Writing lesson – Model Answer Analysis.

**Aims:** This lesson aims to raise student awareness of coherence and cohesion within a discursive essay and so improve their coherence and cohesion in writing projects. It is particularly appropriate for IELTS Writing Test Part Two.

**Time:** One hour (can be extended to two hours – see explanation)

**Materials:** One copy for each student of worksheet 1 and 2 and a copy of the model answer for future reference after the lesson.

**Explanation:** Students often have trouble organizing their ideas on paper in L1 (their mother tongue). This problem is then amplified in L2. This lesson is designed to teach a simple essay format by analyzing a straightforward model answer. (It is appropriate for IELTS Writing Task Two and for academic writing and general classroom work). To extend the lesson to practising the essay themselves ask students to begin the lesson by discussing a different essay question in pairs, for example “Too much television is bad for you”, and briefly present their ideas to the whole class. Then at the end of the lesson give a timed writing exercise on this question, using the format they have just learnt. Allow twenty minutes for initial discussion and feedback and a further forty minutes for planning, writing and checking their answer. Students will be able to use this essay format to organize their ideas quickly and present them clearly for most discursive essay types.

**Instructions:**

- (For Exams classes – IELTS classes) Explain to the class that in the IELTS Writing Test Part Two candidates get one third of their marks for organizing and expressing their ideas clearly (coherence and cohesion) and that this lesson will help them to do this in English.
- Give out a copy of worksheet one to each student and monitor their progress as they order sentences to make a coherent answer to the essay question.
- Check in pairs and then as a whole class.
- Ask them to read the essay again and discuss in an open class what is good/bad about the essay (the teacher should keep quiet at this point)
- Give out analysis sheet and let them work through it on their own.
- Check in pairs and as a whole class.
- Ask students to choose. Share these with a partner five words/phrases that they like and wish to make their own
- Try a different writing task for homework, using this model and their five phrases (if appropriate)
(WORKSHEET ONE)

**Fatherhood is as important as motherhood. Discuss.**

Order the sentences below to make a coherent essay on the above topic:

1. These people believe that a mother is more important for infants as she can breast feed and protect her babies with a strong maternal instinct.

2. However, in less developed countries or tribal communities a father still holds the more traditional role of breadwinner and is more distant from the children.

3. A lot of people might argue that children should be solely the woman’s domain.

4. Indeed, in Western countries, it is only in the last twenty to thirty years that we have seen fatherhood being emphasised as much as motherhood.

5. Although in reality, with the stresses and demands of the modern workplace, it is a difficult, yet nonetheless worthwhile, ideal to achieve.

6. Apart from this the father will have more emotional fulfillment from his family life, as he shares more in the joy, as well as the duties, of child-rearing.

7. For example he needs to play with them, read to them and teach them about the world.

8. Even though a mother and father may have different and sometimes interchangeable roles, they are both seen as being of equal importance to the children.

9. However, in my opinion this definition of fatherhood is not complete and no longer satisfies the average western male.

10. In most western countries child rearing is now accepted as the responsibility of both parents.

11. In the first place, instead of only fulfilling a financial responsibility towards the family, the modern father should involve himself in the every day activities of bringing up the children.
12. Moreover the basic responsibility of the father is to make sure the family is materially provided for and spending time rearing the children would interfere with his ability to financially support the family.

13. Finally, I strongly believe that a father can best teach children qualities such as courage, curiosity and confidence.

14. Therefore the more he participates in his children’s development; the better they will deal with the world when they grow up.

15. All things considered, it is this second, fuller concept of fatherhood that I agree with.

316 words
(WORKSHEET TWO)

Fatherhood is as important as motherhood – Analysis

• Complete the table below with the sentence numbers which make up each paragraph of the model essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph Type</th>
<th>Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First paragraph – introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second paragraph – arguments against</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third paragraph – arguments for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth paragraph – conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• How does the writer introduce the topic?

• What words/phrases does the writer use to introduce arguments against?

• What words/phrases does the writer use to introduce arguments for?

• What words/phrases does the writer use to order the points he makes?

• What words/phrases does the writer use in connection with motherhood, fatherhood and childhood?

• How does the writer show that he is concluding his essays
Fatherhood is as important as motherhood.- Answer Key

In most western countries child rearing is now accepted as the responsibility of both parents. Even though a mother and father may have different and sometimes interchangeable roles, they are both seen as being of equal importance to the children. However, in less developed countries or tribal communities a father still holds the more traditional role of breadwinner and is more distant from the children. Indeed, in Western countries, it is only in the last twenty to thirty years that we have seen fatherhood being emphasised as much as motherhood.

A lot of people might argue that children should be solely the woman’s domain. These people believe that a mother is more important for infants as she can breast feed and protect her babies with a strong maternal instinct. Moreover the basic responsibility of the father is to make sure the family is materially provided for and spending time rearing the children would interfere with his ability to financially support the family.

However, in my opinion this definition of fatherhood is not complete and no longer satisfies the average western male. In the first place, instead of only fulfilling a financial responsibility towards the family, the modern father should involve himself in the every day activities of bringing up the children. For example he needs to play with them, read to them and teach them about the world. Apart from this the father will have more emotional fulfillment from his family life, as he shares more in the joy, as well as the duties, of child-rearing. Finally, I strongly believe that a father can best teach children qualities such as courage, curiosity and confidence. Therefore the more he participates in his children’s development; the better they will deal with the world when they grow up.

All things considered, it is this second, fuller concept of fatherhood that I agree with. Although in reality, with the stresses and demands of the modern workplace, it is a difficult, yet nonetheless worthwhile, ideal to achieve.

316 words
Fatherhood is as important as motherhood – Analysis – answer

key

• Complete the table below with the sentence numbers which make up each paragraph of the model essay

| First paragraph - introduction          | sentences – 2 4 8 10 |
| Second paragraph – arguments against   | sentences – 1 3 12  |
| Third paragraph – arguments for         | sentences – 6 7 9 11 13 14 |
| Fourth paragraph - conclusion           | sentences- 5 15      |

• How does the writer introduce the topic? – by setting out both sides of the argument clearly - This helps the reader predict what he is going to read. Also by referring to the status quo in the world today – This makes the essay real

• What words/phrases does the writer use to introduce arguments against? – A lot of people might argue that… / These people believe… (second paragraph)

• What words/phrases does the writer use to introduce arguments for? – However in my opinion… / I strongly believe… / It is….that I agree with.

• What words/phrases does the writer use to order the points he makes? – Moreover (second paragraph) / In the first place / For example / Apart from this / Finally. (third paragraph)

• What words/phrases does the writer use in connection with motherhood, fatherhood and childhood? – child rearing / breast feeding / maternal instinct / breadwinner etc

• How does the writer show that he is concluding his essay? – All things considered (paragraph four)