

Unit 16

Compositions

 **Objectives:**

After the completion of this unit, you would be able to–

- Know the ways of writing compositions.
- Write good compositions.

Overview:

Lesson 1: *Composition Writing*

Lesson 2: *How to Write Good Compoistions*

 **Answer Key**

Lesson 1: Composition Writing



There are five ways of writing composition

1. Every composition must have a proper structure.

A composition must be broken into paragraphs to make it readable. Breaking down a composition into different sections is what allows it to flow in a logical manner.

All compositions should follow a simple formula. You need to learn this formula off by heart!

- Introduction
- Body Paragraphs
- Conclusion

Introduction: Introduce the topic and briefly outline the points you're going to make in your composition in the order you're going to write about them. If the composition is meant to argue a point, you should make it clear in the introduction what the argument/point of view is.

Body Paragraphs:

A composition will usually have 3-5 paragraphs. Each paragraph contains its own main point that contributes to the overall theme or argument of the composition. These paragraphs follow their own structure.

Conclusion: Sum up what the composition is about.

2. Each body paragraph must have a proper structure.

Not only does the composition as a whole need structure, each paragraph needs to meet certain requirements.

- **Statement:** This is the main point of the paragraph. What part of the composition is being discussed and what did it mean? What was important and how did it affect later? Basically, what's the point you're about to discuss in this paragraph.
- **Explanation:** Explain what you said in your statement. Tell the reader why your statement is true. This part should make up the bulk of the paragraph.
- **Example:** Give an example! Try to add a quote, an example, a fact. Something concrete that gives evidence to your statement.
- **Importance:** Why is the point you've made in this paragraph important? What does it mean to the composition? Tell the reader why it matters. This one might not always be applicable, but if you can then go for it.

3. Every composition needs a plan.

You wouldn't go on a road trip without a map and compositions are just the same.

Before you start writing an essay you should make a quick plan of what you're going to write about.

A composition plan does not have to be a big thing. It only takes a few minutes but will save your much time overall.

Composition plans instantly give a structure, they prevent you from forgetting to include any important points, and they prevent you from losing your way.

4. Revise and Edit

This depends on what situation the composition is being written in. When you come back to look at something you've written and you see all the little mistakes you didn't notice before. This is why you have to recheck the whole composition.

You should check that the paragraphs are written in a logical order. Simply put – does the composition make sense? Get to read the essay aloud so that you can see how it flows.

5. Practice makes perfect

Writing compositions can be practiced.

Make sure you include practice compositions as part of your exam preparation. Getting a hold of past exams and using them to practice is a great idea.

It would be better, if you can ask your tutor to mark it. Most tutors would love an interested learner to ask them to mark a practice composition.

Lesson 02 : How to Write Good Composition.



Why you need to make composition plans

1. Highlight key words.
2. Use the dictionary to check the meaning of any unfamiliar words.
3. Identify the task words that indicate what needs to be done, eg 'discuss', 'explain', 'compare'.

Identify the topic words that indicate the particular subject of the composition

Identify any limiting words that restrict the discussion.

Finish any necessary reading or research as background to the essay

1. Be selective: use sources which are relevant and accessible.
2. Write notes in your own words.
3. Write down quotations that may be particularly useful, but ensure the source of these quotes is acknowledged if they're used.

Brainstorm ideas in response to the question

1. Jot down any relevant points.
2. Make note of any relevant evidence or quotes that come to mind.
3. Use a mind map to help stimulate lateral thinking.

Develop a thesis (idea/argument) that encapsulates the response to the question

1. The thesis should be a statement that strongly expresses the overall response to the question.
2. Avoid a thesis that's too simplistic – show thought has been put into some of the complexities behind the question.
3. The thesis is the backbone of the essay – it will be stated in the introduction. It also needs to be referred to several times in the essay before restating it and demonstrating how it has been proven in the conclusion.

Write a plan for the response

1. Order ideas in a logical sequence.
2. Make sure every point in the plan is relevant to the question.
3. After the plan has been written it should be clear where the essay is going.

Write the introduction

1. Open up the discussion.
2. Introduce the thesis.
3. Indicate how the questions will be answered.
4. Name any texts to be discussed, if appropriate.
5. Engage the reader.

Write the main body of the composition

1. Ensure each point is given a new paragraph.
2. Use words or phrases at the start of each paragraph that will indicate to the reader how it relates to the previous paragraph, eg, 'however', 'in addition', 'nevertheless', 'moreover'.
3. Start each paragraph with a topic sentence that clearly links the paragraph to the rest of the composition.
4. Provide supporting evidence for each point that you make.
5. Revisit the thesis, and express it in different ways if possible, to emphasise how the question is being addressed.

Write the conclusion

1. Summarise the main ideas.
2. Demonstrate how you have proven your thesis.
3. Finish with an interesting or thought-provoking, but relevant, comment.

Edit the draft

1. Check for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
2. Delete any sections that are not particularly relevant.
3. Change vocabulary to improve expression.
4. Seek feedback from peers or a teacher before writing the final copy.

Write the final copy

1. Present a clean, neat copy.
2. Submit on time.

Tips on writing a good composition

To write a good composition learners are required to research the chosen topic thoroughly. Here are the recommended steps to take for developing good paragraphs and, eventually, the composition.

- Collect information related to the topic, define the main ideas and organize them in an outline. Always remember the reason for writing each paragraph. What is the main issue? What thoughts and/or facts are you going to present? When writing a paragraph, you should remember the goals you want to achieve.
- Outline the key idea that will be covered in the paragraph. This idea should be taken as the basis for your focus sentence. In fact, the focus sentence should:
 - be clear;
 - present a statement that has to be proved;
 - have a tight connection with the following sentences that support the general subject with specific facts.

Then make sure that your thoughts are in line with the topic you have chosen. Remember that all sentences need to be completely logical. There should be 100% coherence between all the paragraphs in the academic essay/ composition in order for readers to follow the flow of your text easily.

- Find facts to include into your paragraph to actively support your idea. You should apply critical thinking when selecting the facts because all of them have to be closely related to the topic of your essay. The main goal of these facts is to accurately and effectively present the subject of the paragraph. Do not state the facts that are off topic even if they sound fascinating. Do not confuse the audience.
- Come up with a logical and reasonable conclusion. You are not allowed to present new facts or information in this part of the essay. Consequently, the concluding sentence should be a re-statement of the focus sentence. Apply a paraphrasing technique using various synonyms to reword your focus sentence in a concluding part of the paragraph.
- Structure a paragraph in accordance with the given pattern: the focus sentence, sentences that present facts, and a reasonable concluding sentence.
- Make sure that all your facts are logically arranged within a paragraph. There should not be any information that can potentially distract a reader. The readers should be able to easily follow the flow of your thoughts.
- Dedicate some time to careful proofreading. It will allow you to identify grammar mistakes and spelling flaws. It is very important to ensure that there is strong connection between the sentences and paragraphs of the entire text.

When all of this work is done, take some rest. Clear your mind. After that, reread every paragraph once again. If there is no difficulty in following the presented thoughts and ideas, then you have not wasted your time in vain and managed to deliver the main body of your essay. Now, it is high time to move on and write a good introduction and conclusion. Keep in mind that it is important to include a thesis statement in the introductory and concluding paragraphs of your composition.

Exercise:

Write compositions on the topics given below:

1. My Aim in Life/ My Future Plan
2. A Journey by Train
3. Population Problem
4. The Wonders of Modern Science
5. A Village Fair
6. A Journey by Boat I have Enjoyed
7. The Game You Like Most
8. Your Favourite Hobby
9. Your Childhood Memory
10. The Season You Like Most
11. The Importance of Reading Newspapers
12. Physical Exercise
13. A Village Market
14. The Importance of Learning English

Answer Key:

Try yourself.