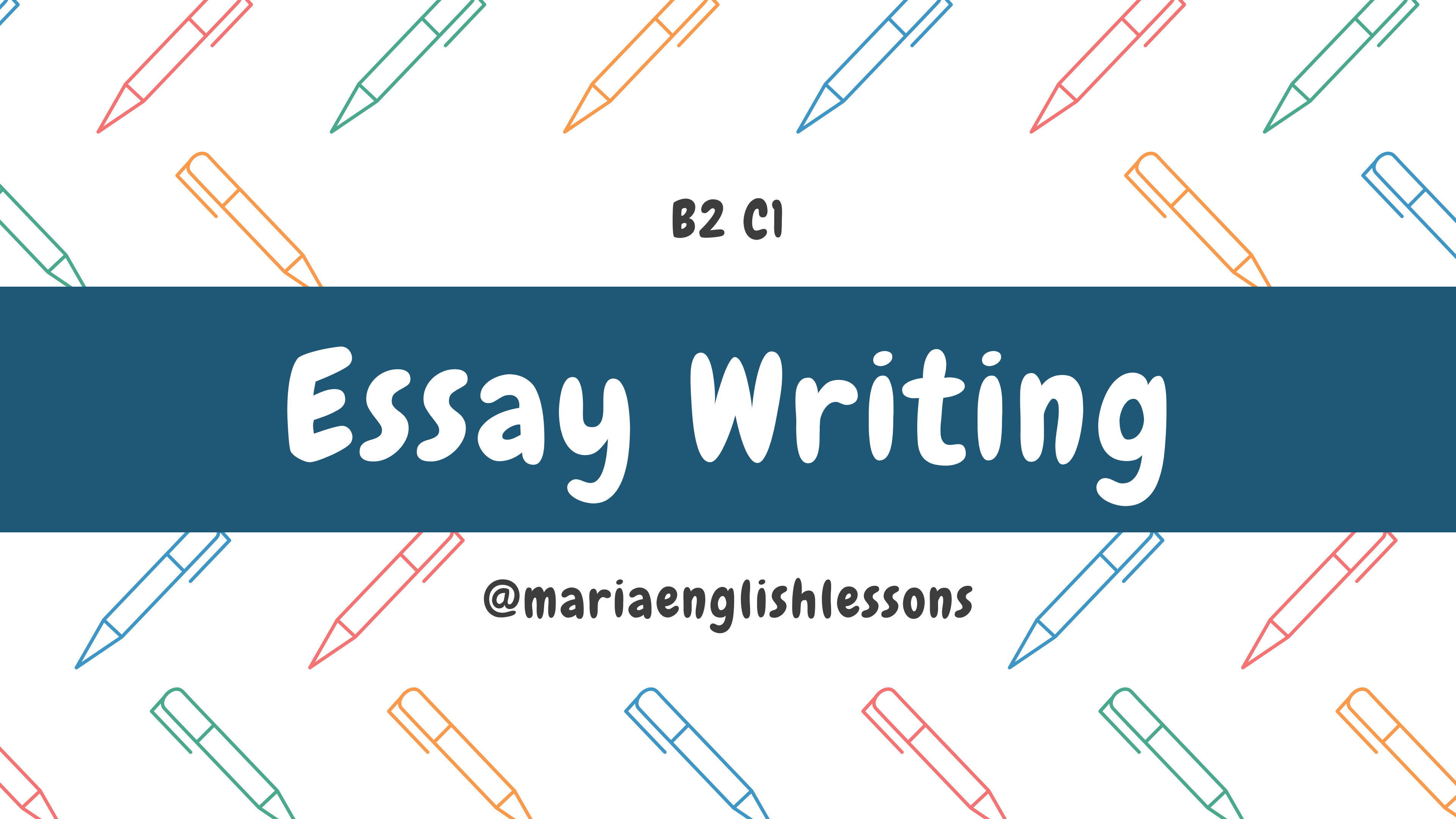


The background of the entire image is decorated with a repeating pattern of stylized pencils in red, green, and blue. The pencils are oriented diagonally, pointing towards the bottom-left corner. Some pencils are shown in profile, while others are shown from a slightly different angle, creating a sense of depth and movement.

B2 C1

Essay Writing

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What Is an Essay?

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An essay is a formal written text in which the writer presents ideas, arguments, or opinions in a logical and organised way, usually in response to a question or statement.

At B2–C1 level, an essay is not just about giving information. It must show that you can:

- Think critically
- Organize ideas clearly
- Use appropriate academic language
- Support opinions with reasons and examples

An essay answers one main question and develops one central idea (also called a thesis).



Main Characteristics of a Good

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A strong essay at this level has the following features:

Clear Structure

The essay is divided into paragraphs, each with a clear function: Introduction, Body paragraphs, Conclusion

Formal or Semi-Formal Style

You should: Avoid contractions (don't → do not), Avoid slang and informal expressions, Use more complex sentence structures

Logical Progression of Ideas

Ideas must: Be connected, Follow a clear order, Develop gradually

Balanced Argumentation

At B2–C1, you are expected to: Consider more than one point of view, Explain advantages and disadvantages, Justify your opinion

Accurate and Varied Language

You should show: A range of vocabulary, Some complex grammar (conditionals, passive voice, relative clauses, linking words)

Typical Essay Question Types

At B2–C1 level, essays usually respond to one of these types of questions:

Opinion essay

Do you agree or disagree with...?

Discussion essay

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Problem–solution essay

What are the problems and how can they be solved?

Advantages and disadvantages essay

What are the benefits and drawbacks of...?



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Structure of an Essay

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Purpose:

- Introduce the topic
- Show what the essay will discuss
- Present your main position (clearly or indirectly)

What to include:

1. A general statement about the topic
2. A brief explanation of the issue
3. A thesis statement (your main idea)

Example:

In recent years, the use of technology in education has increased significantly. While some people believe that digital tools improve learning, others argue that they can be distracting. This essay will discuss both views and explain why technology can be beneficial when used appropriately.



Structure of an Essay

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Body Paragraphs (Usually 2–3)

Each body paragraph should follow the same internal structure.

Paragraph Structure (PEEL)

- Point – main idea of the paragraph
- Explanation – explain the idea
- Example – give a concrete example
- Link – connect to the question or next paragraph



Structure of an Essay

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Body Paragraph 1 (First View / Argument)

Example:

One major advantage of using technology in education is increased student engagement. Digital tools such as interactive videos and online quizzes can make lessons more dynamic and motivating. For instance, students often participate more actively when learning through educational platforms rather than traditional textbooks.

Body Paragraph 2 (Opposing View / Second Argument)

Example:

On the other hand, some critics argue that technology can distract students. Devices such as smartphones may encourage multitasking and reduce concentration. As a result, students might focus more on social media than on their studies.



Structure of an Essay

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Body Paragraph 3 (Optional – Your Opinion or Evaluation)

At C1 level, this paragraph is often expected.

However, these disadvantages can be reduced through proper regulation. If teachers set clear rules and integrate technology purposefully, digital tools can enhance learning rather than disrupt it.



Conclusion

Purpose:

- Summarise main ideas
- Restate your opinion
- Do NOT introduce new ideas

Example:

In conclusion, although technology in education can cause distractions, its benefits outweigh the drawbacks when used responsibly. Therefore, educational institutions should focus on guiding students to use digital tools effectively.



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How to Write an Essay Step by Step

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1

Analyse the Question

Ask yourself:

- What is the topic?
- What is the task? (agree, discuss, evaluate?)
- What must I include?

2

Plan Your Ideas

Before writing:

- Write 2–3 main points
- Think of examples
- Decide your opinion

How to Write an Essay Step by Step

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3

Organise Paragraphs

Decide:

- What goes in each paragraph
- Logical order of ideas

4

Write Clearly and Formally

Use:

- Linking words
- Complex sentences
- Precise vocabulary

How to Write an Essay Step by Step

5

Check Your Work

- Always check:
- Grammar and spelling
 - Clear topic sentences
 - Coherence and cohesion

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Useful Linking Words for Essays

Adding ideas:

- Moreover, Furthermore, In addition

Contrasting:

- However, On the other hand, Nevertheless

Giving examples:

- For example, For instance, Such as

Concluding:

- In conclusion, To sum up, Overall



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Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Writing too informally
- Not answering the question directly
- Writing one very long paragraph
- Giving opinions without explanations
- Repeating the same words or ideas



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