

Revision Task 5: Language Paper 2 Question 5: Writing to Present a Viewpoint

ZEALOTRY: fanatical and uncompromising pursuit of religious, political, or other ideals; fanaticism.

ZEALOT: a person who has very strong opinions about something, and tries to make other people have them too.

Where 'zealotry' carries negative connotations, it is possible to be zealous in pursuit of a cause and for this to be a positive thing. The organisation Amnesty International UK describes itself as follows:



We are Amnesty International UK. We work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

As a global movement of over seven million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

We investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilise the public, and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world. We received the Nobel Peace Prize for our life-saving work.

Read the letter on Page 2 of this document, which is taken from a model produced for Amnesty International. You can find the original here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/black-lives-matter-write-your-mp>. Complete the following activities:

1. Summarise the **purpose** of this text, selecting from the following options: inform, persuade, argue.
2. List at least three features that help to indicate the **form** of this text (the fact that it is a letter).
3. Highlight and name as many examples as you can find of the effective use of linguistic/rhetorical devices.
4. Select **two** of these examples that you think would have a particularly strong impact on their intended audience. Quote from the text to demonstrate your choices, and for each one, write a short paragraph to explain *why* you think it would be particularly effective.

Extension: Identify at least one thing about the letter that could be improved, and explain your reasoning.

REMEMBER: In Language Paper 2 Question 5 you can also be asked to write one of the following:

- Speech <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=EMmAriRCI20>
- Article <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60NklmwVrvc>
- Leaflet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0KRBPBEjI4>
- Essay <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0TREyAkAN8>

If you are concerned about revising any of these, please watch the Mr Bruff Video links attached and make appropriate notes.

123 Mystreet
Mytown
Essex

Thursday 13th May 2021

Dear Sir David,

I hope this email finds you well in our troubled times. I, like many others, have watched in abject horror the violence being used against peaceful protesters in the USA. I have watched as peaceful protesters exclaiming Black Lives Matter (BLM) have been met with undue force, tear gas and batons from the very people who pledged to protect and serve. I am also concerned about the possibility of protests in the UK being met with undue force by police.

If it were not enough that black and brown people have to contend with the health inequalities and disparities that have surfaced due to Covid-19, we are seeing the specific continuation of excessive force by police against black people. In the wake of the murders of Ahmaud Abernathy, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, all at the hands of former or current law enforcement officers, people have taken to the streets (in the midst of the pandemic) to express their rage. In the context of the international outcry about cases such as these, I am flabbergasted at reports that the UK could be sending tear gas, riot shields and rubber bullets to the USA to support the suppression of those exercising their democratic right to peaceful protest.

In the UK, we are facing our own problems. BAME organisations and those working in the criminal justice sector warned that new police powers provided under coronavirus legislation would detrimentally impact BAME communities. Before Covid-19, black people in England and Wales were 40 times more likely to be stopped and searched. It was no surprise then when a Guardian report recently revealed that BAME people in England were 54% more likely to be fined under the new coronavirus rules than white people. In England, BAME people account for 15.5% of the population and yet they received 22% of the coronavirus lockdown fines.

It has long been known that black people in the UK also experience death disproportionately during or following police contact, especially within police custody and detention. Black people are also disproportionately subjected to taser use.

In the coming days, protesters will take to the streets in the UK to stand in solidarity for the BLM protests in the USA, and to support the BLM movements and issues in the UK. As my MP, I call on you to stand with the protestors in the US, the UK, and globally and work to eradicate the same structural racial injustices that plague the United Kingdom today.

I have three specific asks:

1. Please write to the Prime Minister and ask him to denounce the militarisation of protests in the USA;
2. Please write to the Home Secretary Priti Patel and ask her to make assurances that UK protesters will not be met with excessive use of force;
3. Call on the government to immediately suspend licences for tear gas, riot shields and rubber bullets to the USA.

Additionally, please personally commit to proactively increasing your understanding of these issues and, in your position as Member of Parliament, commit to take a stand against structural racism whenever you encounter it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A. Constituent