

# ACADEMIC SKILLS

## Worksheet

### Use reasons to support writing

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice

#### 1 Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentences.

- a I chose this university *because / because of* its excellent reputation.
- b We decided to put the meeting off until December *as / for* so many people will be absent.
- c The company's success was largely *thanks to / thanks* sales of just one product.
- d The plan failed *on / for* the simple reason that we didn't do enough research.
- e *For / Since* there were no objections, the project went ahead quickly.
- f The company suffered *as a result of / as a result* the financial crisis.
- g Due *to / of* the weather, we had to postpone the launch.
- h *Because / Because of* the experiment was successful, he attracted a lot of interest.

#### 2 Complete the sentences with ideas of your own. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

- a One of the most useful skills we learn in school is \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_
- b Governments should spend more money on \_\_\_\_\_ for the simple reason that \_\_\_\_\_
- c One area of study that will become more important in the future is \_\_\_\_\_, since \_\_\_\_\_
- d The development of the \_\_\_\_\_ was made possible thanks to \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3 Work with a partner to complete the reasons below. Can you suggest alternatives for the link phrases?

a	Topic sentence	Computers dramatically changed the job market.
	Reason	<i>The main reason for this is that</i>
b	Topic sentence	Schools should teach a variety of skills as well as the usual lessons.
	Reason	<i>The reason I believe this is that</i>
c	Topic sentence	Being able to work from home has disadvantages as well as advantages.
	Reason	<i>Research has shown that</i>

**4**  Read the topic sentences and complete them by choosing the option that best matches your opinion. Then write 1–3 sentences giving your reason(s). When you have finished, compare your answers with a partner. Who has the best reasons?

**a**

<b>Topic sentence</b>	Your working environment <i>plays / does not play</i> a big part in how well you work.
<b>Reason(s)</b>	

**b**

<b>Topic sentence</b>	Managers <i>should be / should not be</i> very strict.
<b>Reason(s)</b>	

**c**

<b>Topic sentence</b>	People writing for the media <i>pay too much / do not pay enough</i> attention to environmental issues.
<b>Reason(s)</b>	

**5** Write your own paragraph, similar to the ones in Exercises 3 and 4 but on a subject you know about – perhaps something related to your studies. Aim to include a topic sentence and 2–3 sentences of explanation.

<b>Topic sentence</b>	
<b>Reason(s)</b>	

## Reflect

- 6**  Use phrases from the Worksheet and the Factsheet to link each main point with its reason. Then, with a partner, try to think of other reasons you could add.

	Main point	Reason
a	Most people will end up leaving their home town.	Their home town cannot offer them the work or study opportunities they need.
b	Studying computer programming is always a good idea.	We will always need people who know about computers.
c	Medical students spend several years learning their subject very well.	Other people's lives are in their hands.
d	Companies should provide facilities, such as gyms, for their employees.	It is in the interest of the company to keep their workers fit and healthy.
e	We should encourage businesses to move out of the cities.	Cities are too crowded, and if they keep growing, they will become impossible places to live and work.
f	Studying online is a great solution for a lot of people.	Students can work or be with their families and study at the same time.