece of writing that is most likely:

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- A. descriptive B. argumentative C. narrative D.
expository

19. Everyone seemed hungry when we got to Adama. So we suggested a stopover to which all agreed. Strangers as we were, we didn't know which restaurant to go to what kind of writing is this most likely taken from?

- A) Expository C) Descriptive
B) Narrative D) Argumentative

20. Russian fighter jets had pounded the city for three days. Everything turned into rubble and it was difficult to imagine where those tall buildings were taken to. As I stood dumbstruck I heard an agonized cry from elderly women What kind of writing is this most likely taken from?

- A. Expository C. Descriptive
B. Narrative D. Argumentative

21. Which one of the following sentences is most likely taken from a narrative piece of writing?

- A) Having spoken for five minutes, I was an old friend sitting among the audience.
B) To me, the meeting was useless and waste of time.
C) Almost all the attendees were elderly people of over 60.
D) The hall was full to the brim and all the seats were taken.

22. More than twenty years ago, two researchers went in to the middle class homes and studied the toys found in children's rooms. What kind of writing is this most likely taken from?

- A) Expository C) Descriptive
B) Narrative D) Argumentative

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23. The car was speeding down the deserted highway when the accident happened. The driver fell asleep at the wheel and drove straight in to a tree..... This text is likely taken from a/an _____ piece of writing.

A) Expository

C) Descriptive

B) Narrative

D) Argumentative

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