FBP SINGAPORE

The Role Model

Model Compositions for Upper Secondary



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Sec 3 & 4

- Ideas on different topics/issues
- Tips on structuring good compositions
- Enhancement of Vocabulary
- Improve your spelling

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SECTION 1

Model Expository/ Argumentative Compositions

1. Punishment.



Let's Analyse this question

- As there is only one word in this question, students could choose the approach they wish to take. If a student focuses to write an argumentative essay on this topic, he or she should decide on the angle or points to consider.
- A student could consider some types of punishments and their effectiveness. Minor or major types of punishments could be discussed. The death penalty or caning could be considered as a major type of punishment for criminals who flout the law whereas a minor punishment could be a child who is caned by his or her parents for lying. The difference here is in the degree of offence and the context or situation.
- **To score well for this question, students need to focus on a few interesting points pertaining to the issue of punishment and organise their points well.**

We are motivated by rewards to do better. Punishments serve the opposite purpose- they aim to deter people from committing wrong. From young, children learn that they will be praised or given presents if they exhibit good behaviours or be chastised if they do wrong. Unfortunately, in today's society, people commit

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various crimes that warrant different types of punishment. These punishments, minor or major, serve different purposes. Some are more effective than others too. In my opinion, punishments are necessary especially if they help to deter people from committing wrong.

Firstly, punishments serve the purpose of teaching someone. If a child is caught by his or her parents for lying or doing something wrong, a severe scolding or even a caning would follow. This minor punishment aims to teach the child that he or she should not repeat this mistake. However, if the child is not punished and continues this wrong behaviour, he or she may grow up into a criminal who may cheat people or steal from them. Such crimes would attract more severe punishment. The person could be jailed or even caned by prison authorities and this could create a black mark in his life.

Secondly, a major punishment like the death penalty is needed to prevent people from committing serious crimes. For example, most drug dealers who are caught in Singapore will be hanged. It may seem very harsh to take someone's life but this punishment may be necessary as drugs destroy peoples' lives, especially the lives of young people. If such serious crimes are taken lightly, more people may commit them. It is therefore important to stem such crimes.

Some people may argue that punishments are not effective in changing a person. They point out that some criminals continue committing crimes after they are released from jail. Yet, others may argue that criminals should

The student starts off by discussing the difference between rewards and punishments, especially since young. The student also considers 'minor' and 'major' punishments though these could have been explained clearly. The student ends the introduction by stating his stand that punishments are necessary. This stand helps to set the direction for this composition.

This is the topic sentence or the main idea.

The point is developed with some examples.

This is the topic sentence.

A specific example is provided here to support the main point clearly.

The student provides a counter argument here. This means that the student tries to provide a perspective that others may have.

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SECTION 2

Model Personal Recounts

1. Describe a personal difficulty you faced and how you successfully overcame it.



Let's Analyse this question

- There are two parts to this question (the first part is about describing a personal difficulty and the second part is about overcoming it).
- 'Describe' – students have to provide details about the situation, their thoughts and feelings.
- 'A personal difficulty you faced'- refers to a difficult challenge that you encountered.
- 'How you successfully overcame it'- this means that the student has to show how he or she achieved success in handling the difficult challenge.
- To score well for this question, students could think of an interesting personal difficulty and how it was overcome in an intelligent way.

I have always been a shy and reserved person since young. I have had few friends because of my introverted personality. I do not talk much and prefer to keep to myself. However, this all changed when I was in Secondary two. My form teacher saw how quiet I was and she must have thought that it was important for me to open up. So, she called me

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one day and told me to take part in a drama competition. I was shocked that she could even suggest that. However, that became a turning point in my life.

From the introduction, we know that the student would be discussing how a drama competition made him overcome his personal difficulty.

To prepare for the drama competition, I had to work with a group of five schoolmates, whom I had never met before. We were all from different classes and the five of them were so chatty and sociable. I felt out of place when I was amidst them. I did not have the courage to tell my teacher that I cannot participate in the competition. I secretly wished that the team would not want me. However, the five of them were very friendly towards me. They knew that I was very good in English and thought I would be a great help to them. However, I continued to be very apprehensive. I constantly worried if I would be able to go up on stage to act. I dare not even face people and talk to them in real-life, let alone going up on stage to deliver my drama dialogue in front of so many people in the audience. I had several sleepless nights thinking about all these.

In this paragraph, the student provides more details about the difficulty he faced. He recounts his feelings and thoughts clearly. He makes it very clear that he felt that he was not the right person for this competition. Note the use of good vocabulary: 'apprehensive'.

We started our practice seriously and I was given a small role in the drama. I was supposed to act as an angry boy, which required me to raise my voice and act in a very mischievous way. This was totally different from my personality and it was very difficult for me initially. However, I told myself that I had to do it for the sake of my team members and school. We wanted to win the challenge trophy for our school that year.

Here, the student highlights how the role he was given was also difficult for him because it was very different from his personality.

In the days leading up to the actual competition, I rehearsed my lines at home several times, in front of a mirror. I realised then

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SECTION 3

Grammar Test

Choose the most correct answer for each of the questions below and tick (✔) it.

1. From young, children learn that they _____ praised or given presents if they exhibit good behaviours or be chastised if they do wrong.

   - ☐ **(a)** are
   - ☐ **(b)** will be
   - ☐ **(c)** should be
   - ☐ **(d)** could be

2. If they _____ put in enough effort, we would not see these problems getting worse day by day.

   - ☐ **(a)** have
   - ☐ **(b)** were
   - ☐ **(c)** having
   - ☐ **(d)** had

3. This is one reason _____ the rise in many dual-income families today, where both parents work.

   - ☐ **(a)** for
   - ☐ **(b)** to
   - ☐ **(c)** of
   - ☐ **(d)** among

4. _____ it is true that social media allows us to be connected to many more people, such connections are superficial and social media addiction is becoming a huge problem.

   - ☐ **(a)** However
   - ☐ **(b)** Yet
   - ☐ **(c)** Nevertheless
   - ☐ **(d)** While

5. One of the advantages of risk taking _____ the potential huge benefits one can receive.

   - ☐ **(a)** Are
   - ☐ **(b)** Was
   - ☐ **(c)** Were
   - ☐ **(d)** Is

6. Walt Disney became successful because he was _____ by his ambition.

   - ☐ **(a)** Driving
   - ☐ **(b)** Driven
   - ☐ **(c)** Drove
   - ☐ **(d)** Droving

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SECTION 4

Vocabulary Test

Choose the most correct answer for each of the questions below and tick (✔) it.

1 Punishments aim to _____ people from committing wrong.

- ☐ **(a)** Stop
- ☐ **(b)** Halt
- ☐ **(c)** Scare
- ☐ **(d)** Deter

2 Environmental groups like Greenpeace _____ environmental protection.

- ☐ **(a)** Fight for
- ☐ **(b)** Battle
- ☐ **(c)** Champion
- ☐ **(d)** Activate

3 If grandparents are able and willing to care for their grandchildren, both parents can go to work and they can be _____ that their children will be well taken care of.

- ☐ **(a)** Assured
- ☐ **(b)** Insured
- ☐ **(c)** Safeguarded
- ☐ **(d)** Guaranteed

4 Teenagers are _____ themselves from others as they prefer not to talk face-to-face with anyone.

- ☐ **(a)** Avoiding
- ☐ **(b)** Hiding
- ☐ **(c)** Evading
- ☐ **(d)** Isolating

5 Extreme sports are not for everyone but people who are willing to take the risk of trying bungee jumping or other extreme sports may get an adrenaline rush that can promise to be an _____ experience.

- ☐ **(a)** Exhilarating
- ☐ **(b)** Excruciating
- ☐ **(c)** Exteme
- ☐ **(d)** Exterminating

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SECTION 5

Spelling Test

In each of the following sentences, the word that is wrongly spelt has been underlined. Write down the correct spelling in the blanks provided.

1. When everyone in society understands that there are certain crimes that we do not <u>condon</u>, they will adjust their behaviours accordingly to avoid the wrath of the law.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

2. Factories that dispose industrial waste <u>indescriminately</u> contribute to air and water pollution and they do not seem to care about protecting the environment.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

3. Parents can always make other <u>arangments</u> to ensure that their children receive good care when they are away at work.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

4. Communication and language skills are also <u>deterrioating</u> due to the increased use of social media.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

5. They believe that they can <u>recoppe</u> their losses and continue their gambling habits, hoping to get rich.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

6. A good education, therefore, must be focused on the skills that students need for their future <u>survivel</u>.

   Correct spelling:

   _____

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Answers

SECTION 3: Grammar Test

1. B	15. D	29. A	43. C
2. D	16. A	30. C	44. A
3. A	17. C	31. C	45. B
4. D	18. C	32. B	41. B
5. D	19. C	33. A	42. A
6. B	20. A	34. C	43. C
7. B	21. C	35. D	44. A
8. D	22. B	36. C	45. B
9. B	23. D	37. A	46. A
10. A	24. A	38. B	47. C
11. D	25. D	39. C	48. D
12. D	26. B	40. D	49. B
13. C	27. A	41. B	50. B
14. B	28. D	42. A	

SECTION 4: Vocabulary Test

1. D	14. D	27. D	40. D
2. C	15. B	28. A	41. C
3. A	16. B	29. C	42. A
4. D	17. C	30. D	43. C
5. A	18. B	31. A	44. A
6. C	19. A	32. D	45. C
7. A	20. B	33. B	46. B
8. D	21. D	34. C	47. D
9. B	22. B	35. D	48. C
10. C	23. A	36. B	49. B
11. A	24. C	37. B	50. D
12. D	25. A	38. C	
13. A	26. A	39. B	

SECTION 5: Spelling Test

1. Condone
2. Indiscriminately
3. Arrangements
4. Deteriorating
5. Recoup
6. Survival
7. Acquire
8. Dedicated
9. Extraordinary
10. Athlete
11. Angst
12. Access
13. Abuse
14. Affection
15. Threat
16. Therapeutic
17. Obsessed
18. Barbaric
19. Injurious
20. Compassionate
21. Psychologically
22. Fulfillment
23. Ventures
24. Pursue
25. Rejuvenates
26. Frail
27. Passionately
28. Inconvenient
29. Abandoned
30. Genuine
31. Stricken
32. Credible
33. Appealing
34. Leisure
35. Techniques
36. Potential
37. Relieved
38. Grateful
39. Bruised
40. Gracious
41. Reprimanded
42. Intensive
43. Intensifies
44. Opportunities
45. Rekindle
46. Announced
47. Chauffeured
48. Elated
49. Exemplary
50. Treasure

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