



Body Paragraphs



GENERAL PAPER

FORMAT

Point

Explanation

Example

Link

Evaluation

POINT

- This is the 'POINT' of the entire paragraph.
- The Point has to encapsulate the main ideas of what the entire body paragraph will be talking about as succinctly and simply as possible.
- You can show some form of evaluation in the point (particularly for counter-arguments).

- *E.g. In today's society, which is highly competitive and economically-driven, it is indeed, without question, that care for the environment is increasingly becoming neglected.*

- *E.g. However, in reality, many youths continue to believe in having a strong moral compass, hence, this topic of influence in the form of bad habits is increasingly becoming scarce.*

EXPLANATION

- Explain the point that you had just quoted and explain how it links to the question.
 - Bring in the key elements of the question (where applicable)
 - Ensure that the point is well-explained in simple terms for easy understanding.
- For comparison/2 factor questions, make sure you make known the conflicts in your explanation as well.
- **Majority** of your Body Paragraph should consist of the EXPLANATION.

- E.g. of a question that asks for economic growth vs environment

With a constant desire to raise living standards and be a “first world” country, Singapore prioritises economic growth before anything else. With increments in national income, the purchasing power of her people will continue to grow ever stronger, allowing them to raise their standard of living. However, the road to such growth often comes at a cost to the environment, which is sacrificed in the form of increased pollution levels, both air and water as a result of higher production levels. Thus, it is inherent for trade-offs to occur when economic growth is pursued over the thought of environmental conservation. For example...

EXAMPLE

- Example(s) are meant to substantiate and act as a backup to your point and explanation, Hence, it should not take up majority of the body paragraph, but instead provide a **glimpse** of real-life examples in the world that relate to the issue of the question.
- Example(s) can come in the following forms:
 1. Statistics - A survey conducted by Yale found that 56% of teenagers are highly susceptible to peer pressure.
 2. Literal Examples (from your head) - An example of an arts programme in Singapore would be the compulsory Arts lessons for Secondary 2 students, implemented by the Ministry of Education
 3. Published articles - As published in The Straits Times, Changi General Hospital, which is known for...
- After the example has been completed, do remember to give a brief explanation on how the example links to the question/point of the body paragraph.

LINK

- Many still feel that a link should act as a reiteration of your point. This is WRONG!
- Think of the LINK has a gateway/bridge to your evaluation that you are about to write straight after this.
- Hence, a LINK should sum up the key content of your body paragraph, yes, not belittling your point but act as a transition to your evaluation.

E.g.

Hence, it is evident that historical buildings are increasingly becoming irrelevant in my society due to the rising pragmatism, where the focus is now on becoming a 'high-technology' state. That said,[...]

EVALUATION

- **EVALUATION** is the most critical part of your body paragraph → It shows your depth of thinking and that you have considered other factors that are important in ensuring your argument remains justified.
- I've covered evaluation in-depth in *General Paper Part 2*, below will be a simplified version of evaluating.

Evaluation Techniques:

- Challenge any pre-existing assumptions that you may have made earlier in your essay.
- Long-term or short-term implications in which either the question may have made or your argument has made.
- Stakeholders - look at which stakeholders are involved in the question, as well as how they may affect your point.

- Remember that evaluation is not an anti-thesis/counter-argument. It is a way for you to point out assumptions/challenges to the point you had made, and then justify why these assumptions/challenges are not as important/relevant in beating your point down.



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