

## Writing about Advantages and Disadvantages

You have been discussing the benefits and drawbacks that mobile telephones bring to society. Now you have been asked to write an essay giving **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of mobile telephones as well as your own opinion on whether they are really a good thing or not.

Write the essay. Write 220-220 words.

### Structure

There are two good structures you could use. Imagine that, on balance, you think that mobile telephones are a good thing. The first structure works like this :

- Para 1 : Intro – state both positions
- Para 2 : Give 2 disadvantages
- Para 3 : Give 2 advantages
- Para 4 : Your opinion – on balance mobiles are good.

The essay will be stronger if you give the opposing opinion first so that your own opinion comes through at the end. The alternative structure is :

- Para 1 : Intro – state both positions
- Para 2 : First disadvantage refuted by first advantage
- Para 3 : Second disadvantage refuted by second advantage
- Para 4 : Your opinion – on balance mobiles are good.

### Useful Phrases

The most important (dis)advantage is .....

Another/A second (dis)advantage is....

However, there are also some (dis)advantages. The first/most important is.....  
Another/A second is.....

However,....

On the other hand,....

On the contrary,.....

Against this, I would mention.....

In my opinion,...

In my view,.....

On balance, I believe.....

The above are examples of **signposts**. It is important to use them so that the examiners can easily see that you are answering the whole question.

Your essay, of course, will **not** be about mobiles but about some aspect of immigration or multicultural society. The exact topic will be given in the lesson.