

# How to write an essay | C1 Advanced (CAE)

By EnglishExam.eu Team | 3/12/2026

*Did you know that the essay is a mandatory part of the C1 Advanced (CAE) writing paper? Discover techniques to maximize your score.*

## WHAT IS THE C1 ADVANCED (CAE) ESSAY?

In Part 1 of the C1 Advanced writing paper, writing an essay is mandatory. You will read a short text with three bullet points on a topic. You must discuss two of these points.

## KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Word count: 220 - 260 words.
- Tone: Consistently formal and objective.

## RECOMMENDED STRUCTURE

1. Introduction: State the topic and outline what the essay will discuss. Use advanced vocabulary to rephrase the prompt.
2. Body Paragraph 1 - Point A: Discuss the first point. Provide a solid argument and an example to support it.
3. Body Paragraph 2 - Point B: Discuss your second chosen point.
4. Conclusion: Summarize the discussion and clearly state which of the two points is more important/effective.

## SAMPLE C1 ADVANCED (CAE) ESSAY

Prompt: Your class has attended a panel discussion on which facilities should receive local government funding. You have made the notes below:

Facilities to fund: sports centres, public parks, museums.

Write an essay discussing two of the facilities and stating which one is more important to fund, giving your reasons.

In recent years, the allocation of local council funds has become a highly contentious issue. This essay will evaluate the importance of investing in public parks and sports centres, ultimately arguing that the former should take precedence.

There is a strong argument to be made for subsidising public parks. Providing green spaces in urban areas is vital for the mental and physical well-being of the community. Not only do parks offer residents a sanctuary from the stress of city life, but they also serve as communal hubs where people from all backgrounds can gather. Had it not been for these open spaces, many inner-city residents would be entirely deprived of nature.

Conversely, some assert that sports centres are a more pressing priority. By granting funding to public gyms and swimming pools, the government can actively combat the rising rates of obesity and promote a healthier lifestyle. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that sports centres often require expensive memberships or entry fees, which inevitably restricts access for lower-income families.

In conclusion, although both facilities undeniably contribute to public health, I firmly believe that local authorities should prioritise funding for public parks. Since parks are freely accessible to all demographics, they offer a more inclusive and far-reaching benefit to the community as a whole.

