

## WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

### Growing Tensions in Asia

#### 9. Conjunctions IV – for example, for instance, such as, notably, in particular

The conjunctions 'for example', 'for instance', 'such as', 'notably', 'in particular' are ESSENTIAL for your essays, partly to demonstrate your knowledge to the reader, but mostly because they allow you to introduce relevant factual information (exemplification) to support your ideas – to prove what you are saying is factually correct.

For example.

“The lands of south-east Asia ruled in the 1930s by the Western nations as part of their colonial empires (eg the French in Indo-China, the British in Hong Kong).”

1. Use the first section of the webpage – on the Calcutta Conference – to complete the following sentence stems:

- Delegates came to the Calcutta Conference from all over Southeast Asia, for example \_\_\_\_\_.
- There were a number of Communist uprisings, for instance \_\_\_\_\_.
- Even strongly pro-Western countries were in danger, notably \_\_\_\_\_.

In each of these examples, you are using the exemplification conjunctions simply to add factual information to your answer.

**NOTE:** There is a difference between a **FACT** and an **EXAMPLE**. A 'fact' only becomes an 'example' when you *use* it as **EVIDENCE** as part of an argument to support an idea/claim. Random or irrelevant facts will get you very few marks – you need to be able to select the fact-which-proves-the-point.

Examples supply 'proving evidence' to your ideas and theories.

2. Use the rest of the webpage to find 'proving evidence' for the following ideas:

- that Chiang Kai-shek tried to exterminate the Chinese Communists
- that China turning Communist became a major concern for the US in the far east
- that Communism also gained a hold in Korea
- that democratic South Korea was under threat
- that democratic South Korea was badly ruled
- that the Americans supported the French against Ho Chi Minh in Indo China
- that by 1954 the French were losing the war against Ho Chi Minh
- that Dien Bien Phu was a decisive battle
- that the defeat of the French began a disastrous involvement of the US in Vietnam
- that the Domino Theory dominated US foreign policy in the far east

Doing these exercises will not only help you improve your writing skills, they will help you learn to distinguish between 'points' (ideas), facts and 'proving evidence' in your essays.