Analytical Exposition – Comparative Essay

Purpose: To analyse and compare two (or more) topics and to persuade the reader that the writer’s thesis/point of view is correct by developing an argument to support it.

Focus: Varies, e.g. two viewpoints or historical issues, pieces of artwork or music.

Structure:
- **Introduction to the topic** – comparative general statement giving necessary background to the topic including definitions.
- **Problem** – briefly outline both sides – which is better? Give your point of view.
- **Data/Evidence** – to support your arguments - may be dealt with in two ways:
  - Evidence
  - Comparison
  - Evidence
  - Summary of comparison
  OR
  - Argument/Supporting evidence
  - Argument/Supporting evidence
  - Comparison

- **Conclusion** – restates the original point of view. May give minor additional supporting evidence – perhaps a final comment or historical effect.

Organisation:
Decide on the main elements to be compared.
Determine the characteristics of each element, examples and effects of each.
Decide which are the most relevant points and the order in which you will present them.
Write a plan, including your introduction, elements, characteristics, evidence, points of comparison and conclusion.

Look for characteristics that resemble each other. Emphasise their similarities and difference. Comparative essays demand an opinion of you!

Language:
Describe difference/contrast using:
whereas; while
differs from/different
on the other hand
not the same as
in contrast
unlike
more than; less than; the most
on the other hand
however; nevertheless
not as...as
compared with
yet; although; despite
is dissimilar to
on the contrary

Describe similarities/sameness using:
similarly/are similar in that
also
neither...nor
in the same way
resemble
have in common
just as...so
both...and
share
are alike; like
have common characteristics
the same amount as

Words which tie examples and results to statements:
For example
As exemplified by
Such as
Consequently
for instance
these include
as a result
through
including
accordingly
therefore
an outcome of