Unit 2 Handout 1

I. **This is the outline of a Classical Argument. Can you identify which paragraph on the right (a-e) matches each part of the argument?**

Introduction	- Grab the reader's attention with dramatic story of striking statistic - Give background information - Present claim (thesis)
Present Your Position	- Provide concrete examples to support your thesis - Each supporting reason should relate to a belief held by the audience
Summarize Opposing Views	- Critique any opposing arguments
Respond to Opposing Views	- Reveal some strengths of opposing views - Refute those views to show weaknesses
Conclusion	- Sum up the argument - Call for audience to act

a. In the US all students have a First Amendment right to express themselves, so long as that expression is not disruptive to the school day.

b. Opponents say school uniforms decrease bullying, but the data is not conclusive.

c. Public schools should not require uniforms because they restrict students individuality.

d. Uniforms restrict self-expression and are also expensive, but most importantly, students need to be able to choose what they want to wear.

e. It is true that wearing uniforms may save money to parents, but statistics show that Americans spend around $1 billion per year on them.

II. **Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.**

1........ a portion

2........ to outweigh something

3........ a tax

4........ detrimental

5........ a treat

6........ drastic

7........ to victimise somebody

8........ to seek out something

a. an extra charge added by the government to the price of some goods and services

b. a special, enjoyable thing or experience, often given as a gift to somebody or to yourself

c. harmful or dangerous

d. the amount of food served to one person

e. extreme and unpleasant

f. to look for something or someone, often requiring effort

g. to be a more important factor in an evaluation or decision (than some other factor)

h. to treat someone in an unfair way intentionally

III.   *Scan the article*. **What is the claim the author is making?**

_____

In some countries an increasing number of people are suffering from health problems as a result from eating too much fast food. **Is it therefore necessary for government to impose a higher tax on this kind of food?**

Nowadays, more and more people are affected by health issues such as diabetes and heart disease which are linked to overconsumption of cheap, mass-produced food. Some people believe the only solution is to make fast food less affordable by taxing it highly. Despite the severity of the problem, I think this is quite wrong. Increasing the tax on fast food would unfairly penalise people and may not necessarily bring about the desired health benefits.

First, fast food is about more than just nutrition. Many teenagers spend money on fast food not because they need to eat out but because this is how they socialise. Fast-food restaurants provide a safe, convenient place for young people to meet friends. For another group, low-income families, fast food can provide an inexpensive treat for their children. Denying people a small pleasure in life could affect their social lives or happiness.

Another important point is that if the reason for taxing fast food is to reduce obesity, it may be ineffective. It is true that fast food is high in sugar, salt and fat, all of which cause weight gain and are detrimental to our health. However, we also know that there are other factors which contribute to the risk of obesity, such as lack of exercise and inappropriate portion size. While home-cooked food is generally healthy, this is not always the case. I personally know a family that used to eat high-fat, home-cooked food in enormous portions. They all suffered from health problems due to obesity.

On the other hand, I do understand the point of view of those who say drastic action is needed. If fast food were taxed and became expensive, people would be forced to seek out healthier options. In addition, food producers would have an incentive to provide healthier foods. However, there is likely to be resistance from consumers and producers who want to have a wider choice.

To conclude, although imposing a higher tax on fast food could have some positive effects, these would be outweighed by the drawbacks. For one thing, some sectors of society would feel victimised, and there is also the fact that simply raising tax would not result in a much healthier society. What we really need is greater awareness of diet and cheaper healthy food.

IV.   **Now read the text. Identify the 5 parts of a classical argument. Mention the ideas and the paragraphs where they are mentioned.**

a.   Introduction:

_____

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_____

b. Present your position:

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c. Summarizing opposing views:

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d. Responding to opposing views:

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e. Conclusion:

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V.   Check the different colors in the text. Identify the *writing tip* (1-5) each color is highlighting (a-e).

1. Balance your essay by discussing the opposing view. If possible, highlight a disadvantage to it to reinforce your viewpoint. _____	a. Purple
2. Use linking words to show the logical connection between ideas. These may include addition, contrasting and sequencing. _____	b. Pink
3. Give more than reason for your opinion. Support them with examples and explanations. _____	c. Green
4. Use synonyms for words provided by the question or the topic of the assignments to demonstrate your vocabulary. Avoid repeating concepts such as "health problems" or "fast food". _____	d. Blue
5. If you are asked to give your opinion, make it clear at the beginning and at the end. _____	e. Yellow

VI. **Circle the correct linking word. Both may be possible, or neither may be correct.**

1. Some people think it is bad to eat carbohydrates. _____, most dieticians believe they are part of a healthy diet.

a. However
b. Nevertheless
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

2. _____ what many people think, the USA does not have the most obese population.

a. Despite
b. Although
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

3. _____ I can see their point, I still believe that they are wrong.

a. Although
b. Even though
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

4. Vegetables are a good source of dietary fiber. _____, they contain many nutrients and vitamins.

a. On the other hand
b. In addition
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

5. _____ fast food is bad for us, many people enjoy it.

a. Despite
b. Despite the fact that
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

6. _____ the economic crisis, the employment rate is falling.

a. In spite of
b. Despite
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

7. _____ there is a lot of traffic in city centers, pollution is a problem.

a. Since
b. Because of
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

VII.   **Write an argumentative essay <u>on one of the questions below</u>. Consider the 5-part model to build your argument. Include some linking words to create connection between ideas.**

• In some countries an increasing number of people are suffering from health problems as a result of eating too much fast food. It is therefore necessary for governments to impose a higher tax on this kind of food. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

• Producing meat takes up large amounts of land, water and other resources. Some people are promoting vegan and plant-based diets as better for people and the planet. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

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