



Brexit: The path to Brexit

Summary Writing

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Student

Two types of lesson

Lesson#1: [Easy] ***** [B2/C1]

1. Try to predict the content of text / write down key terms / ideas
2. Read text – check words and meanings with a dictionary
3. Fill in the outline to identify key points and support
4. Write the summary – only one paragraph (200-250 words)
5. Check key points & model answer (try to achieve 4 key points and 4 support points)
6. Answer critical thinking questions & check answers

Lesson #2: [Hard] ***** [C1]

1. Read text – no dictionary
2. Fill in outline to identify key points and support / or take notes from text
4. Write the summary – only one paragraph (200-250 words)
5. Check key points & model answer (try to achieve 4 key points and 4 support points)
6. Answer critical thinking questions & check answers

Teacher

Two types of lesson

Lesson#1: [easy] ***** [B2/C1]

1. Give out text a week /day before the test – students read, check vocabulary and meaning.
2. Test day – give out a new copy of text and summary question
3. Set 1 hour to read text, take notes and write the summary
4. The summary – only one paragraph (200-250 words)
5. Feedback¹: take in and mark [use correction code*]
6. Feedback²: give out key points & model answer
7. SUMMARY: Should contain at least 4 main ideas with support – see Summary Key Points
8. Extra: Answer critical thinking questions / group discussion (30 minutes)

Correction code*: www.academic-englishuk/error-correction

Lesson #2: [hard] ***** [C1]

1. Set 1 hour to read text and write the summary
2. The summary – only one paragraph (200-250 words)
3. Feedback¹: take in and mark [use correction code*]
4. Feedback²: give out key points & model answer
5. SUMMARY: Should contain at least 4 main ideas with support – see Summary Key Points
6. Extra: Answer critical thinking questions / group discussion (30 minutes)

The Path to Brexit

C. Wilson (2017)

1) The European Union was formed in the 1950s, specifically under the 1957 Treaty of Rome that implemented the single market for goods, labour, services and capital with common policies on transport and agriculture and to incorporate the creation of the European Social fund and commission. In these early stages it was termed the European Economic Commission (EEC) and was derived of six member states; Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The UK declined an invitation to join. Nevertheless, twenty-two years later the UK was granted accession in 1973 and forty-three years later the UK has voted to leave.

2) Since joining the EU back in 1973 there has been significant progress in terms of regulation and policy. The first being 'the Schengen Treaty' in 1985. This treaty ratified a borderless zone across member states to include common visa policies and the abolishment of passport controls. The UK refused to sign up to this agreement. The second was 'the Maastricht Treaty' in 1992. This changed the name from EEC to the EU and introduced the single currency of the Euro through the creation of the European Central Bank (ECB) to create a second reserve currency in the world and solely control EU monetary policy to maintain stability. It also developed a better coordination of economic policies and the implementation of European Citizenship. The final development was the Lisbon Treaty in 2007. This improved past treaties but also extended powers of judicial matters and European Parliament.

3) At the moment in 2017, the EU consists of 28 states who operate through a single market with standardised laws and EU policies aimed at ensuring the four freedoms of the free movement of goods, services, capital and people with common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. The EU is the second largest economy in the world with a combined GDP of \$20.75 trillion, 20% of the global gross domestic product and 30% of the net global wealth of \$223 trillion. The EU is the largest exporter in the world and since 2008 is the largest importer of goods and services. Internal trade is aided by the removal of tariffs and reduced border control. According to the Office of National Statistics (2016), the UK pays on average £18bn a year for membership, this equates to £350million a week. In 2016, the UK received a rebate of £5bn and the EU spent £4.5bn on the UK, therefore the UK's net contribution is about £8.5bn a year. These costs seem exuberant and the true benefits are difficult to calculate against investment. On the one hand, the UK Government (2016) claims that EU benefits provide 4-5% of UK GDP or £62-78bn a year with the single market increasing flows of investment and the free movement of people benefits recruitment and knowledge transfer skills. On the other hand, without EU membership the future is unclear but not necessarily negative due to the fact that this could be a new horizon opening better trade markets outside a controlled single market and investing solely in the UK.

4) The UK and its relationship with the EU has been a turbulent affair (Young & Gee, 2016) from the start and there have been numerous calls for referendums. These began just after the accession in 1975 when a referendum to leave was called on the disagreement with the EEC's agricultural policies and budget financing, then again in 1983 when Margaret Thatcher famously negotiated a rebate from being the net contributor to the EU funds. Following that in 1992, the UK suspended its membership over the introduction of the Euro and the exchange rate mechanism. In 2011, the UK prevented the EU Government plans to levy banks and restrict London's financial sector. In 2013, David Cameron tried to renegotiate the UK's membership and have greater power of immigration, exclusion from Eurozone bailouts and prevent the EU's commitment of 'an ever closer union', which the UK sees as a creation of a super-state Europe controlled by one type of political union. However, the negotiations were not fully met and a referendum was proposed. Finally, in 2016, trouble in the

Eurozone and the ongoing migrant crisis led to the referendum being called for the 23th June 2016. The controlling government 'the conservatives' were divided with the Prime Minister 'David Cameron' supporting remain and two of his leading politicians supporting leave.

5) On Thursday 23rd June Britain voted to leave the EU with 51.9% leave and 48.1% remain overall. However, Scotland and Northern Ireland had a majority vote of remain with 62/38 and 55/44 respectively. According to Official Government figures (2016), 34 million people voted equating to a 72% turnout, which was the highest ever turnout in the history of voting. The referendum results suggest the UK is split down the middle in its opinion on the EU. The main arguments for the leave campaign were to regain sovereignty, to cut immigration, to remove restrictions of the single market to access global markets and to spend £350 million a week on the UK economy. Economists have analysed the results and found a correlation between the people who voted to leave being a specific social grade (manual, casual workers), non-graduate level of education and the over 60s (pensioners). Also, the main areas that voted leave were places with high numbers of immigrants, high unemployment and deprivation from lack of Government funding (mainly the North of England). London on the other hand voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU (59.9%), which some Economists suggest is because of multicultural areas, a younger population and highly educated residents.

6) The referendum vote was to leave so 'Brexit means Brexit'. Since the vote there has been a change in Prime Minister and a complete pro-Brexit cabinet reshuffle to accommodate the new changes. The Government will trigger 'Article 50' of the treaty of Lisbon in March/April 2017. Triggering Article 50, is the formal notification of the intention to withdraw the UK from the EU and will the UK has two years to leave from that date. At the same time, all the treaties that govern membership no longer apply to Britain. The terms of exit will be negotiated between Britain's 27 counterparts. The Government has two main choices a 'hard' or 'soft' Brexit. A hard Brexit means to give up full access to the single market, go back to WTO rules for trade and gain full control of borders and laws. And a soft Brexit means keep a similar close relationship with the EU similar to existing arrangements with free access to the Single market, bank passporting rights but no seat on EU commission, and this deal must include the four freedoms. Whatever the choice, it is now becoming increasingly evident that the short-term impact is likely to be negative with uncertainties over trade arrangements already affecting the pound sterling. The Bank of England has stated that Brexit is the biggest risk to financial stability in history. However, the main point is that no one actually knows exactly what will happen concerning the implications of Brexit on economic prosperity and the UK's role on the international stage.

References:

The UK Government. (2016). *European Union Referendum 2016: Briefing Paper No:CBP 7639*. [online] House of Commons. Available at: <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7639/CBP-7639.pdf> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2017].

ONS, (2016). *The UK's EU membership fee*. [online] Office of National Statistics. Available at: <https://fullfact.org/economy/our-eu-membership-fee-55-million/> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2017].

Young, A and Gee, G, (2016). Regaining Sovereignty, Brexit, the UK Parliament and the Common Law. *European Public Law*, 22 (1), 131-147.

Outline: Summary note-taking – take notes on the key points of the article

1) main idea:
Support:
2) main idea:
Support:
3) main idea:
Support:
4) main idea:
Support:
5) main idea:
Support:
6) main idea:
Support:

Summary Key Points ANSWERS

A good summary should have 4 main ideas and 2 points of support for each main idea

1) main idea: EU History
Support: a) 1950's formed – 1957 Treaty of Rome b) 6 countries (Ger, Fr, It, Bel, Neth, Lux) c) UK 1973
2) main idea: Three Key Treaties
Support: a) Schengen Treaty 1985. borderless zone / no passport controls. UK refused to sign b) Maastricht Treaty 1992. EEC to EU /single currency /ECB/ European Citizenship. c) Lisbon Treaty 2007. judicial matters and European Parliament.
3) main idea: The economics of the EU
Support: a) 28 MS / single market /4 freedoms (movement): goods, services, capital, people) b) standardised laws and EU policies c) 2 nd largest economy, importer & exporter / 20% Global GDP d) UK costs = £18Bn (£350m a week) / rebate £5bn, payment £4.5bn, net £8.5bn e) EU membership = 4-5% GDP / approx. £70Bn f) NO EU membership unknown horizon??
4) main idea: UK & EU historical disagreements
Support: a) from 1975 disagreements on agriculture, budgeting, net contributions, rebates, the Euro, immigration, EU bailouts, super-state Europe, troubles in the Eurozone and on-going migrant crisis.
5) main idea: Referendum analysis
Support: a) 23 rd June 2017 / 51.9 leave 48.1 remain / b) leave arguments: sovereignty, immigration, single market restricting global trade, membership fees to UK economy c) Leave voters = working class, non-graduate level, pensioners, d) Leave areas = high immigration, unemployment, deprivation e) Remain = London – (multi-cultural, younger, educated)
6) main idea: The way forward
Support: a) Article 50 – March/April = 2 years / Membership & treaties not applicable b) Hard Brexit = no single market / WTO rules / control borders and customs c) Soft Brexit = EU close relationship –access to single market = include 4 freedoms d) Future is unknown?? BoE financial risk

Summary Model

Task: Write a 200-250-word summary on the key elements of Brexit.

Word count: _____

Summary Model

Task: Write a 250-word summary on the key elements of Brexit.

According to Wilson (2017), the relationship between the UK and the EU has been a transitional process of progress and conflict resulting in 'Britain exiting' the EU (Brexit). The UK joined the EU in 1973 and 43 years later, after decades of pragmatic accomplishments (Treaties) and disagreements, is leaving from the results of a public referendum. The key elements to the EU and its twenty-eight members is the access to one single market through the four freedoms of goods, people, services and capital with all members following standardised laws and policies. The EU is the 2nd biggest economy, importer and exporter with a 20% of Global GDP. The UK membership cost is £18bn a year with a net contribution of £8.5bn with an estimated return of £70bn in economic benefit (The UK Government, 2016). The June 2016 referendum resulted in a marginal win of 52% leave with the UK voting for greater sovereignty, reductions in immigration, opportunities to trade globally without EU restrictions and investment of EU membership money into the UK economy instead. The future is full of financial risk (Bank of England, 2016) and the UK government has to decide which direction to take; a hard Brexit, which leaves the EU completely or a soft Brexit that keeps a close relationship with EU, access to its Single market but has no control. Wills (2016) suggests that this is unfamiliar territory for the UK and there are uncertainties how it will perform globally on its own.

Word count: 248

Critical thinking Questions

1) Check you understand all key vocabulary (**in bold** in the text)

2) What's the stance of the author – for/against? Why?

3) Is this a credible article? Yes /no – why?

3) Highlight key information in the text you would use for an essay on 'the UK should not leave the EU?'

4) Highlight two areas in the text that you question, disagree with or lack evidence

Critical thinking Questions ANSWERS

1) What's the stance of the author – for/against? Why?

Possibly against – **P3** evidence the UK quadruple investment in EU of £18bn to £62-78bn.
No evidence provided for counter argument 'future is unclear'
P6 – uncertainties and Bank of England statements of financial risk.

2) Is this a credible article? Yes /no – why?

Generally, yes with title, author, date and credible reference list. Includes in-text references to evidence.

BUT who is the author? Who are they writing for? No publication, no publisher, no journal name, no institution. **Therefore**, it would be good to use for background and any information used should be followed up using the reference list and quoting the reference list authors directly.

3) Highlight key information in the text you would use for an essay on 'the UK should not leave the EU?'

- **P3** – four freedoms have developed trade, reduced tariffs and customs
- 2nd largest economy / exporter / importer
- net contribution = £8.5bn per year – return of £62-78bn
- Knowledge transfer skills / Future is unclear.
- **P5** – vote was too close – not over-whelming
- Sovereignty is having a voice in the EU / Is immigration really bad? / UK will have to pay to use the single market so won't save £350m
- **P6** – Hard Brexit = leaving the single market will affect hundreds of business / financial risk / nobody knows?

4) Highlight two areas in the text that you question, disagree with or lack evidence

- **P3** – Government claims £62 – 78bn = prediction?
- **P5** – are the campaign arguments accurate? Exaggerations?
- Economists have analysed (who are they? No reference??)
- The correlation seems untrue looking at the map of how everyone voted??
- Could lack of government funding be the main reason for the leave vote?
- People in London are better educated? and younger?
- **P6** Is the fall in pound because of Brexit?
- The Bank of England (19th Jan 2017) now claims EU not UK will suffer financial risks?
- Do the Government know what they are doing and has this been planned for years??