

Writing based on a cartoon

In this type of Abitur task, you are given a cartoon that addresses a social, political, or environmental issue. Based on this cartoon, you have to write a specific type of text, for example a **comment**, an **email**, a **letter**, a **blog post** or **speech** (depending on the task).

Your text must combine **analysis of the cartoon** with **your own opinion**, adapted to the required **text type and audience**.

!! You don't have to do a traditional cartoon analysis (i.e. introduction – description – analysis – conclusion) but you only use the cartoon as a starting point. This means that you refer to the cartoon in your introduction and also analyse the message of the cartoon in 2-3 sentences in your introduction. Then you start writing the required text type (e.g. comment, email ...) !!

Step 1: Analyse the cartoon

Before writing, make sure you understand the cartoon clearly.

➔ for further information on cartoon analysis, see worksheet “Skills Cartoon analysis”

Step 2: Understand the task

Read the task carefully and identify:

- the **text type** (comment, email, letter, etc.)
- the **target audience** (friend, newspaper readers, organisation, politician ...)
- the **purpose** (commenting, persuading, complaining, suggesting solutions)

Your **language, tone, and structure** must match the text type.

Step 3: Write the text

1. Introduction

- Refer to the cartoon and its topic ➔ analyse its message in 2-3 sentences
- Briefly state why the issue is relevant

2. Main part

- Comment on or react to the message of the cartoon
- Present your own opinion with arguments and examples

3. Conclusion

- Summarise your position
- Possibly suggest solutions or future developments

Language and style

- Use **clear paragraphs** and linking words, e.g. *however, therefore, as a result, in my opinion*
- Avoid informal language unless required (e.g. in an email to a friend)
- Use **appropriate register**:
 - comment → formal, argumentative
 - email/letter/speech → depends on recipient
 - blog post → can be informal to some extent
- Show **critical thinking**, not just description

Tips

- ✓ Always **refer back to the cartoon**
- ✓ Combine **analysis + personal response**
- ✓ Stick closely to the **task instructions**
- ✓ Avoid retelling the cartoon only
- ✓ Write clearly, coherently, and accurately

Key phrase examples

- *The cartoon highlights the problem of ...*
- *The cartoonist criticises / draws attention to ...*
- *In my opinion, the message is convincing because ...*
- *This issue is particularly relevant today since ...*

Example

3.2 As part of your year as a volunteer with UK Youth 4 Nature in Wales, you want to use the mail distribution list of this youth movement to raise awareness of pressing environmental problems.

Using the message of the cartoon as a starting point, write an e-mail in which you comment on major effects of climate change and the ways in which individuals can fight it.



"I told you we should have sold last winter."

from: <https://www.cartoonstock.com/cartoon?searchID=WJ500267>