

C1 Evaluation Essay (Sample)



General Guidelines on the C1 Advanced Essay Writing

A successful C1 Advanced essay

- ✓ underlines **the relevant issues** on the given topic and provides **supportive argumentation** and **reasons** for it.
- ✓ has **a clear structure** and contains the following **parts**: *an introduction*, *a clear development* (1-2 main body paragraphs), and *an appropriate conclusion*.
- ✓ demonstrates a range of appropriate **advanced vocabulary** and **grammar structures**.
- ✓ links ideas **effectively** and **logically**.

Assessment Criteria for C1 Advanced Essay Writing

Content	<i>Did you do the task you were asked to do?</i>
Communicative Achievement	<i>Did you use the appropriate language and grammar for the piece of writing?</i>
Organisation	<i>Is your essay logical and ordered?</i>
Language	<i>Did you use C1 vocabulary and grammar? Is your essay accurate?</i>

Sample Task:

Your class has recently attended a panel discussion on what methods governments should adopt to encourage young people to live in the countryside.

Which methods should governments use to encourage people to live in the countryside?

- Subsidised housing
- Improved transport links
- Increase awareness of the health benefits

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

'Cheaper homes would encourage young families to move to the country.'

'High-speed trains would make commuting easy.'

'Getting away from the noise and traffic of the city can reduce stress.'

Write an essay discussing **two** of the methods in your notes. You should explain **which method is more important** for the government to consider, **giving reasons** in support of your answer.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

This sample task is taken from Straight to Advanced Student's Book by Macmillan, 2017

Candidate's Essay:

It is widely accepted that cities are very attractive for **young people**. Unfortunately the housing situation is far from ideal. With rental prices skyrocketing it has been suggested that the government should encourage people to live in the countryside. This essay shall explore two methods that the government might implement for doing this.

Firstly, it is clear that finances are key in the decision of where to live either **if people are buying or renting**. If the government were to **subside** housing **as a manner of encouraging people** to move to the countryside they would be targeting young people and young families **which** are usually **drained by the burden of** student debt and childcare. It seems obvious that **by helping with money** people would start considering living away from the cities an attractive and affordable alternative.

Secondly, when exploring the possibility of improving transport links, governments should consider the fact that this **would not merely** affect young people and families but also senior citizens. Recent research suggests that elderly people living in the countryside feel isolated and avoid **seeking support** as **service's accesibility** is restricted for people that either drive or **owns** a vehicle. Hence, investing in public transport could help solve this unfortunate situation.

On balance it appears that both methods could encourage people to move to the countryside. However, my own **feelings is** that improving transport links would be an invaluable resource not only for our generation but for future ones.

Word count: 243

Evaluation:

	Example	Commentary
Content (task achievement / task response)	It is widely accepted that cities are very attractive for young people .	<i>The task says that you should consider the methods that encourage <u>people in general</u> to live in the countryside; <u>not young people</u> in particular. You should either:</i> - extend this idea by saying, for example, that cities attract people in general and younger generations in particular, or - cross out the word 'young'.
Communicative Achievement (register, tone, level of formality)	<u>If the government were to subsidise</u>	<i>Academic and formal. This is a good structure to use in an essay!</i>
Organisation (linking devices, signposting)	Firstly, secondly, on balance, hence	<i>Good</i>
Language (Vocabulary)	<p>If the government were to subsidise housing ...</p> <p>If the government were to subsidise housing as a manner of encouraging people to move to the countryside ...</p> <p>Firstly, it is clear that finances are key in the decision of where to live either if people are buying or renting.</p> <p>... they would be targeting young people and young families which are usually drained by the burden of student debt and childcare.</p> <p>It seems obvious that by helping with money people would start considering living away from the cities an attractive and affordable</p>	<p><i>'Subsidise' is a wrong word which means 'to become less strong, to go down to a lower level'.</i></p> <p><i>The word suitable here is '<u>subsidise</u>', i.e. to give (part of) money to a person or an organisation.</i></p> <p><i>This phrase needs to be cut down in two sentences and grammar needs to be corrected.</i></p> <p><i>The verbs 'buy' and 'rent' are transitive verbs which means they need an object after them (e.g. buy a house, rent an apartment). Also, "Either if" needs improvement. You can use: "whether people are buying or renting a house"</i></p> <p><i>This phrase is <u>too complex and is not natural</u>. It is suggested to change it for 'young people and families are burdened with student debt and childcare'.</i></p> <p><i>In the C1 exam you should use more complex advanced structures. This phrase needs paraphrasing, e.g. to provide people with financial support / backing to smb.</i></p>

	<p>alternative.</p> <p>Recent research suggests that elderly people living in the countryside feel isolated and avoid seeking support ...</p>	<p><i>'Avoid' is not the right word to use here. It's not accurate. You want to express that they are not able to seek support.</i></p>
<p>Language (Grammar)</p>	<p>... they would be targeting young people and young families which are usually drained by the burden of student debt and childcare.</p> <p>... governments should consider the fact that this would not merely affect young people and families but also senior citizens.</p> <p>service's accesibility</p> <p>people that either drive or owns a vehicle.</p> <p>my own feelings is that</p>	<p><i>In defining clauses with people 'who' or 'that' should be used.</i></p> <p><i>"Not merely" is formal English; merely does mean only. Good use of formal language. The structure 'not only ... but also' can also be used.</i></p> <p><i>In this type of a possessive form you should use 'the availability of services'</i></p> <p><i>The word 'people' is plural so the 's' in the present simple form of 'own' is incorrect.</i></p> <p><i>The word 'feelings' is plural in this context, so the auxiliary 'are' is required.</i></p>
<p>Language (Punctuation)</p>	<p>Unfortunately the housing situation is far from ideal.</p> <p>With rental prices skyrocketing it has been suggested</p>	<p><i>A <u>comma</u> is needed after sentence modifiers like 'unfortunately', 'luckily', 'sadly', etc.</i></p> <p><i>A <u>comma</u> after 'skyrocketing' is needed.</i></p>
<p>Overall impression: <i>Language is insufficient and should therefore be developed by using more advanced vocabulary. All the other categories are the C1 level. You will score significantly higher if you improve the language component.</i></p> <p><i>Refer to the general guidelines and assessment criteria for a C1 Advanced essay to check if your essay meets them all.</i></p>		