ESSAY WRITING

I. The introduction:

➢ Begin with a relevant quote or sentence (= "phrase d'accroche").

Literature has always been a way for man to...

➢ Present the set of documents.

This set of documents is composed of...

The documents under study consist of...

The first document is...

an extract /excerpt <u>from</u> .... (a novel / short story / play) written by.... and published in.....

an article / a poem / speech... written by/given by ... in ...

an illustration / a painting / a cartoon / a picture by / from ... published in ...

➢ Why these documents? What do they show? What do they have in common? How are they different?

Despite the contrast in... the documents all show...

The documents revolve around / deal with / are about / tackle the issue of / explore / raise the question of / focus on / provide an overview of ... (+ brief presentation-definition of the theme)

➢ Re-use the question(s) given in the instructions. The problem question (= la problématique).

Each document in its own way raises the question of... ; this is why...

This set of documents raises the question of...

When studying this file, one can wonder if.../ to what extent...

➢ Present your logical plan.

The first part of my essay will show how these documents...

The second part will describe ... , and (finally) the last part will focus on...

II. The development:

➢ From the most obvious ideas to the most complex ones.

➢ You are not asked to judge, but you can write what you personally think... all the while avoiding the I/we, but instead resorting to more impersonal phrases (general ideas, passive voice, resorting to the authors' points of view...).

➢ Be clear, go straight to the point. Be as precise as possible.

➢ Space out your work: <u>one idea is one paragraph</u>. Each paragraph presents one key idea. Make sure you deal with <u>at least two documents each time</u>.

The main idea of your paragraph may correspond to one of the questions asked in the exam instructions.

> Line 10, the text reads "…"
> Line 10 "…", the author suggests that …
> The expression "…" line 10 means that…
> The author emphasizes this idea line 10: "…"
> The document highlights / underlines / lays the stress on …
> The author attacks / denounces / condemns /criticizes (≠ praises) …
> He draws a parallel between … and …
> There is a contrast between … and …
> Line 10 recalls … / is reminiscent of … / is an echo of …
> This event is a forerunner of …

➢ Articulate your ideas clearly and logically by resorting to transition phrases and link words.

Addition	Moreover, / What's more, / In addition, / Furthermore, …	
Cause	Because / as / for / since + clause Because of / Owing to / Due to + GN Thanks to + GN (= Grâce à)	
Consequence	As a result, / Consequently, / Therefore, … That's why + clause	
Purpose	to / in order (not) to / so as (not) to + BV For + S2 + (not) to + BV So that + S + may/might + (not) BV	
Comparison	Similarity	… as well / also… like / in the same way as + GN Likewise, / Similarly, / In the same way,
	Difference	whereas + clause unlike / contrary to + GN On the one hand, … ; on the other hand, …
Contradiction	Yet, / Still, / However, / Nonetheless, + clause Even though / Although + clause Despite / In spite of + GN	

II. The conclusion:

➢ <u>Do not repeat</u> what you have already said. Instead, you should <u>recap</u> how the documents illustrate the given theme in similar and/or different ways.

☞ Answer the questions given.

> To conclude, … / All in all, … / All things considered, we can come to the conclusion that…
> The three documents commented upon combine several interrelated topics…
> All three documents have a positive side to them insofar as (= dans la mesure où)…

➢ You <u>may</u> present your point of view on the main theme and/or on the way the documents approach this theme.

> Personally, … / In my opinion, … / As far as I am concerned, … / I feel that…

➢ <u>Opening / Branching out</u>: bring another idea, refer to another document, to an event (a social, historical, or current event), and state how or to what extent they bring new light to the subject.

> It might be interesting to compare this set of documents with…