

2

Comparing

Advertising and marketing

UNIT AIMS

Skill: comparing

Vocabulary: work topic vocabulary

Exam practice: *Advanced Paper 2 Part 2*

Improve your writing skills: comparing

What is comparing?

Comparing involves describing and/or discussing the similarities and differences between two or more things. One of the key skills when comparing is to be able to recognise and focus on the most important and relevant similarities/differences, and ignore the less relevant ones.

1 The skill of comparing

- A involves focusing more on similarities than on differences.
- B is essentially the opposite of the skill of contrasting.
- C could also be referred to as 'comparing and contrasting'.

Why is comparing important?

Comparing is a central element of evaluation. When you're evaluating two or more things to determine which is the most suitable, the best, etc, you have to compare them. It is also a useful technique when describing something unfamiliar. By comparing the unfamiliar with something more familiar, you help your readers understand the unfamiliar object, situation, etc more clearly.

2 Which statement involves description rather than evaluation?

- A The XYG30 is less effective for workplace communication.
- B The XYG30 looks not dissimilar to an everyday smartphone.
- C The XYG30 is certainly more than capable of winning the speed test.

How do you compare?

Ways to express comparisons in English include using comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, using words and phrases used for comparing, such as A key difference between them is, One aspect they all have in common is, etc, using words and phrases for linking similar ideas, such as both, equally, similarly, etc, and using words and phrases for linking contrasting ideas, such as whereas, in contrast, etc.

3 Which word or phrase would we probably **not** use for comparing?

- A seem like
- B likewise
- C unlike

How is comparing important in *Advanced*?

Comparing is important in both parts of Advanced Paper 2. In the essay in Part 1, you may want to explain an idea by comparing it with something more familiar. You may also want to describe some ideas as more/less important/relevant/etc than other ideas. Comparing is also important in Part 2. In all the text types you might write in this part, you need to be able to evaluate by talking about the relative sizes, qualities, etc of two or more things, and compare unfamiliar ideas to familiar ideas.

4 In *Advanced Paper 2*, comparing is important in Part 1

- A but not particularly relevant to Part 2.
- B and all Part 2 text types.
- C and some Part 2 text types.

Get started

Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- What are some effects of seeing too many adverts in our daily lives?
- Is advertising beneficial? Why? / Why not?
- What do you imagine working in advertising is like? Tick the descriptions you agree with.

<input type="checkbox"/> fast-paced	<input type="checkbox"/> competitive
<input type="checkbox"/> laid-back	<input type="checkbox"/> sedentary
<input type="checkbox"/> imaginative	<input type="checkbox"/> rewarding



Develop your vocabulary

1 Match to make sentences.

- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| 1 The human resources manager was headhunting | _____ | a ahead and hopefully things will fall into place. |
| 2 Even though we're not sure of the plan, let's press | _____ | b the ropes like a professional. |
| 3 If you dress professionally for work, you'll project | _____ | c to find qualified staff members. |
| 4 The ad was designed to target | _____ | d a young, computer-savvy audience. |
| 5 Although Evan only started two weeks ago, he's already learned | _____ | e an image of success. |

2 Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

- 1 Darren, can you please show the **clients** / **consumers** in? I'd like to present the advertising campaign we developed for them.
- 2 We'd like the adverts to feature **prominently** / **extremely** round town, so they should appear on buses, in bus stops, in main squares and on major traffic routes.
- 3 The **subtitle** / **caption** at the bottom of the photo says the company was established in 1936.
- 4 The bank has a display of **catalogues** / **pamphlets** describing the range of services it offers.
- 5 The number of **personnel** / **labour** working in the marketing department exceeds 100.

3 Write a word or phrase from the box in each gap.

campaigns ■ direct mail ■ hoardings ■ placement ■ slogans

It is clear that advertising has spread to every walk of daily life, and it seems that no public surface is off limits for advert (1) _____ . You can see adverts at bus stops, on the sides of buses, high above you on giant (2) _____ , and even on the pavement. Sometime we love advertising, such as when we read catchy (3) _____ that soon find their way into our daily language. Other types of

advertising, such as (4) _____ , which is delivered through the letterbox, often ends up in the bin seconds after it arrives. Even if a lot of advertisements are ignored, it must be worth the company's expense to create them. The truth is that the reason companies spend so much money on advertising (5) _____ is that it usually pays off.

Develop your writing skills: comparing

1 Underline comparison words and phrases in these sentences.

- 1 Advertising is one of the most competitive fields in the world today.
- 2 The employees of an advertising firm strive to create campaigns that are more creative and attractive than other firms.
- 3 A campaign with a good slogan and an effective plan at targeting the right audience is more likely to be a success than one that lacks even just one of those aspects.
- 4 A key difference between the two is the creativity involved in developing an ad campaign.
- 5 Advertising professionals include graphic designers and copywriters who are equally involved in the ad creation, but have different tasks.
- 6 A graphic designer works on the image of the advert, whereas the copywriter develops slogans and captions.

2 Read the exam task and answer the questions.

You see the following notice at the language school where you study English.

The school is looking to advertise itself as a learning centre for business English through its website. The director invites you to send in a proposal outlining sections that include learning activities and career advice and explaining how these activities help promote the school.

- 1 What is the exam task asking you to write?

- 2 Why is the school asking students to come up with ideas for its website?

- 3 Who will you address the text to?

- 4 How many sections will you talk about?

- 5 Besides outlining sections, what else will you do in your text?

3 Look at the exam task in exercise 2 again and write sentences to compare the following suggestions, using the words from the box. There is an example given.

as helpful as ■ less fun ■ less suitable ■ less useful ■ more appropriate ■ more useful

Example:

- 1 games for learning English / tips for job interviews
The games for learning English section might be less useful for business English students than the tips for job interviews section.
- 2 exam practice / games for learning English

- 3 tips for job interviews / job listings

- 4 games for learning English / business English vocabulary learning

- 5 exam practice / business English vocabulary learning

- 6 job listings / games for learning English

4 Read the exam task and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

Your advertising company is looking to become a multinational business and you have attended a meeting on the subject. You have been asked to write a report discussing the details of the meeting.

Location 

- North America: easy to set up, expensive
- Latin America: cost-effective, language barrier

Staff 

- some in-house staff could relocate
- better to hire new staff

Conclusion

- Latin America more attractive option
- best to press ahead within the month

- 1 The topic of the exam task involves the expansion of a company.
- 2 The notes in the exam task belong to your manager.
- 3 The notes contain at least three instances of comparison words.
- 4 Your report is likely to contain a comparison of location choices.
- 5 The exam task is specifically asking you to compare location and staffing choices.
- 6 Your report will NOT include your recommendations.

5 Look at the exam task in exercise 4 again and tick which of the following are the most appropriate comparisons for the report.

- 1 Setting up the new location in North America is less attractive due to the cost involved.
- 2 Latin America is cost-effective and the language barrier would be a greater challenge to face than in North America.
- 3 It is most important that we convince our in-house staff of the attractive option of relocating to the new business.
- 4 Hiring new staff means we will not have to concern ourselves with relocating existing staff, who may be considerably less likely to move to a foreign country.
- 5 The ease of setting up a location in North America makes it the most attractive option.
- 6 The best way forward is to begin setting up the new business as soon as we can.

6 Read the text and answer the questions.

Foreign advertisements can be very clever, often more so than those in my native USA. One of my favourites is a public service announcement in Norway about fire safety.

In this ad, a couple is getting ready to go to bed, and the woman tells the man to unplug the kettle because even though the risk is small, there is a chance of fire. The man scoffs, but the woman says, 'What could possibly go wrong by unplugging the kettle?' The next morning, the man gets ready for work, takes a sip of cold watery tea, spits it out on his work clothes, changes his shirt, is then late for work, misses his bus and one thing leads to another. He ends up in an Amazonian rainforest dressed like a tribal person.

The ad ends by saying the chances of this happening are one-millionth of one per cent, but the chances of fires due to electrical causes are 40%. Compare this to a typical fire safety ad in the States, and you'll find that it's much more memorable. The Norwegian ad is doing a better job of preventing fires, wouldn't you agree?

- 1 What is being compared in this text?
- 2 What words are used to make comparisons?
- 3 Why does the writer familiarise us with the advert's storyline?
- 4 What is being compared in the advert?
- 5 Which ad does the writer prefer? Why?
- 6 What does the writer conclude about the fire safety advert from Norway?

7 Look at the information below. Complete the text using words from the box and your own words where necessary.

Aid laundry detergent – advertising campaign and sales results:	
Livingston:	Bradvale:
Campaign favoured most by the 45–54 age bracket	Campaign favoured most by the 25–34 age bracket
Floral scent preferred more than the unscented version	Floral scent and unscented brands sold equally well
Large economy-sized boxes sold more in comparison to smaller boxes	Smaller boxes far outsold large economy-sized boxes

higher ■ perform ■ preferred ■ responsive ■ whereas

To: Amy Partridge **From:** Alex Fisher

Subject: Aid campaign **Date:** 24th November

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to detail the company's recent advertising campaign for Aid laundry detergent. Included are results of the campaign in the cities of Livingston and Bradvale.

Age groups

In Livingston, the campaign seemed to work best in the 45–54 age bracket, (1) _____ in Bradvale, the campaign was more successful with the 25–34 age bracket. Thus, in regard to the advertisements, younger people in Bradvale were (2) _____ in Livingston.

Scent

As far as scents are concerned, the floral scent seemed to (3) _____ than the unscented version among consumers in Livingston. However, in Bradvale, consumers didn't show a preference to either one. It would seem that consumers in Livingston (4) _____ than the Bradvale consumers.

Boxes

Regarding product size, sales of large economy-sized boxes (5) _____ in Livingston than in Bradvale. On the other hand, smaller boxes greatly outsold the economy-sized ones in Bradvale.

Conclusion

These results are quite surprising, as we were expecting the same age groups in both areas to be most responsive to the campaign. I suggest we run the campaign locally in two or three other cities before finalising the national campaign.

Exam focus:

comparing in *Advanced*

1 Look at the first exam task on page 21 and complete the sentences.

- 1 This exam task is asking you to write a(n) _____ .
- 2 The campaign will focus on advertising Engelstown as a(n) _____ .
- 3 Your proposal will be written to the _____ of Engelstown.
- 4 In your proposal, you will suggest ideas for _____ to be used in the campaign.
- 5 In the second part of your proposal, you will identify the _____ of the campaign.
- 6 Additionally, you will suggest where the _____ of the adverts will be.

2 Look at the first exam task on page 21 again and answer the questions.

- 1 What will be compared in this exam task?
- 2 What wording is used in the exam task to show that comparing will be involved?
- 3 Why is comparing important in this exam task?
- 4 What kind of title would you give your text?
- 5 What could your headings be for this text?

3 Tick the phrases that would be useful for the first exam task.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 quaint, rural character | ___ | 5 travel websites | ___ |
| 2 large hoardings | ___ | 6 industrial centre | ___ |
| 3 business travellers | ___ | 7 historical buildings | ___ |
| 4 city dwellers | ___ | 8 close proximity to nature | ___ |

4 Write sentences using these phrases to make your ideas the more appealing choice.

- 1 I feel confident / our proposal

- 2 The ideas I propose / important aspects

- 3 These suggestions / the best campaign

- 4 People / certain to visit Engelstown

- 5 Engelstown / reasons to visit

- 6 Best advert placement / people book online

Skills tip

In *Advanced* Paper 2 Part 2, could you

a include headings for proposals and reports?

Yes / No

b use bullet points for ideas in reviews?

Yes / No

*Exam practice:***Advanced Paper 2 Part 2****Part 2**

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **1–3** in this part.

Write your answer in **220–260** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 You see the following notice in a school where you are studying English.

The national tourism board has given our town, Engeltown, a grant to spend money on an advertising campaign that showcases our town's tourist attractions. The town council invites you to send a proposal outlining ideas to include in the campaign's slogans **and** suggestions for the most appropriate target audience and placement of the adverts. A decision can then be made about how the money should be spent.

Write your **proposal**.

- 2 You recently attended a job fair as the human resources representative of an advertising company. Here are your notes on some of the candidates interested in working at your company.

Qualifications

- mostly bachelor's degrees, few master's degrees
- inexperienced, eager to learn

Personality

- many project good image
- good communicators, good-natured

Overall

- promising candidates
- CVs of most qualified attached

Skills tip

When writing proposals and reports in *Advanced Paper 2 Part 2*, it is important to clearly state your objective in the first paragraph. Begin by stating your purpose, aim, objective or goal and then go on to say briefly how you will achieve that, either by comparing, suggesting, describing or examining information. The rubric will play a large part in supplying the specific information that will appear in your first paragraph, so be sure to follow it closely and include all the details.

Your manager has asked you to write a report summarising the job candidates you met and recommending whether they would make suitable employees.

Write your **report**.

- 3 You see the announcement below in a monthly magazine called *Ad World*.

Best and worst adverts

Adverts sometimes make us laugh, and sometimes they annoy us beyond belief. We would like to publish our readers' favourite and least favourite adverts, whether they are on television, in print, online or on hoardings. Send in a review which describes the best advert **and** worst advert you have seen and give reasons for these choices.

Write your **review**.