

6A



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR TEACHING FROM 2015

CPD AUTUMN 2017

COMPONENT 2 EXEMPLAR MATERIAL
(ANNOTATED)

Example 1

Mark Binelli tries to show that prisoners in Florence live in extremely `harsh conditions` by "incredibly small 12-by-7-foot cells". This shows that the prisoners have hardly any room. The adverb `incredibly` further emphasises how small the cells are. "Prisoners are never allowed to come into contact with other prisoners at any time – anywhere in the prison." This shows that the prisoners are very isolated in the cells. The use of the dash further shows how much they are not allowed to be in contact.

Band 2

Some relevant selection

— but limited coverage

3

Example 2

The article shows harsh conditions that prisoners are in by telling us they "sleep on concrete slabs topped with thin mattresses." This instantly tells the reader that they are sleeping with discomfort. Another way Binelli has showed harsh conditions the prisoners live in is in lines 22-25 which basically tells us the only time prisoners get out of their cells to do exercise is for one hour and it is in a bigger cell with a 4 inch by 4 foot skylight as the only window and it's to prevent the prisoners from knowing where they are. The writer says in the article, "Many prisoners go days with only a few words spoken to them." This will make the prisoner lonely or even depressed without being able to interact with other people. In paragraph 7 it starts off by saying, "For at least the first three years, prisoners are never allowed to come in contact with other prisoners at any time." This tells the reader the prisoners won't be communicating with anyone apart from the guards who will most likely show them a lack of respect.

Some valid details / comments
Band 3 ?

4/5

5

Example 3

Mark Binelli does many things in this article to show that prisoners in Florence live in extremely harsh conditions. The fourth paragraph starts by telling readers the prison "is known for its harsh conditions", which suggests it has a reputation so bad that no criminals would want to go there. The author then describes the prisoners' cell conditions, "incredibly small 12-by-7 foot cells". The adjective 'incredibly' shows that Binelli is shocked by their conditions and is trying to show the extreme 'harsh conditions' by describing their living conditions. He also describes the prisoners' cells by writing they have, 'a tiny single window', the adjective 'tiny' emphasising how small the windows are, emphasising the 'harsh conditions', as they won't get much or any natural light. After this, Binelli writes that prisoners get "just a glimpse of sky" from the window, the verb 'glimpse' showing that prisoners hardly ever see the sky or the world outside the prison, which would be very harsh on them. Binelli also describes the prisoners' mattresses as 'thin mattresses', the adjective 'thin' showing that the prisoners do not even get to be comfortable when they sleep. Furthermore, Binelli writes that 'the showers are on timers' which shows the harsh conditions as prisoners do not even get to shower properly, which may be Binelli showing that prisoners have absolutely no freedom at all. As well as this, Binelli writes that prisoners are "never allowed to come into contact with other prisoners". The imperative 'never' shows that prisoners do not have any say in what they do, absolutely no freedom at all, which is harsh. Binelli also writes that some prisoners may develop mental problems due to solitary confinement as he writes that it leads to "hallucinations and memory loss" which shows the effects the harsh conditions have on the prisoners.

Good coherent response - good range
Explores the writer's use of language
(8/9?)
Band 4

8

Example 4

? } Mark Binelli's article shows that the prisoners live in extremely harsh conditions by using complex sentences. The writer uses these to really explain and show how the reader how bad the cells were. Evidence to show this is, "The cell furniture is limited to a desk, stool and a bed, and each is constructed from concrete." This shows how uncomfortable the prisoners must be. Also to show this the writer uses lists like, "each cell has a sink, toilet and an automated shower and prisoners sleep on concrete slabs topped with thin mattresses." Using lists gives the reader a more detailed description about what the cells look like. The writer uses dashes in this article to create a pause which can create suspense. eg? } Brackets are also used to give a bit more information to show how harsh the conditions were for the prisoners. The writer says, "all meals come through a small slot." This shows how alone the prisoner is and that they always have to eat on their own, which is harsh on them.

4

Band 2

Rather limited coverage but some relevant detail selected.

Example 5

Mark Binelli's article says that Florence is "too dangerous" for regular prisoners. This tells us it is very strict inside Florence Prison and only violent criminals can survive. The prisoners are kept for "23 hours a day" in solitary confinement, suggesting that they get no time to keep in contact with people. The cells are only "12-by-7 foot", suggesting how small and cramped the room is. There is very little comfort as they have to sleep on "concrete slabs with thin mattresses" suggesting how awful and uncomfortable it can be to live in this prison. The window in the cell is only "four inches wide" which means you mostly spend your time in darkness. Even the "4-inch by 4-foot skylight" in the exercise cell prevents them from knowing where they are, which is very harsh. This also then makes it harder for them to escape as they can't keep in contact with others. There is also a lot of security to stop the prisoners from escaping. Due to the loneliness, many prisoners have 'memory loss' and 'hallucinations' suggesting how harsh the prison conditions are. The director of the American Civil Liberties Union says that living there for a few months can be 'shattering' suggesting the harshness of the conditions. Overall the conditions are very, very harsh as they are allowed to make no noise and have no contact with anyone. Also an ex-warden said there is no humanity for people in the prison.

Band 3

6

Some range of valid detail/comment

Example 6

Mark Binelli's article shows that prisoners in Florence Prison live in 'harsh conditions' by saying that the prisoners are kept in solitary confinement for '23 hours' every day. This is extreme as the prisoners also spend much of their day in their "incredibly small 12-by-7 foot cells", giving them no space. They also only get one hour to go out of their cell and move around and exercise. Even this is harsh as they are alone in a room which has been designed to "prevent the prisoners from knowing where they are." This is very hard on the prisoners as they spend their time in a prison with no communication with other prisoners and knowing the fact you don't know where you are can make you lose your mind. } more?
The prisoners also have to sleep on "concrete slabs topped with thin mattresses." The adjective 'thin' shows the hard conditions as the prisoners would find it extremely uncomfortable to sleep.
The prisoners live in extremely harsh conditions as many prisoners "routinely go days with only a few words spoken to them." This is harsh as the prisoners have no way to communicate with anyone and they are "left to their own thoughts". It can lead to "hallucinations and memory loss", which is extreme as the prisoners can become mentally ill while they are in the prison. Some of the prisoners have been in solitary confinement for "more than a decade". This is extremely harsh as solitary confinement breaks the prisoners and even a few months can be "shattering" and can lead to "more violent behaviour." The word 'shattering' suggests the human side of the prisoner has been broken.
Binelli quotes an ex-warden who says the prison is "not designed for humanity" and this shows the prisoners know they are being treated worse than animals left in a cell to rot to death.

Band 4

7

Response includes a good range of detail/comment
Some focus on language

1.4

Example 1

I think that it is very clear from the extract that Charles Dickens is against the solitary confinement that the inmates are treated in by the way he keeps mentioning about how ~~the~~ inmates are kept in "rigid, strict and hopeless solitary confinement." By the way that Charles Dickens keeps mentioning the conditions and how bad they are it shows you that he is very much against it all.

He uses one man as an example and ~~uses~~ a metaphor, "He is a man buried alive and dead to everything but torturing anxiety and horrible despair." This is a metaphor that Dickens has used to describe the awful situation on the inside. Dickens' structure is very ordered in neat paragraphs all describing the prison. He uses long sentences to fulfil it all with maximum description. He uses posh formal language all the way through to show his background. He says everything with a lot of passion throughout this extract.

examples?

3

Some awareness of the writer's views
with a little textual support

Just into Band 2 ?

Example 2

I think that Dickens is against solitary confinement because he says, "I believe it to be cruel and wrong" showing that he doesn't like the idea. Dickens also uses hyperbole when he says, "immense torture" and this proves Dickens feels strongly about his views and wants to portray it as something terrible. Dickens feels that it is wrong because, "no man has a right to inflict upon his fellow creature." This stern tone shows Dickens' seriousness and his negative views. Dickens uses quite demanding language when he says, "which humanity should not allow" and this proves that he wants to put a stop to this punishment. He also uses his own beliefs to show how he feels, "I believe" and the pronoun 'I' shows authority and that Dickens is being serious. Also Dickens uses adverbs such as "ghastly" to show how bad the prison and the punishments are and the readers are able to picture the image in their heads. Dickens also doesn't agree with the punishment because the prisoners lose their identity. "His name and crime and term of suffering, are unknown" proving that solitary confinement makes you lose who you are as a person. Also solitary confinement isolates you from the outside world because Dickens explains that "he has no means of knowing", suggesting that the prisoners are oblivious to their surroundings and have no human contact. In addition it says that the man is "buried alive" which suggests that the man is dead inside and has no hope. Also Dickens is against this type of punishment because it creates "torturing anxieties" and this could imply that the men are slowly going insane.

Offers a good range of comments on the writer's views
Uses the text details well

No personal response to Dickens' views

Band 3/4 (6/7)

7

Example 3

Throughout the extract Dickens expresses his views on solitary confinement with great conviction and force. I believe that he effectively explores the negative side of the punishment, influencing the reader's perspective.

In the first paragraph Dickens tells readers the punishment is "rigid, strict and hopeless". The adjectives here cause the reader to sympathise with the prisoners as it implies that as well as the punishment being harsh, there is no positive outcome. This is immediately followed by a simple statement that emphasises Dickens' view, "I believe it to be cruel and wrong." The use of words like "cruel" and "wrong" creates a very solemn and negative tone.

Personally I feel that Dickens explores and appeals to the reader's sense of humanity when he uses words like "Torture", "inflicts" and "wounds". Therefore I feel sympathy towards the prisoners as I consider the punishment from a more personal perspective.

Also Dickens refers to the prisoners as "fellow-creatures" but separate from humanity. As they are still human, the reader is encouraged to pity them. Also, the noun 'creature' dehumanises the prisoners as if Dickens can't even comprehend such a cruel punishment for a human. Dickens successfully depicts the pain that the prisoners feel, despite not writing from a personal perspective. He metaphorically states that the men are "dead to everything but torturing anxieties." The reference to the 'dead' allows the reader to understand how great the effect of the punishment can be on the prisoners. It also clearly conveys that

Dickens opposes solitary confinement, and encourages the reader to share his viewpoint. Furthermore, the abstract noun 'anxieties' appeals to the audience's sense of humanity as anxiety is a feeling many people experience. Personally, I pity the prisoners and their way of life and feel inclined to oppose the punishment.

Finally, Dickens states that the prisoners "count the seasons as they change." In isolation, this phrase is not negative. However in context it reflects the great passage of time spent in the prison and the continual struggle of the prisoners. Solitary confinement is presented entirely negatively throughout, and the reader is encouraged to pity the prisoners.

persuasive evaluation using well-selected examples
uses textual details to inform a personal response
Band 5

Example 4

During the introduction Dickens uses words like "cruel" and "wrong". This gives the audience the impression that Dickens does not agree with solitary confinement. He also describes solitary confinement as being "hopeless." This suggests that Dickens feels like solitary confinement is useless and does not reform the prisoners. Dickens then goes on to state, "no man has the right to inflict." This quotation gives the impression that Dickens is against torturing because he thinks it is immoral. Dickens creates a negative tone by the selection of adjectives he uses, for example "terrible" and "horror". These words are harsh and sinister and this exaggerates the reason why Dickens is against solitary confinement. Dickens attempts to gilt trip his readers into adopting the same opinion – "he never hears of wife and children." This gives the impression that Dickens believes that solitary confinement is wrong and immoral because the prisoner forgets what makes him human.

5

Band 3

Some clarity about the writer's views / comments
are relevant

Example 5

I think Dickens' views about solitary confinement as a punishment are very negative. Dickens wrote "hopeless solitary confinement." This tells the reader that Dickens thinks solitary confinement is useless and is pointless as it is nothing but "cruel and wrong."

Throughout the text, Dickens has a sympathetic tone or view towards the prisoners. I know this because Dickens wrote, "immense amount of torture and agony." This tells me Dickens sympathises with the prisoners as he knows what they are going through. I feel Dickens' view on solitary confinement as a punishment is morally correct as no human should be "dead to everything but torturing anxieties" and "humanity should not allow" other humans to be treated in such a way.

4

Band 2

Shows awareness of the writer's views

Some personal response

Example 6

I agree with Dickens' views about solitary confinement as a punishment. Dickens believes it is 'wrong and cruel', which I agree with.

Dickens presents his argument against solitary confinement in a straightforward manner, describing the 'immense' torture and agony the prisoners go through. This makes me feel shocked as Dickens uses words that have an emotional effect, such as 'agony'. This use of emotive language makes me feel sickened by what the prisons put their inmates through, and makes me pity the prisoners who are put through this agony 'for years'.

Dickens tries to convince the reader that solitary confinement is wrong; however, his use of persuasive techniques, mainly emotive language make me want to think outside the views Dickens is enforcing.

Therefore, I thought about whether some people do deserve the 'torture' of solitary confinement, and decided that for the worst of humanity – the murderers and the rapists- solitary confinement may be a just punishment. OK

Dickens describes the wounds that are "not upon the surface", i.e. wounds of the mind. This tells me that Dickens had an understanding of mental health in a time where it was often ignored and shrugged off.

This makes me happy as it shows that Dickens was not a man of his time and in fact had a moralistic view of the world. Dickens has a strong opinion that he supports with reasons. Therefore, I respect him as he } shows that he thinks about things before saying them. This can be shown by how he first states that he believes solitary confinement to be "cruel and wrong", and in the paragraph following describes the 'immense torture' and 'wounds' of the mind. He does not state his opinion as fact but uses phrases such as "I believe" that make sure his statement is only a statement of his belief, which avoids wrongly enforcing his view upon the reader.

Band 3

Shows clarity about the writer's views

Gives a personal response to the writer's views

6

1.6

Example 1

Both writers talk about how solitary confinement affects the brain. The 19th century text states "tampering with the mysteries of the brain to be immeasurably worse than any torture of the body" and the 20th century text says "solitary confinement... can be shattering". These both imply that solitary has negative effects on the brain which result in the prisoner being mentally scared.

However in the 19th century Dickens only gives his own views of the prison, but in the 20th century Binelli uses quotes from other people, for example the quote American Civil Liberties Union describe the conditions as 'extraordinarily harsh' shows that Binelli cared about what other people thought about the prison.

Limited response
Some relevant details from the texts
Band 2

3

Example 2

Both writers explain and have similar views to what solitary confinement does to the prisoners. Dickens explains how the punishment is worse than physical punishment as you are having your brain tortured. This is shown through "...tampering with the mysteries of the brain". This is similar to Binelli understanding that this punishment can mess with your brain. He shows that through "...hallucinations and memory loss". Dickens shows that this punishment is very severe and cruel. This is shown through the "agony it inflicts upon the sufferers". The fact he describes them as sufferers shows he still sees the prisoners as people and views the punishments as harsh. This is, again, similar to Binelli's view of solitary confinement. This is shown through the words in his article "...extraordinarily harsh". A final view both writers share regarding this punishment is that humans can't withstand it and that humans should not prescribe this punishment. Binelli shows this through "...place not designed for humanity" and Dickens through "...no man has a right to inflict upon his fellow creature".

Selects a range of relevant details

6

Some parts might be developed a little more

Band 3

Example 3

Binelli's article, although more objective and indirect about his opinion than Dickens' piece, agrees that solitary confinement has a negative effect on the prisoners. He describes that it can cause "hallucinations and memory loss" and this idea of impact is repeated in Dickens' article, that "its wounds are not upon the surface". However, Binelli describes the conditions under which the prisoners are living in first, to help them understand why the effects happen, meanwhile, Dickens describes the states of the prisoners first and then the living conditions. In this way, the tone and purpose for the audience is different. Binelli takes on a more factual tone in order to inform, while Dickens takes a more opinionated, emotive tone in order to generate sympathy.

more ? }

Binelli also obtains a quote from the America Civil Liberties Union to describe that the effects can be "shattering" for the prisoner. Dickens also emphasises this with the focus on the punishment as 'torture' and its effect on the prisoner's mental state. He also puts emphasis on 'humanity' and being 'human' and how "humanity should not allow this". Those references in Binelli's article seem to share the same kind of view. The prison warden describes it as a "clean version of hell" which both agrees and contrasts with Dickens' view. Although it does agree in description and as a figure of speech, in the 1840s the prisoners had a "Bible" in the cell, which would perhaps suggest they could atone for their sins to avoid hell- hell couldn't be where something as pure as the Bible could be.

Both also describe how the time spent also had a large impact on the prisoners. While Dickens uses a long sentence to describe the "ten weary years" perhaps to represent the never-ending length of time spent, Binelli describes the practical impacts in that it can be "shattering" and leads to "more violent behaviour". This perhaps also shows a change in attitudes over the eras. While Dickens was extremely distressed, Binelli is fairly detached - it's almost as if we are desensitised to it now and it has become normal for us, and hence we are not so worried about the effect on the prisoners' health as much as we are about the effects on their behaviour and the implications for us. This perhaps shows Dickens' fear of losing humanity coming true.

Overall, both state that the effect is devastating, although Binelli takes a more rational, objective view while subtly conveying his opinion on the effects, and Dickens states his opinion forcefully about the treatment of prisoners and its effect on mental health explicitly.

9

Purposeful textual reference

Some clear comparisons

Band 5

Example 4

Mark Binelli states that one of the effects of solitary confinement is that it "often leads to hallucinations and memory loss", showing that this punishment can be bad for the inmates' mental health. Charles Dickens also suggests this when he says it can lead to "torture and agony" for the prisoner. Binelli makes it clear what the effects of solitary confinement are when he quotes the director of the American Civil Liberties Union who says it can lead to "more violent behaviour" as a result.

Limited response but some relevant details

3

Band 2

Example 5

Binelli believes that solitary confinement is 'harsh' on prisoners. He says that this form of punishment leads to prisoners having "hallucinations and memory loss" showing how bad solitary confinement is on human health. Dickens also presents solitary confinement as being like this, but does it without the definite facts Binelli presents. Dickens says that it is a 'torture' to the prisoners and that it therefore is as painful to them as torture, even if not physically.

Binelli also says an effect of solitary confinement is that it can be 'shattering' and lead to more 'violent behaviour'. This shows that Binelli wants to get across the negatives of solitary confinement not just for the prisoners' sake but also for the public's safety as well. On the other hand, Dickens seems to only care for the prisoner, saying with strong, emotive language that "no man has a right" to inflict this punishment on someone else, this showing that he doesn't believe authorities have the right to do this, as its negative effects on the prisoner are too much for them to bear.

The focus is mainly on the first
bullet point in the question

Selects relevant details on 'effects'

Band 3

5

Example 6

In Dickens' extract he portrays that this solitary confinement "tampers with the mysteries of the brain" showing that it shouldn't be done. ✓
Dickens also describes solitary confinement as "immeasurably worse than any torture of the body" emphasising that the effects will be very bad. Dickens also describes it as a "severe punishment which humanity should not allow" suggesting how inhumane it is and how badly it will affect the prisoners. Dickens describes them as being "buried alive" suggesting they will have "tortured anxieties." Dickens describes the "solitary horrors" as having unknown effects but suggest they are very bad.

Similarly, in 'Inside America's Toughest Prison', Binelli states the effects are very bad but he is more specific on what the effect is. Binelli states that it can lead to "hallucination and memory loss" suggesting that the effect is very bad. In the report he quotes it also states that the effect is 'shattering' to prisoners, emphasising how badly the punishment breaks the prisoners. The report suggests that this solitude, "can lead to more violent behaviour." suggesting it could be worse for when the prisoners get out as well. There is also the fact that the prison is unnaturally quiet. (✓) } more?
There is "no noise, no mess" so it's so quiet from the solitude. Overall, both the writers emphasise the effects the confined cells will have on the prisoners by using vivid and specific images and details.

Selects details appropriately / good range
Band 4 (7/8)

8

2.1

Example 1

Home address nearly correct (post code before county)

{ Newspaper address noted as 'There address'

Dear local newspaper company,

I saw a subject in your newspaper that i would like to share my thoughts and opinions on.

{ The subject was about pets, how you shouldn't have one, the money, time and pretty much just the negative side to it and I dissagree. A pet such as a dog can bring love and joy to a home which make's it feel complete. Pets can make you laugh and just feel happy in general.

fair enough to say what you said and yes, everyone is intitled to there own opinion; for example, on how I disagree with your subject. It's normal. If for some strang reason you don't like pets that's fine. But like the saying "you don't know unless you try" It's true. you don't understand the effect a pet can bring into your life; the amount of love and memorys you get with it is unreal. It's all worth it.

{ Although, I agree that they can be expencive but the time spend and the bond you have is worth all the money in the world. It's magical.

"I would never have one" is such a strong statement. You are honestly missing out on the type of love and happiness a pet can give you.

I hope you read what I have said and take everything seriously. never say never.

Your faithfully,

(220 words)

Brief response

3 + 2

Some relevant response but limited

Errors are basic and numerous

Example 2

Home address correct
Newspaper address correct



Dear Editor,

I am writing to you to share my views and feelings on the subject of having a pet.

Personally, I love pets and I don't understand why anybody would think otherwise. Even though they can be expensive, what is money compared to a companion for life?

Pets don't only adore you, they also give you a reason to be happy. You could be having the worst day but in your mind you know that your pet is at home waiting excitedly for you to get back.

The main reason I love pets is because they give me a sense of importance and responsibility. My pet relys on me to feed him, groom him and love him, and I wouldn't change it for the world!

Although when your pet passes away it causes you tremendous heart break, it makes you realise how incomplete your life is without them. It makes you realise that their tiny pitter pattered footsteps are so important. I wouldn't know how to survive without a pet. Mine is my life!

It's true that pets cause you challenges and frustration but it is also true that sometimes they are the only ones there for you when you need it. Pets do not hesitate to show affection and pets do not hesitate to make you feel better. I can't count how many times my pet has cheered me up, he is amazing.

Pets are so important in a family life, many people think that their children get bored with them but they're wrong. It's not that they're bored, it's that they have become an ordinary member of the family so there is no need to excessively fuss over them. People are mistaken about a lot of things but pets are the main one. Pets do nothing but adore you.

So many pets have just been abandoned and it breaks my heart. How could somebody do that to a pet that has only cherished and adored them? Pets need us as much as we need them. They don't mean to cause any trouble, all they want is for you to love them as much as they love you!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely,

(368 words)

Some variety in sentences / expression is clear

Shows understanding of purpose (7/8+6)
Develops parts of the content
Limited response to parts of original letter

8+6

Example 3

Home address correct

Newspaper address correct



Dear Sir/Madam,

In your 20th April edition of The Telegraph I noticed that one reader seemed unable to understand the attraction of pets. I wondered if I could endeavour to enlighten the reader and you as to why pets are so precious.

✓ Firstly, the purpose of a pet is that they have no purpose. This may sound strange but the paradox is a simple one; pets are there to be loved and to love back. Anyone who buys a pet has no ulterior motive other than they would like an animal to treasure. Some pets keep their owners company when their owners have no one else, some pets are able to detect when their owner is about to have a fit and some help encourage their owner to walk and lose weight. All of these pets do what they do because they love their owner or because their owner ✓ loves them.

It is true that children often want pets only to forget about them later and this is a tragedy that is sadly seen up and down the country. This is the reason why it is important pets are not bought without serious thought. As the famous slogan puts it: 'a dog is for life, not just for Christmas.' I hope every animal owner remembers this. ✓

✓ Many people believe that those who don't want pets are strange because they cannot imagine their life without their beloved budgie or spoilt spaniel. Having a pet is a sensation you cannot understand until you own one, by which time all the negatives just seem to float away... The expensive vaccines seem nothing compared to the sense of joy of having a dog eager to see you after work, or the laughter and smiles your child expresses as the guinea pig with an unusual name leaves the little pellets of brown on the kitchen floor. There is a pure happiness that ✓ pets bring that nothing else can and that is why they are so appealing.

I understand why your reader doesn't want pets but they were focusing only on the negatives. The positive of pets are overwhelming and I don't think this nation of cat and dog lovers are going to give up

✓ their pets anytime soon. I certainly won't because there would be a pet-shaped hole in my life without them.
Yours faithfully,

(386 words)

11 + 7

Sophisticated understanding of purpose of task

Engaging content

Expression is clear and there is secure control

Example 4

Home address correct

Newspaper address correct



Dear editor,

I'm in absolute shock, quite frankly. How can anyone have such strong, negative views on a topic so irrelivant for a newspaper? It baffles me, how someone could be so abrupt and harsh about as something as simple as having a pet. It is anyones choice to have a pet, if your financialy stable to have one, then do! Is it really that much of a big deal. I think pets are marvalous, they keep you company, they become a part of your family don't they? I'm certain any person who has a pet or has once had a pet, would fully agree with my piont of view. They'd know how this statment is completly ridiculous. I'm aware that they can be expensive and take up lots of time, but so do children and people chose to still have babies. There's a price to pay with everything and in my opinion this is a small price to pay when you get complete happiness and love for your pet.

However, if you don't have the money for a dog or cat, you could buy a smaller, cheeper pet like a Rabbit. There are ways around the situation but by saying "I can't understand why we have pets" is just completly alien to me.

My final piont is that just because your children might lost slight interest, it doesn't mean you've wasted any time or money because you have a life long member to your family. Your pet is not just loved by your children, but it's loved by everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and considering my pionts of view.

Yours faithfully,

(273 words)

Offers and sustains a clear viewpoint

Some relevant contents - developed a little in places

Errors are basic + numerous

4/5 + 2

Example 5

} No letter addresses included

Dear editor,

I have read a letter issued in the last copy of the paper in regards to having pets. I have some point on which I would like to inform you with, on said topic of pets.

First off I can agree that pets can be expensive. If they are a small animal there is the cost of cages and bedding. Larger animals will need food and possibly toys. Vets bill can also be expensive if your animal is uninsured. However, I believe they are prices that are worth paying in order to see said animal living a happy life.

There is also the issue of time, dogs need to be taken for walks, hamster have to be cleaned out and rabbits need excercise. However, some animals require less of your time. Cats will quite happily only bother you for food and the occasional cuddle. Fish will not need too much of your attension, they need food and cleaning out and that's about it. It's all ✓ about finding the right pet for you.

Now onto the topic of children and pets. Many parents will experince their child begging for a pet, and I say let them have one. I grew up owning many hampsters, rabbits and guinea pigs, and I belive it is very good for children to experience this. A pet can teach a child how to look after something, this small furry creature has intrusted their life to them. A pet can help create a gentle, caring person out of the child. They will learn respect for animals and be a better person. However, yes, I do agree that sometimes pets are not the best investment. Children can ✓ neglect them or unintensionally abuse their pets. I urge parents to consider the age of the child before buying them a pet. Once the child is old enough, start off small. A hampster is easy to look after and has a short life spand. After that you can move onto bigger things like rabbits cats and dogs.

So overall, I do agree with some of the points in the letter, though I do think they need further research. A pet needs a good home, find information on which pet is best for you before buying, and enjoy their company.

Yours sincerely,

(377 words)

Some shape + structure to the response
Content is developed
Lots of basic errors but some
varied sentence structures

6 + 2 / 3

Example 6

Home address correct

Newspaper address correct



Dear Editor,

I am writing to you because I have just read the letter that appeared in your newspaper earlier this week. I am absolutely outraged, I can't believe anyone would think such a thing! Yes, pets may be expensive but there are so many good things about having them.

Firstly, I love animals. One reason people have pets is for company.

Just imagine if your partner was away and you have to stay at home by yourself for a week. that would be horrible. If you have pets then you're automatically not alone and you have someone to cuddle up with on the sofa. Having pets just make life so much more fun. The welcome you get as you walk through the door is just the best.

Secondly, having a dog is the perfect excuse to leave the house and go and see the world. Taking them out for walks not only keeps them fit and healthy, but it keeps you, the owner, fit and healthy too. I don't understand why people say pets are 'expensive', they don't look for all the new technology like children, they don't need new clothes every month. Dog are quite happy with a stick they find on the floor, that'll keep them entertained for hours unlike children who get bored after five minutes.

Finally, not all pets take up a lot of time. It takes 20 minutes of throwing a ball for a dog before it becomes tired. Cats just want food then they sleep for the rest of the day. Pets are quite happy to keep themselves to themselves as long as you treat them right. To some people, pets are their only opportunity to have children. Pets are just the same as children, as long as they have had food, water and a play they are happy and they won't take up anymore of your time.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, I hope it didn't take up too much of your time. Maybe next week I'll see a bit of my letter here.

Yours faithfully,

(346 words)

Clear shape + structure

Content is well-judged/detailed

Mostly accurate

9 + 6