

Academic Essay Tasks

Subject **Tropical Rainforests / Deforestation.**

[Task 1] Background on Tropical Rainforests

While reading the information from the source texts, answer the questions below.

Part 1:

1. What are tropical rainforests? Where are they found? (T1)

2. What are the best conditions for the growth of trees and plants? (T1)

3. Where exactly are tropical rainforests located? (T2)

4. What percentage of species live in tropical rainforests? (T3)

5. At what rate is the rainforest being lost? (T3)

Part 2:

1. What is thought to be the major cause of rainforest destruction? (T4)

2. This causes how much of the rainforest to be cut down each year? (T2)

3. What are the trees used for? (T2)

4. What is another activity that causes loss of rainforest? (T1)

5. What minerals are mined? (T1)

6. Why is the land cleared for mining? (T1)

7. If the land is cleared what happens to the soil? (T1)

8. What is a third cause of rainforest destruction? (T4)

9. What is exported to rich countries? (T4)

Part 3:

1. Find three effects on the environment in Text 3.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Part 4:

1. Why is the rainforest important for people's health? (T3)

2. What percentage of modern drugs come from the rainforest? (T3)

3. How many rainforest plants have been tested for possible use as medicines? (T3)

4. How many people globally live in the rainforest? (T3)

5. What are the reasons why people are moved from their homes to other areas?
(Think about the causes you have just looked at.)

[Task 2] Analysing a Body Paragraph on Causes

Below are the main elements of a paragraph. Put them in the correct order in which they should appear.

- Supporting details for cause #3
Cause #2
Supporting details for Cause #3
Cause #1
- Topic sent./main idea
Cause #3
Supporting details for cause #1
Supporting research for cause #2

Elements of a paragraph	
01	
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	

Highlight in different colours the elements of a paragraph in the example below.

The main causes of deforestation are; commercial logging, mining and large scale agriculture. Firstly, large areas of tropical rainforest are destroyed by commercial logging. The ITTO claim that this logging is the largest single cause of forest destruction (Lange, 2011) and research shows that five million hectares are destroyed every year to provide wood for the construction industry (Save the Rainforest, 2005). In addition to this, mining in the rainforests also leads to deforestation. Land for mining is cleared of all vegetation and the exposed soil is eroded away and loses its fertility and forest cannot grow back (Internet Geography, 2007). Agricultural land use is another major cause of deforestation. For example, enormous areas of forest are cleared for cattle grazing. This grazing is usually to meet demand for beef in other parts of the world (Lange, 2011).

Discuss and then write sentences answers to the following questions.

1. How has the writer used linkage and cohesion strategies to connect the ideas and sentences?

2. Which phrases have been used that incorporate formal academic tone?

3. Which type of references were used to write the in-text citations for this paragraph?

4. Why did the writer need to cite this information?
