

# CLA Inglese C1: Writing

## WRITING

You have been asked to contribute an article to UNITrentoMAG. Choose ONE of the topics below and write an argumentative text.

### EITHER

In the 21st Century, with the availability of various forms of media, such as TV and the Internet, the once highly important printed newspaper entered a state of significant and rapid decline in readership in many places across the world. Some commentators have suggested that printed newspapers are a thing of the past.

Discuss the pros and cons of printed newspapers and state your personal opinion. **Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

### OR

Gender quotas that ensure the same number of women as men fill public and private positions are becoming more common as a way to address social inequality.

Discuss the pros and cons of gender quotas and state your personal opinion. **Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

## Task **Weak pass**

Printed newspapers are currently **confronting** a decline, especially in their **utility** to inform people of the main events in the world. The **developing** of technologies, in the past 50 years, has **granted** an easy access to **radios and TVs**. Moreover, the exponential diffusion of the Internet **all over the countries**, has led to the possibility of reading newspapers articles directly from PCs and smartphones.

One of the biggest **problem for** online newspapers is the lack of **technology knowledge**, in particular regarding old people, that encounter serious difficulties in learning how to access **internet**. **It seems a stereotype**, but an investigation carried out by the Guardian, one of the most renowned newspaper **er** in the world, states that the 65 percent of **old** people (between 60 and 90 years old) are actually unable to read information on the Web. **Most of the times**, they are victims of frauds or tricked by the well-known "fake news".

**Obviously the rest of world population is strictly surrounded** by **technologies** and **can live exploiting them**.

The best newspapers, like the just **cited** Guardian or the New York Times, offer an excellent online service. Therefore, the most famous investigation inquiries can be found only on certain websites: **a** perfect example is Bellingcat, with the **discovery** of the assassination attempt of a **russian** politician by the Kremlin itself. An **italian** example of **online information platform** is the Youtube channel "Breaking Italy", probably one of the best in reporting international **news**.

Printed newspapers can still be a valuable option, in particular for the local-newspaper business. The opportunity of having a **material** memory of a specific event **has no price**, but one has to take into account that the aim of technology is not to replace, but to improve the service.

To conclude, I believe the overall impact of **peer pressure** on teens' lives to be negative. While it is true that 'a certain amount' of pressure can be beneficial, the possible cons are far more harmful for the **boy's** life.

## EVALUATION:

- + The text has a clear overall structure with an introduction, body paragraphs, and an attempt at a conclusion. There's a logical progression of ideas with relevant examples. The student produces a fair range of vocabulary and grammatical structures.
- The conclusion is completely off-topic, there are frequent issues with unnatural or incorrect collocations, article and countability errors, repeated grammar mistakes, and register issues.

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## Task **Clear pass**

Nowadays the uselessness of printed newspapers is still questioned even though humans are **at the entry of the era of technology** and the need not be mentioned advantages of well known available forms of media **are needless to be** (need not be mentioned) mentioned.

Although printed newspapers have always worked, the mankind is evolving **its** methods and manners of daily life which include the way in a which the latest **informations** travel around the world and within the **(a)** great variety of nations.

It is needless to say **(It goes without saying)** that the first reason causing this change is a matter that regards everyone as printed newspapers involve costs and a high price that cannot be paid **(paid)** directly by mankind but by nature itself as **(meaning? being cut down?)** national and international forests have kept growing down and disappearing in some cases as a consequence of the constant print of newspapers causing terrible disasters. **(run on sentence – coherence)**

Even though some are still not used to the new methods of reading **(the)** news and struggle to do that **(so)**, newspapers are really a thing of the past as some commentators said and as I am strongly arguing. In **fact**, the decline of newspapers and the constant rise of the various forms of media and of the internet will certainly shorten the times between news and the population reaching to **(for)** it.

Regardless **(of)** the fact that printed newspapers have been **usefull all over this time** and even recently in some ways, nowadays the world population can have access to the latest news in just a few seconds and at a very low price or even freely if it is in possession of any phone with internet connection, whereas printed newspapers includes costs and time that will make their decline strongly increase **for sure**. **(Register - too informal)**

## EVALUATION:

+ The student remains consistently focused on the decline of printed newspapers.

The vocabulary range and use of linking expressions are appropriate for the C1 level.

The essay has a clear structure, with logical progression and effective paragraphing.

- Some sentences are awkward or unclear, which occasionally affects clarity and coherence.

There are several spelling mistakes and grammatical errors (especially with articles, subject-verb agreement, and verb forms), though these remain within the range of what is acceptable at C1.

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## Task Strong pass

We live in a highly technological world, in which with just a "click" we have access to an impressive amount of informations and data from all over the world. Besides the possibility to constantly be in touch with our friends or relatives or to be able to learn about all fields of knowledge from the online world, the Internet has given us the possibility to read the news on digital platforms. The same can be said for televisions, which are always transmitting news from across the world non-stop. This is all leading to a decline in the custom of buying printed newspaper, which are now considered by some to be outdated.

In my opinion, the comfort of being able to read the news and to keep up with what is happening in your own country or even in foreign ones, from politics to theatre passing through economics, in every moment of the day, without being forced to buy a newspaper, is a huge revolution. In just a couple of seconds you have all the news you want at your disposal without wasting time to buy a printed newspaper. Furthermore, most of the online platforms are free of charge, as opposite to printed newspaper that need to be bought every day to keep yourself constantly updated. This in the long run can result in a huge expence of money that not everyone can afford. On the other hand, printed newspaper are an important part of our culture, without which we would be deprived of a part of our cultural identity. Reading the news from a printed newspaper has been a tradition for centuries. Nowadays, in the digital era, it is associated with the elderly ones. In fact, older people usually struggle with technology. Therefore, printed newspapers are an enormous resource of informations for them, in some cases the only one. Also, behind a printed newspaper there is a whole industry and people working for it. If newspapers were stopped being printed, many would lose their jobs. On balance, the rapidity of access to the news through online newspapers and its unexistent or low cost is unequivocally useful and it has revolutionated our lifestyle. However this does not imply that printed newspaper belong to another era because they are still necessary and used by people and, furthermore, the business of printed newspaper offers to many people the possibility to work.

## EVALUATION:

+ The student has answered the question fully, and the text covers appropriate issues connected with the topic. The text is neatly developed, coherent, fairly accurate, easy to follow, with good linking devices and appropriate paragraphing. The register is consistent and appropriate to the task.

- A few spelling errors, agreement issues, word order, plurals, punctuation, and redundant structures. However, these errors are minor and do not impede the comprehension of the task.

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## Task **Weak pass**

Nowadays, video games are **vide** spread around the world. **Lot** of people **likes** to play and **someone** is also building a career **on** gaming, but unfortunately **more** and more young people are developing an addiction to video games that can lead to severe consequences.

**Actually**, video games **can lead also** to some positive **learnings** and skills. **Firs** of all, gaming **help** in developing a good **eye-hand** coordination that can be useful in some working areas.

**Following**, gaming is an activity that **help** **improving** problem solving, **strategy** skills and also team **working**. Moreover, **some** video games can become a way to properly learn something, always depending on the type of game. On the other hand, **there** are numerous negative aspects **about** gaming. Video games are often violent and sexist and perpetuates a wrong idea of reality, **this** can lead to a **misperception** of the world **around** us and to some **behaviour** **difficulties** in society.

Particularly for young children, spending **lot** of time gaming **damages** **the** brain and ~~the~~ physical health. Unfortunately, **a** **vide** number of young children **is developing** an addiction to video games that leads to less socialisation, **less** fewer physical activities and a wrong perception of reality.

From my perspective, the negative consequences are **way** significantly more important and everyone should worry about them. Personally, **i'm** against video games about war that are often violent **and** cruel, because children tend to learn and behave just like the characters **behaves in** the video game, **and** usually they learn violence and sexism through **out** most video games.

## EVALUATION:

+ The student has clearly organized their argument: pros, cons, and a personal stance.

The message is coherent and pertinent.

They also use some appropriate academic vocabulary and structures.

- They need to improve their spelling accuracy, grammar consistency, vocabulary precision, formality and register, linking and flow, punctuation and clarity.

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## Task **Clear pass**

Video games have been introduced as an alternative to **the old image of fun**. There has been a constant discussion regarding the possible effects that video games could have on their players, **some (Comma splice)** believe that they might contribute to the empowerment of particular skills, while others view them as harmful objects which will lead our youth to develop violent and sexist **minds**.

From the point of view of the possible pros of video games, the first factor which comes to mind is that they simply represent a modern way of dealing with boredom, and therefore a nice way to relax and turn off reality for a while. Furthermore, it is believed by some that, especially given the time we are living in, video games helped people deal with the isolation which **we were imposed (was imposed on us)**. As a matter of fact, the possibility to **even game** with some friends using **the** online options, **represented a nice** way to keep in touch with people outside one's household.

However, on the other hand **it is pretty obvious (that)** the **the** features in many main characters in video games are highly sexist and disrespectful.

Furthermore, games are **oftentimes** violent and might teach younger players to react in violent and inconsiderate ways.

In my opinion, even though video games are a nice way to escape reality, they represent **in fact** a dangerous means for society (**wrong word here**). Young people especially learn from older ones offensive words and expressions, and are taught to view women as sexual objects. I therefore believe that there should be a reform in the way video games are **stuctured** and in they way they **might** influence people.

## EVALUATION:

+ The student stays on topic and presents both pros and cons of video games, addressing different viewpoints.

The text shows clear paragraphing and logical progression from introduction to argument to conclusion.

Good range of vocabulary and register which is appropriate for C1-level writing.

- The text contains several small grammar issues such as comma splices, article misuse, awkward passive voice, and verb agreement, a few spelling errors and imprecise or too informal tone.

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## Task Strong pass

Video Games are often discussed in the media as something similar a "plague" spread among teenagers. Nowadays we are used to hear (hearing) the name of one of many violent videogames whenever a tragic event has a young kid linked to it and this inevitably causes society to associate this kind of enterateinment with episodes of violence. But what is true about this association that media wants us to make?

While it is true that violent videogames make young people discover a whole world of bloody stories and cruel (cruel?) events, parents should recognise that this can, and will inevitably, happen even when those children hear the daily news. It is undeniable that video games are often the first contact that kids make with violence, and parents can understandably be shocked by seeing their children having fun with such horrible images. Each parent has the mind-set of keeping their sons or daughters away from bloody - or just "immoral" - scenes, and that makes this kind of reactions to violent video games reasonable. But we can certainly say that a big (the main) reason why parents seem to "hate" this kind of enterateinment is because they never knew it when they were young. This can be confirmed by the fact that parents show to prefer that their kids happen to see their first violent images in different ways, for instance through the news. But why do parents prefer the cruel images shown in the news? That is because it is hard to accept that children may have fun with things that seem horrible. But that is just a misunderstanding of how children play. All children, in all ages, have fun by representing something that can be considered cruel or immoral. For instance, those parents afraid of violence in video games probably played with sticks as "weapons", representing a battle with their friends.

Playing with violent things is a way for children to recognise and understand those things in the real world and we should not fear them as an enterateinment.

Moreover, recent researches showed that violence is more likely to happen where violence itself is treated by society like something normal. This should suggest all parents around the world that, before fearing the effects of games on their kids, they should spend time and other resources on the education of their children.

## EVALUATION:

+ The student fully addresses the task exploring both public perception and the deeper psychological role of video games. The text is clearly organized, with consistent paragraphing and logical progression.

The writer expresses a personal point of view effectively and persuasively. There are successful attempts at complex ideas and ambitious vocabulary.

- Some spelling errors and non-idiomatic phrases reduce clarity and precision. The use of informal expressions weakens the formal register expected at C1 level.

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### **EITHER**

Some people believe the National Health Service should always prioritize physical healthcare over mental healthcare when allocating funding.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of prioritizing physical healthcare over mental healthcare when allocating funding and state your personal opinion. **Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

### **OR**

Some people believe that soft drugs should be legal for recreational purposes.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of legalizing soft drugs for recreational purposes and state your personal opinion.

**Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

## Task **Weak pass**

Nowadays, healthcare is one of the most discussed **aspect** in our society. However, a widespread affirmation is that National Health Service should focus more on physical problems than mental ones. Is this a correct choice?

**Well**, it is difficult to answer, **unquestionably** there are different **point** of view on this issue.

Some pros of **emphasize** physical healthcare are for example: the research on fighting rare **disease**, the **wideness** of life **expectation**, the potential to save human **being** from catastrophes, to name just a few. It is clear that physical healthcare needs more resources to develop, due to the cost of research but also to the cost of all the medical centres and hospitals that a government has to fund.

On the other hand, **focus** on mental wellness is **fundamental**.

According to this claim, prioritize physical healthcare could bring about many disadvantages.

One of them is ignoring the influence of our mind **in** our body. In fact, it comes not as a surprise that sometimes people with mental **disease** consequently develop physical problems. Human's mind **play** a key role in every field of **his** life. Moreover, the relevance of **mind aspects** is recently increased **with** social media. The interconnection **among** people and their need to show their days makes them more and more **unsatisfied of themselves**, in comparison to other.

As far as I am concerned physical and mental **sphere** are closely linked to each other. National Health Service should focus on both. Although, I comprehend the **point of who** thinks that physical healthcare should be prioritized **in order to the amount of benefit it has**.

## **EVALUATION:**

+ The task is completed with a generally satisfactory effect on the reader, though occasional lapses in accuracy and register slightly reduce overall impact.

The student presents a clear personal stance and reflects on both perspectives.

The text has a coherent structure with an introduction, argument development, and conclusion.

The vocabulary range is sufficient, and the use of grammatical structures shows C1-level ambition.

- The text exhibits grammar issues, especially with article use, word forms, and spelling errors.

In terms of vocabulary control, there is occasional misuse of expressions that reduces clarity.

The presence of informal or awkward phrasing slightly weakens the formal register expected at C1 level. The punctuation is generally appropriate.

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Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of prioritizing physical healthcare over mental healthcare when allocating funding and state your personal opinion. **Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

### **OR**

Some people believe that soft drugs should be legal for recreational purposes.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of legalizing soft drugs for recreational purposes and state your personal opinion.

**Write your article in approximately 250 words.**

## Task **Clear pass**

Whether Physical health should be prioritized over Mental health is a largely debated argument, gaining more and more attention in today's society, where mental illnesses represent **a world-spread problematic**.

It is well known that one of the first and essential building blocks of a society **are** the health care services; without them physical illnesses would rapidly spread, and people's fear with it, leading to uncontrolled and chaotic situations. The Covid pandemic well describes the latter concept and supports the belief of many who state the importance of physical health over the mental health.

Moreover this position is strengthened by the obvious consequences the lack of physical health had on the **psychological one**.

On the other hand, **however**, it is also true that in **the** rapidly evolving environment the society is developing into, mental health situations are a growing and important matter, mainly associated with younger people.

That is the reason why, as many psychologists state and **educator** and parents echo, more funding should be allocated to help the new generations to face this plague. Additionally, if mental health does not receive **the right amount** of attention, it does not make sense to invest in physical health: **being by now mental health a delicate problem**, we should immediately tackle it before having to face its still unknown and probably dangerous consequences.

In conclusion, funding distribution between physical and mental healthcare should be carefully leveraged, in my opinion, taking into account the new world **settings**, where the high security standards are lowering the need of medical assistance and the new **life styles** are **strengthening** people's insecurities and **weakening** their beliefs, reflecting this problem on their mental health.

## **EVALUATION:**

The student successfully addresses the task, clearly discussing the topic of physical versus mental health. Both sides of the argument are considered, and a personal stance is effectively expressed. The conclusion is well-connected to the development of ideas throughout the essay.

The structure is logical and coherent, with each paragraph focusing on a distinct aspect of the discussion. Cohesive devices are used appropriately to guide the reader through the argument.

The vocabulary range is ambitious and varied, demonstrating an effort to use formal and precise language. While punctuation is generally correct, it is not always used to full effect. Spelling errors are present but do not significantly affect readability or clarity.

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## Task **Strong pass**

Prioritizing physical health over mental health is a discussion that, even after years of debating, continues to raise questions, to bring up new ethical considerations. Particularly nowadays, thanks to the increasing awareness in the mental health field, it is a debate that is rapidly evolving.

It is true that the physical healthcare system is a very 'expensive' field and that people are more **prone** to exploit its service when in need of some stitches, **or any sort of physical evidence**.

On the other hand, when we refer to mental healthcare, we are talking about people's wellbeing and happiness. I am not talking about having a little chat with a therapist, but I am referring to important aspects of life that should be protected: postpartum depression, post traumatic disorders, depression when fighting with cancer.

In a country where these sort of things are not taken in consideration seriously, particularly from the National Health Service, in my opinion there is still a great stigma that should be overcome through education and sensitization.

We are aware that no more than 60 years ago **still existed asylums** for 'crazy people', where people with mental conditions (such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorders) had to live in conditions that we couldn't even imagine. Since those days, things have changed immensely, but we can see how **still there is** a great discrimination in recognizing the importance of mental health.

This does not mean that the mental healthcare system is better or more important than the physical one, but that the two are the two faces of the same coin, and they need to have the same recognition.

## **EVALUATION:**

The task is fully addressed, with a clear point of view and a well-organized structure. The student raises relevant and persuasive arguments, and each paragraph focuses on a central idea that is developed effectively. The language is mostly accurate and ambitious, with a consistent and appropriate register. Grammatical structures are used flexibly and accurately, and while there are occasional errors, they are minor and do not distract the reader. Punctuation is well-controlled and contributes to the overall clarity of the text.