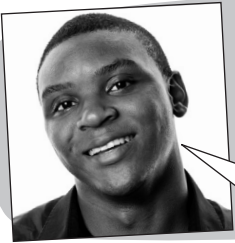


Digital generation

1 Look at the opinions about using technology. Have you or someone you know ever said the same things? Discuss in pairs.



1 Through social media sites we surround ourselves with people who have the same beliefs and likes. These are the only people we can get along with now.



2 I hate it when I see a mother pushing her child on the swing and talking to someone else on the phone at the same time.

3 I stopped to watch some street theatre on my way home. Suddenly I realised I was the only one watching it. Everyone else was filming it.



4 Conversation is spontaneous. You never know what someone will say next. When you chat to someone online, you can control what you say.



5 Who's in charge? The Internet or you?

2 Match these views with the opinions in exercise 1. Which of these views is NOT expressed?

- a) We've forgotten how to enjoy the moment. Virtual reality is much more exciting than everyday life.
- b) Virtual reality is much more exciting.
- c) We are losing the art of conversation.
- d) Social media separates us into cliques.
- e) We ignore those around us because we are too busy texting or phoning.
- f) The way we live our lives is being controlled by our technology.

3 Work in pairs. Think of opposite points of view to those expressed in exercise 2. Write one or two ideas for each item.

4 With your partner, complete these sentences using some of your ideas, and the opinions in exercise 2.

- a) On the one hand, *they can record moments, relive them and share them with friends.*
On the other hand,
- b) There is no doubt that
However,
- c)
In spite of this,
What's more,

5 Which of the phrases in exercise 4 are used to express contrasting points of view? Which phrase is used to provide an additional point of view?

6 Look at the phrases below. Mark them **C** (used to signal a *contrasting* point of view) or **A** (used to signal an *additional* point).

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Moreover, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) In fact, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Although, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) Similarly, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Above all, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> | g) ..., though. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) On the contrary, ... | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

7 Read the exam task and look at the essay plan. Make notes for each section using the information in this activity and your own ideas. Include phrases you can use to contrast and add further points.

 **EXAM TASK**

In your English class you have been talking about the digital generation. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay.



Young people live in a world which is increasingly connected, but many of them fail to really communicate. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. meeting people
2. new technology
3. (your own idea)

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Essay plan

Paragraphs	Content notes	Useful phrases
Introduction (give examples of the digital generation)		
First point of view and opposing point of view		
Second point of view and opposing point of view		
Third point of view and opposing point of view		
Conclusion: stating your final point of view		

8 Write your essay.

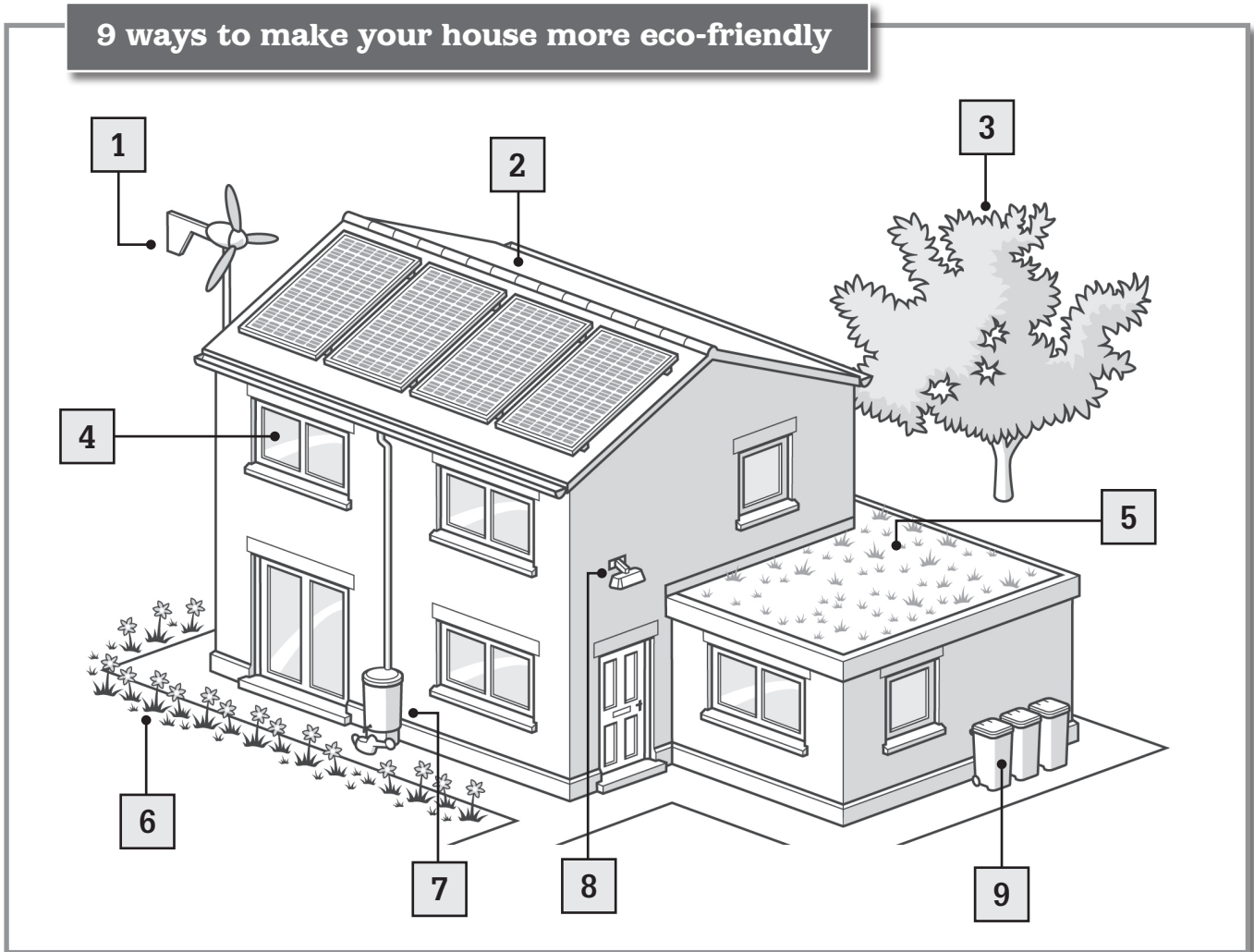
Exam tip!

There is more than one way to organise your answer. Try this option too:

- Introduction
- First paragraph: negative points
- Second paragraph: positive points
- Conclusion

An eco-friendly home

- 1 Look at the diagram showing features of an eco-friendly home. Which of these features have you seen in your area?



- 2 Match these descriptions with the features on the house.

- a) Collect water from water butts for use in gardens.
- b) Native plants will attract native insects like bees and butterflies. The spread of non-native insect species has had a severe effect around the world.
- c) Electricity produced by the wind via a micro wind turbine can be stored in a battery.
- d) Keep heat in with double glazing and save a lot of wasted energy.
- e) Plant a tree in your garden and you've got a place where birds can rest. Ask your neighbour to plant one too and you've got a habitat.
- f) Solar energy from panels can provide enough electricity for your own needs.
- g) Include a separate bin for food waste. Food waste that goes to landfill produces methane (a greenhouse gas).
- h) A green roof will improve air quality for yourself and your neighbours.
- i) Turning off your outside lights reduces electricity bills and is less disorientating for migrating birds.

3 Look at the disadvantages below. Which features in the diagram do they refer to?

- a) The installation of these can be expensive and it could take ten years before your investment starts to save you money.
- b) Animals like foxes and rats can be attracted to them.
- c) Turning off yours may not make a large difference. It needs to be a city-wide policy.
- d) An annual inspection is needed to remove unwanted plants and check there are no roots which could cause leaks.
- e) In many urban locations, they do not generate significant amounts of power.

4 Based on what you have read, make recommendations for using two of the above features in your local area.

In general,

I would definitely recommend that

Generally,

I would therefore recommend that

5 Read the exam task and write your report in 140–190 words.**EXAM TASK**

Your local council is considering making buildings and gardens in your local area more environmentally-friendly. You have been asked to write a report. Your report should:

- include different ways buildings and gardens in the area can become more eco-friendly
- recommend which ways could easily be implemented in your area

Write your **report**.

**Exam tip!**

A final recommendation in a report will often include a generalisation introduced by a phrase, such as Generally ..., In general ... or On the whole ...