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# Academic Writing Task 2

## Coherence and cohesion

*In the section on coherence and cohesion, the Masterclass focus on how to write a paragraph which answers this question:*

***Nowadays it is easy to apply for and be given a credit card. However, some people experience problems when they are not able to pay their debts back. In your opinion, do the advantages of credit cards outweigh the disadvantages?***

Have a look at the way these sentences are presented for a paragraph on the advantages of using credit cards:

- Credit cards can be useful for emergencies or expensive items, like holidays.
- Credit cards can be very useful.
- I ensure I make my repayments every month.
- Credit cards are insured by a regulatory body
- Credit cards are only useful if you can pay the money back.
- Credit cards provide a safe way to pay for goods and services.
- If you purchase expensive items and you need a refund, credit cards will provide a guarantee of a refund
- Credit cards give you access to money with the facility to pay it back later, like a loan
- I have recently bought a car using my Mastercard.

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## Cohesive devices

*Without a doubt, credit cards can be very useful. Firstly, they are insured by a regulatory body and therefore provide a safe way to pay for goods and services. This means that if you purchase expensive items in this way and, for some reason, you need a refund, credit cards will provide a guarantee of this happening. In addition, credit cards give you access to money and the facility to pay it back later, like a loan. With this in mind they can be useful for emergencies or expensive items, like a holiday but only if the debt can be paid back. I have recently bought a car using my Mastercard, but I ensure I make my repayments every month.*

**Take a look at this paragraph. The writer has used a much wider range of cohesive devices, especially linking words and expressions, to introduce and develop ideas.**

**Take a few moments to underline the cohesive devices that the writer has used.**

## Answer key

Did you underline the same words and phrases as we did?

*Without a doubt, credit cards can be very useful. Firstly, they are insured by a regulatory body and therefore provide a safe way to pay for goods and services. This means that if you purchase expensive items in this way and, for some reason, you need a refund, credit cards will provide a guarantee of this happening. In addition, credit cards give you access to money and the facility to pay it back later, like a loan. With this in mind they can be useful for emergencies or expensive items, like a holiday but only if the debt can be paid back. I have recently bought a car using my Mastercard, but I ensure I make my repayments every month.*

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### Paragraphs and planning

Take a look at the follow Writing Task 2 question from the section on how to plan an answer effectively:

*Global warming is one of the biggest threats humans face in the 21st Century and sea levels are continuing to rise at alarming rates. What problems are associated with this and what are some possible solutions.*

### Task response

The following question is used at the beginning of the Task Response section in the Masterclass

*It's often said that prison is not always the best form of punishment for those who break the law and, in some circumstances, it should be replaced with alternatives such as community service.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

The Masterclass then covers how to state your opinion clearly throughout an essay using this question:

*Caring for children is probably the most important job in any society. Because of this, all mothers and fathers should be required to take a course that prepares them to be good parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?*

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## Lexical resource

The Masterclass uses the follow question to illustrate paraphrasing:

*Children who are brought up in families that do not have large amounts of money are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up by wealthy parents.*

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### **To add:**

[ lined paper template: <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/general-writing-answer-sheet-task-2.ashx?la=en> ]

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