

Task 1

Information

You attend a public meeting about a proposal to ban cars and lorries from your town centre.

You make notes on the different views about the proposal.

- better for pedestrians and cyclists
- local shops lose business
- public transport expensive and unreliable
- less pollution and congestion
- harder for people to get to work
- makes town centre more attractive

Writing Task

Write an article for your local newsletter to discuss the proposal to ban cars and lorries from the town centre.

In your article, you should:

- discuss the arguments for and against the proposal
- give your opinion on whether the proposal should go ahead and why
- outline any other ideas you have to improve the town centre.

You should aim to write about 250 to 300 words.

(21 marks)

Should we ban cars and lorries from the town centre?

The Examiner explains

The candidate uses an appropriate heading.

Content statement 25: Organise writing for different purposes using appropriate format and structure. Within the response this statement is further addressed by the effective use of paragraphs to consider different aspects of the argument.

Recently I attended a public meeting about a proposal to ban cars and lorries from the town centre.

In this article I will talk about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.

The Examiner explains

The candidate clearly explains what the article will be about.

Content statement 23: Communicate information, ideas and opinions clearly, coherently and effectively.

The town centre is famous for its businesses and for the shops on offer. Preventing people from travelling to the town by car will cause problems for people trying to get to work or to the shops. This will have an impact on local businesses as staff will frequently be late for work and local shops will see their takings decrease.

The Examiner explains

Complex sentences used.

Content statement 28: Construct complex sentences consistently and accurately, using paragraphs where appropriate.

However, there will be benefits for pedestrians and cyclists as it will be safer for them because fewer cars will mean fewer accidents. The air will also be cleaner to breathe for everyone and there will be less environmental pollution. People will also be able to save money if they leave their cars at home and cycle or walk to work instead. Finally, there will also be less traffic congestion and we all know that this is a major problem at the moment.

The Examiner explains

The candidate uses organisational markers such as 'however' and 'finally'.

Content statement 26: Convey clear meaning and establish cohesion using organisational markers effectively.

The Examiner explains

The candidate uses appropriate language and register, e.g. 'accidents' and 'environmental.'

Content statement 27: Use different language and register suited to audience and purpose.

I believe that the proposal should go ahead as the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and that we should take actions to make sure that local people and businesses don't suffer. I would suggest offering more regular bus services and reducing fares so that everyone can afford to take the bus. The council should also introduce more bike lanes and walking routes and consider bringing in a bike hire scheme.

We could also improve the town centre by introducing more seating areas and by bringing back the Friday food market. This would encourage more people to come into the town and find out what it has to offer.

The Examiner explains

The response is 283 words long. It isn't necessary for candidates to count words, but they should practise writing responses that meet the suggested word count.

Content statement 24: Write text of an appropriate level of detail and of appropriate length to meet the needs of purpose and audience.

A large rectangular area with rounded corners, containing 21 horizontal dotted lines for writing.

(Total for Task 1 = 21 marks)