

Should We Explore the Deep Sea or Outer Space?

Learning objective: To structure a balanced discussion text exploring two sides of an argument using formal, persuasive language.

Use this writing scaffold to organise your thoughts. Remember to present both sides of the argument objectively before reaching a reasoned conclusion. Use your word bank to ensure your points are linked effectively.

Humanity has always possessed an insatiable desire to venture into the unknown, yet we are currently faced with a debate: should we prioritise the exploration of the mysterious deep sea or the vast, shimmering expanse of outer space?

Word bank: conversely · furthermore · on the other hand · in addition · nevertheless · consequently · it is often argued that · from a scientific perspective · in summary · taking everything into account

1. Introduction: Hook the reader by introducing the debate and state the two opposing viewpoints clearly. Start with: 'Throughout history, explorers have sought to push the boundaries of human knowledge; however, the question remains whether we should focus our resources on...' (2 marks)

2. Arguments for Deep Sea Exploration: Explain why some people believe we should study the ocean first. Use formal language. Start with: 'Proponents of oceanographic research argue that...' (3 marks)

3. Arguments for Space Exploration: Explain the benefits of looking towards the stars. Start with: 'Conversely, those who advocate for space exploration maintain that...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison and Critical Analysis: Justify which argument holds more weight in your opinion and why. Start with: 'While both fields offer significant scientific breakthroughs, it is evident that...' (4 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the main points and provide your final, balanced verdict. Start with: 'In conclusion, despite the challenges presented by both environments, it is clear that...' (2 marks)

6. Reflective Thinking: Explain why funding scientific exploration is a complex decision for governments. Consider the costs involved in pounds (£). (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl is planning a mission! Research one historical discovery made in the deep sea and one in outer space. Compare and contrast the technological challenges faced by scientists in both environments. Justify your answer: If you were granted a budget of £1 billion, which area would you choose to fund and why?