

- 6 Complete the **WRITING FOCUS** with the words in purple in Mark's essay.

WRITING FOCUS

- **Expressing certainty**
1 _____, this is a positive development.
There are undoubtedly certain drawbacks ...
It is undeniable/There is no 2 _____ that having online access (to ...) has many advantages.
Without (a) doubt, there are people who believe the opposite.
- **Expressing contrast**
That said/3 _____ said that, there are also drawbacks/minuses.
Search results may be instant, but nevertheless/even so, careful reading takes time.
- **Introducing unexpected or surprising contrasts**
This is a positive development in many ways and 4 _____ there are also certain drawbacks.
It may 5 _____ be very hard to find what you are looking for.
- **Expressing condition**
As long as/Providing/6 _____ that a connection is available, anyone can search the Internet.

- 7 Complete the sentences with words from the **WRITING FOCUS**. Use each word once only.

- 1 There are _____ some strong arguments against banning mobile phones in schools.
- 2 It is _____ that having access to the Internet can be very helpful during some lessons.
- 3 As _____ as phones are switched off during lessons, I see no reason to ban them completely.
- 4 Phones at school may be distracting, but _____ so some parents want their children to have one for safety reasons.
- 5 In some countries, it may _____ be illegal for schools to ban mobile phones altogether.
- 6 _____ a doubt, some parents want their children always to be contactable.

- 8 Read the **LANGUAGE FOCUS**. Which alternative to *because* does Mark use in his essay?

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Introducing reasons in formal writing

You can make your writing more formal by using these alternatives to *because*:

- **As** or **since** to introduce a reason that you already know.
As/Since we are overseas, mobile phone charges are more expensive. (We know we are overseas.)
Mobile phone charges are more expensive *as/since we are overseas*.
- **Due to** (instead of *because of*) when the reason is a noun.
Due to customer demand, Internet connection speeds are constantly increasing.
Internet connection speeds are constantly increasing *due to customer demand*.

- 9 Rewrite each sentence in two ways. For each sentence **b**, use the same alternative to *because* as in sentence **a**.

- 1 Phones should be banned at school because they are distracting.
a As phones *are distracting*, they should be *banned at school*.
b Phones *should be banned at school as they are distracting*.
- 2 Because of the high price of some phones, theft is not uncommon.
a Due to ... b Theft ...
- 3 Phones should certainly not be allowed in classrooms because they can be used to cheat during tests.
a Since ... b Phones ...
- 4 Discipline has improved because of the ban that was introduced at our school.
a Due to ... b Discipline ...

- 10 Read the writing task and follow the instructions below.

In your English class you have been talking about using mobile phones at school. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay. Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

Should students be banned from using mobile phones during the school day?

Notes

Write about:

- 1 finding important information
- 2 disturbing the class/other students
- 3 _____ (your own idea)

Write your essay in 140–190 words.

- 1 What general comment could you make on the use of mobile phones at school?
 - 2 Write a sentence that mentions both sides of the argument.
 - 3 Use your answers to questions 1 and 2 to help you write the introduction.
 - 4 Note down arguments for and against a ban on mobile phones at school and supporting points.
 - 5 Expand these notes into main paragraphs.
 - 6 Add a conclusion that includes your personal opinion.
- 11 Complete the writing task in Exercise 10. Use the **WRITING FOCUS** and the **LANGUAGE FOCUS** to help you.

