

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 03
Lecture - 15
Writing: Imaginative Essays

Welcome friends and we will continue with our efforts in developing writing skills. So, we have already done long essay, we have already done lots of academic essays; today we will talk about creative or imaginative essays. The topic covers and that I am going to give you today that cover imaginative essays of beat prompts and topics that demand a high level of creative thinking and imagination.

So, you should remember that creative writing tasks are not very common as standalone questions, but they are offered among the 4 to 5 options given for a standard essay writing task. These tasks are aimed at testing your imaginative power and the skills on the spot thinking and risk taking abilities; of course, most importantly your vocabulary and your ability to use certain phrases in more elegant way. Since you do not need to have brushed upon any facts for this essay, the examiner will evaluate you on the basis of your imaginative skills.

There are a very few people who attempt the creative writing essay. So, it will always give you an added advantage, because not many are taking that. So, perhaps you can consider that as well; however you need to perform very well so that you can stand out and be given the deserving marks to proceed with the next round of your exam.

Creative writing task are different from the standard essay type of questions, in the sense that the topics are often vague there not very clear cut or concise, they can even appear to be funny but they are always through provoking. For example, New Year's resolutions in the month of May; even a question like New Year Resolutions not many people can imagine such kind of a question appearing for a competitive exam, but occasionally they may appear and you can really take a shot at those because you if you good abilities to write such kind of an exam. Or if only I were may be an astronaut, a famous actor, the president of your county something like that.

It is up to you to interpret the topic in any way that appeals to you and in written explain and make a point to the examiner. And it may take you have to stick to the word limit of course. Remember that all this requires a lot of imagination you need to be funny, but not a disrespectful always be thought provoking, and thought provoking enough to convince the examiner of your writing skills. You do not need to write facts and arguments in your favor as in a conventional essay, but you will need to develop your thoughts in such a way that the essay is entertaining to read and indicative of your writing skills.

Before you pick creative prompt think about the topic and come up with some ideas. Usually imaginative essays start with the hypothetical situation asking; how you would respond to it. Come up with a few different ways you might respond and how you thing the situation would turn out depending on your responses. Pick the idea you like best and write it. Write what you would do, how other characters would react, and how the situation would end up. Make your responses witty, interesting and entertaining.

Creative writing prompts will also demand a personal touch to your essay, write from experience or give examples from your experience. Make additions that appeal to your personality; this will ensure that your essay carries you know essence of yourself. Do not be afraid to pick this prompt; that is what I insist on that do not be scared just because it looks imaginative if you feel you have the language take it.

Very few exam takers pick such exam, because this kind of an essay topic because they think that they may end up making a fool of themselves, but do not get nervous about these things it see the way you express which is more important.

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Sample Prompts for Creative Writing Tasks

1. Pick one woman in history or fiction to converse with for an hour and explain your choice. What would you talk about?
2. What's so odd about odd numbers?
3. What matters to you, and why?
4. Winston Churchill believed 'a joke is a very serious thing.' Tell us your favorite joke and try to explain the joke without ruining it.
5. Begin your essay with the phrase: "One fine morning..."
6. If you could relive a day of the past, which day would you choose, and why?
7. If you could un-invent one thing in the world, what would it be, and why?
8. New Year Resolutions in the month of May.

Look at this particular slide; let us look at the topics. Pick one women in history or fiction to converse with for an hour and explain your choice. What would you talk about? So, just notice you have to pick any women select any women from history or fiction, not a man and what would you talk about. What is so odd about odd numbers? What matters to you, and why? Winston Churchill believed a joke is 'a very serious thing.' Tell us your favorite joke and try to explain the joke without ruining it.

Begin your essay with the phrase: "one fine morning"; if you could relive a day of the past, which day would you choose and why? If you could un-invent one thing in the world what would it be and why? New Year Resolutions in the month of May. So, these are some prompts for creative writing tasks.

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9. Begin your essay with the phrase: "The blue pajamas were hanging at the red fort..."
10. What next?
11. Write a first person account of one day in the life of a shoe.
12. You are a scientist who has just discovered a new planet. In one year people will be coming to live on it. What will your planet be like? What will you name your planet? Write a paragraph describing this new planet.
13. Begin your essay with the phrase: "Never have I ever..."
14. If you were forced to spend the rest of your life in a library, a museum, or a zoo, which would you choose and why?
15. Begin your essay with the phrase: "I woke up to find myself transformed into a..."
16. Do you want a rewind button or a pause button for your life? Explain with reasons.

Let us move on to another slide: begin your essay with the phrase: "The blue pajamas were hanging at the red fort". What next? Write a first person account of one day in the life of a shoe. You are a scientist who has just discovered a new planet. In one year people will be coming to live on it. What will your planet be like? What will you name your planet? Write a paragraph describing this new planet. Begin your essay with the phrase: "Never have I ever".

If you were forced to spend the rest of your life in a library, a museum or a zoo, which would you would prefer or choose and why? Begin your essay with the phrase? "I woke up to find myself transform formed into a" and you can really go into something you know I transformed into maybe a rhinoceros or a giant mosquito. Do you want a rewind button or a pause button for your life? Explain with reasons.

Now let us look at the question New Year Resolutions in the month of May, what would you write? You have to think about the prompt. Remember New Year Resolution in the month of May, it is evident that when you choose such an essay to write you your writing should be laced with perky and fascinating anecdotes. Your writing should hence be funny and inquisitive rather than analytical or descriptive.

You have to write down some ideas that you feel can be developed into good writing as and when you go along. For instance your personal experience about how you can never restrict to your resolutions for an entire year. So, you decide to take them up only

midyear in May. You can also say that may be your semester or your begins or ends in May, so you can plan for New Year Resolutions as opposed to January. And perhaps you forgot to take or make any resolutions in January, so May it is.

Do not spend too much time in the actual test taking situation thinking about ideas. Remember that you usually get 30 minutes for such a task. So, you need to start writing as soon as possible so that you can spend some time to proof read and edit your assign the end. As soon as you have some clarity on what idea can flash out well and suit your writing style best you can go head and start writing your essay.

You could even bank on something totally out of the box. For instance, May sounds like the bleating of a goat, so maybe your essay could be about goats; of course that sounds a little farfetched from the essay topic. But could you try linking this to the prompt in a way that captures the imagination of the examiner.

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- Take a look at this introduction.

"Considering that my resolutions at the onset of the year had proved to be futile to say the least, I decided to take a few the soonest I realized my desperate failure, and if I may – in May. My brain had always been a bit cuckoo on taking worthwhile resolutions so I decided to blatantly link the sound of 'Maaay' to what I wanted to do in life. Whenever somebody says May, my mind whirls around a spiral of goat thoughts, considering very brainlessly how 'Maaay' sounds. I could have gone for a no-mutton policy, but that was too mainstream and I was vegetarian anyway. So I had to intelligently come up with a resolution that had something to do with goats and nothing to do with eating them."

- Such an out-of-the-box interpretation may seem like a difficult task to accomplish, but once you write the introduction, decide what you are focusing on, and get into a certain rhythm, the writing becomes easier.

Let me show you this introduction take a look at this, take a look at this line. "Considering that my resolutions at the onset of the year had proved to be futile to say the least, I decided to take a few the soonest I re realized my desperate failure, and if I may- in May my brain had always been a bit cuckoo on taking worthwhile resolutions so I decided to blatantly link the sound of 'Maaay' to what I wanted to do in life. Whenever somebody says May, my mind whirls around a spiral of goat thoughts, considering very brainlessly how 'Maaay' sounds. I could have gone for a no-mutton policy, but that was

too main stream and I was vegetarian anyway. So, I had to intelligently come up with a resolution that had something to do with goats and nothing to do with eating them.”

Now seen this is an out of box kind of interpretation. Difficult, it comes with practice. So, you can in the rest of the essay you can bring about resolutions that have something to do with goats, some of the ideas could be some think of funny causes of goats that you can address. A goodwill element of humorous imagination is necessary to write a creative essay and if that happens to be your strength your forte you should never shy away from attempting anything creative, remember that.

So, do not go off track since you have zeroed in your premise going off a tangential root will make the writing more obscure and difficult to follow.

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Essay Checklist

- ✓ Corresponds and responds to the topic argument in a creative, thoughtful, and imaginative manner.
- ✓ Writes creatively, with humour and thought-provoking critique.
- ✓ Ideas are innovative and different, written in a comprehensive and clear fashion; transitions are such that they help connect the ideas together in an organized fashion.
- ✓ Demonstrates out-of-the-box thinking and creative capacities.
- ✓ Demonstrates proficiency, fluency, and maturity in its use of sentence structure, vocabulary and idioms.
- ✓ Written elements of the language such as grammar, spelling, punctuation are adhered to strictly with excellent command.

Take a look at this slide; this is your essay check list make sure that your essay corresponds and responds to the topic argument in a creative thoughtful and imaginative manner. Make sure that it is written creatively with humor and thought-provoking critique. Ideas are innovative and different written in a comprehensive and clear fashion; transitions are such that they help connect the ideas together in an organized fashion. Your essay demonstrates out of the box thinking and creative capacities; demonstrates proficiency, fluency, and maturity in its use of sentence structure, vocabulary and idioms. Written elements of the language such as grammar, spelling, punctuations are adhered to strictly with excellent command.

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Essay Framework

- ✓ AN INTERESTING HOOK AND TOPIC IN THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
- ✓ CREATIVE INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH SETTING THE TONE FOR REST OF THE ESSAY
- ✓ BODY PARA 1 IN 3-4 SENTENCES
- ✓ BODY PARA 2 IN 3-4 SENTENCES
- ✓ CONCLUDING PARA WITH RECAP, CONCLUSION OF THE TOPIC AND EXPANSION OF POSITION
- ✓ HUMOROUS AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING FINISH

Look at this line: an interesting hook this is the essay framework. So, first one an interesting hook and topic in the introductory paragraph. You should be able to creatively introduce paragraph setting; paragraph and which can said the tone we should said the tone for the rest of the essay; body paragraph 1 2 3 each in 3 to 4 sentences, concluding paragraph with a recap, conclusion of the topic expansion of the position, and a humorous and thought-provoking finish.

Remember do not bring in humor when it is not needed. So, you cannot talk about assault on woman in cities and then bring a humorous touch. Every essay topic has its own character and tone. So, do not the suggestion or the advice that I can give you is not to tamper with the tone.

Second examples write a first person account of one day in the life of a shoe. Now what would you do the here. Firstly, you think of the prompt, this is a direct prompt as it specifies exactly what you are supposed to do you have to imagine in yourself as a shoe. You can be more vividly imaginative in this essay as it involves a detailed first person account. My life as a rupee, my life as the new 500 rupee note something like that oh my life has an old 1000 rupee notes. So, all these things are very interesting and can be perhaps they can feature in one of your exams.

So, in for essays this type you have to think of some interesting ideas you can include in detailing your life in the form of an inanimate object. When we talk about my life as a

shoe perhaps you can say talk about is it fun or is it a negative experience, is it fun being a shoe. Maybe being a shoe gives you your own perspective on how what people do on the road all the time, your inconveniences, your joys, your pleasures and if you are annoyed then what do you do, and how do you react perhaps like giving a shoe bite to the feet.

As I have already told you when it comes to such kinds of essays you do not have to spend too much time thinking about the ideas. As soon as you have some clarity in your mind you can flash out this kind of essay. One way to start this kind of an essay imagining your life as a shoe you can say that while being a shoe might seem like a job much beyond every once dignity, because you know it is a shoe after all its not a cap it is a shoe.

So, I would like to tell you something interesting about how people behave in public, and then you can talk about public behavior. Now this is a fair fairly straight forward introduction and it immediately gives the examiner a sense of what you are trying to accomplish through a creative essay. Once you have written your introduction your body paragraphs will quickly come and follow each at the one after other.

So, coming back to the main question, what does an examiner look for when you attempt a creative writing task? See they expect good language, humor, creativity, some kind of an instinct to do things differently off beat writing style, eye for detail, and of course personal experiences and insights. In a standard essay the examiner looks for facts and statistics and argument; all these we have looked at earlier right. Coherent writing style, adherence to a regular structure, logical capacity, arriving at a theory through facts, but in a creative writing you can really have lot of fun and entertainment with what you are doing. So, choose your essay type writing question well. If this is your forte, this is your a strength then please go for it.

Thank you very much and we will continue with the next topic in our next class.