Unit 9 · Comparison and Contrast

STUDY NOTES

WHAT THE BLE ASKS

- **CDC's grid tests skills, not units:** Reading 25 · Writing 20 · Grammar 5
- **Reading 1–2 (seen texts, 5 marks each):** *The Leap between High School and College*; *Smartphones in our Life*
  - the points of each paragraph
  - word meanings
  - reasons
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **short essay** or a **chart**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a **description** from notes or of a chart
  - free writing, 10 marks: a **short essay**
- **Grammar (5 marks):** comparatives and superlatives in the blanks: *the (high, higher, highest) peak*

Reading I: The Leap between High School and College

- **Kind: compare-and-contrast essay**, built **point by point**: each paragraph one point, both sides in it
- college here = **after Grade 12** (American use)
- **P1:** a **leap**, a **transition**; students' **assumption** that college is like school is wrong; college
  - **costs more**
  - **more freedom**
  - **harder study**
- **P2, cost:**
  - **tuition**
  - a **residence** or rented room
  - books for each course
- school students live at home
- **P3, workload:** more **assignments**, harder, take hours; final grade depends on each one
- **P4, activities:** college teams, athletic **facilities** few high schools **boast**; school clubs smaller, fewer students; college a more social place
- **P5:**
  - more **costly**
  - more challenging
  - more socially **stimulating**
- **take these differences into account**, be **adequately** prepared
- **signposts:**
  - *First, Second, Third*
  - *In addition, also, furthermore*
  - ***In contrast*** (all three body paragraphs)
  - *Overall*

Reading II: Smartphones in our Life

- **Kind:** short **essay**, friendly voice (*we, us*, questions); **now and before**; the writer's own view
- **P1:** without a phone: **scared**, lost; a **vital** part of life
- **P2:** one **device**:
  - internet
  - games
  - news
  - email
  - videos
  - messages
  - music
  - photos
  - calls
- not all possible 25 years ago; life changed **drastically**
- **P3: retrieve** information from the **web** anytime; keep in touch
- **P4: impact**: we forget what we can find again; we **tend** to think how to look it up; getting lazier
- **P5:** from the alarm to bed; **constantly** connected; **convenient** but tiring
- **P6:** fewer
  - landlines
  - **digital** cameras
  - desktop computers
- **P7:** a personal **assistant** that helps us **master** daily life; can't imagine life without it

Key words

leap: a big jump; a big, sudden change.
transition: change from one stage to another.
assumption: accepted as true without proof.
residence: where someone lives.
expense: the money something costs you.
assignment: a task in a course of study.
challenging: hard in a way that tests you.
boast: have something to be proud of (also: talk too proudly).
stimulating: exciting; arousing interest.
take into account: think about when deciding.
adequately: enough.
vital: very important.
surf: look around on the internet.
drastically: in a very big, extreme way.
retrieve: get back.
tend to: usually do.
constantly: all the time.
convenient: useful and easy.

master: manage well.

Grammar: comparing with adjectives

- **positive:** *tall*; **comparative** + *than*: *taller than Kushal*; **superlative** with *the*: *the tallest in the class*

Word	Do	Example
one syllable	**-er, -est**	*tall, taller, tallest*
ends in -e	**-r, -st**	*nice, nicer, nicest*
one vowel + one consonant	**double**	*hot, hotter, hottest* (not *w*: *newer*)
two syllables, -y	**y → i**	*easy, easier, easiest*
two or more (the rest)	**more, most**	*more useful, most useful*

- either way: *quieter / more quiet, simpler / more simple*
- *much, far, a lot* + comparative (not *very*): *much taller*
- *getting* + comparative: *The days are getting shorter.*
- superlative + *ever*: *the nicest tea I have ever tasted*
- **equal:** *as tall as* (plain word in the middle)
- **lower:** *not as tall as*: *Pema is not as tall as her father.* = *Her father is taller than Pema.*
- answer in the question's pattern: *No, a bicycle isn't as expensive as a motorcycle.*

Grammar: comparing with adverbs

- **adverb:** says how, when, where, how much; often adjective + *-ly*
- one syllable: **-er, -est**: *sooner, faster*
- ending in -ly: **more, most**: *more politely*
- *the* often left out: *Who sang loudest?*
- *fast*: adjective and adverb, no *fastly*
- *works hard* (a lot) / *hardly works* (almost not)
- *came late* (after time) / *lately* (recently)

Irregular

Word	Comparative	Superlative
good, well	better	best
bad, badly	worse	worst
far	farther, further	farthest, furthest
little	less	least
many, much	more	most

- **elder, eldest:** only family: *my elder sister*
- **latest** (newest) / **last** (final)
- **nearest** (distance) / **next** (the one after)
- *further* can mean "more": *further information*
- **less** + uncountable; **fewer** + countable: *less water, fewer students*

Writing: comparing two villages

- notes → **one** description, **point by point**:
  - where
  - how big
  - who lives there
  - what visitors come for
- **same:**
  - *both*
  - *similarly*
  - *also*
  - *like*
- **different:**
  - *whereas*
  - *on the other hand*
  - *while*
  - *in contrast*
  - *but*
- **more:** a comparative

Writing: a compare-and-contrast essay

- **Title:** what is compared: *Life Before and After the Internet*
- **Introduction:** what changed; name two or three points
- **Point 1:** before, then after: *First, … In the past, … Today, …*
- **Point 2:** *Second, … In contrast, …*
- **Point 3:** *Third, … whereas …*
- **Conclusion:** points in one sentence; your view: *Overall, … In my view, …*
- a real example of each; **both sides** of each point; be fair

College words: stress

- say:
  - **KAM**-pus
  - uh-**KAD**-uh-mee
  - **FAK**-ul-tee
  - uh-**LUM**-nye
  - **LEK**-chuhr
  - suh-**MES**-tuhr
  - **LY**-bruh-ree (two *r*s)
  - graj-oo-**AY**-shun
  - **SKOL**-uhr-ship
  - **DOR**-muh-tree
  - **FRESH**-mun
  - too-**ISH**-un
- **alumni:** former students (Latin plural; *alumnus, alumna*)
- **tuition:** in this essay, the fee for being taught

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ more taller / most easiest
✓ **taller** / **easiest**

✗ the most beautifullest
✓ the **most beautiful**

✗ taller then me
✓ taller **than** me

✗ very taller
✓ **much** taller

✗ Kushal is tallest boy.
✓ Kushal is **the** tallest boy.

✗ as taller as
✓ as **tall** as

✗ It runs fastly.
✓ It runs **fast**.

✗ less students
✓ **fewer** students