

How to Write a Comment (Abitur – Class 13)

A **comment** is an argumentative text in which you discuss an issue and express your own opinion. Unlike a discussion, a comment does **not** have to remain neutral. Your opinion should be clear from the beginning and supported with convincing arguments and examples.

Length: 400–600 words (depending on the task)

Structure of a Comment

1. Introduction (10–15%)

Purpose:

- Introduce the topic.
- Explain why it is relevant.
- Present your thesis (your opinion).

Include:

- A general statement or hook.
- Brief background information.
- A clear thesis statement.

Example opening:

Artificial intelligence has become an essential part of modern education. While some people welcome its potential to improve learning, others fear that it may encourage dependency and academic dishonesty. **In my opinion, AI should be used in schools, but only under clear guidelines that promote responsible learning.**

2. Main Body (70–80%)

Organise your ideas into **three or four paragraphs**.

Each paragraph should focus on **one main argument**.

Use the **PEEL** method:

P – Point

State your argument.

E – Explain

Explain why your argument is valid.

E – Example/Evidence

Support your argument with an example, statistic, study, or real-life situation.

L – Link

Connect your argument back to your thesis or lead to the next paragraph.

Example paragraph

One major advantage of AI in education is that it can provide personalised learning opportunities. Unlike traditional teaching methods, AI tools can adapt explanations to the individual needs of each student. **For example**, students who struggle with grammar can receive instant feedback and additional practice exercises. **Therefore**, AI has the potential to make learning more effective for a wide range of learners.

3. Counterargument

A strong comment should acknowledge an opposing viewpoint.

Structure:

- Introduce the opposing argument.
- Explain it fairly.
- Refute or qualify it.
- Return to your own position.

Example

Critics argue that students may become too dependent on AI and lose important problem-solving skills. **Although this concern is understandable**, banning AI completely would

ignore its educational benefits. **Instead**, schools should teach students how to use AI responsibly and critically.

4. Conclusion (10–15%)

Do **not** introduce new arguments.

Instead:

- Summarise your main points.
- Restate your opinion in different words.
- End with a strong final thought.

Example

To conclude, artificial intelligence is neither entirely beneficial nor entirely harmful. Its impact depends on how it is used. If schools establish clear rules and encourage responsible use, AI can become a valuable educational tool rather than a threat to independent learning.

Useful Linking Words

Adding ideas

- Furthermore
- Moreover
- In addition
- Besides

Giving examples

- For example
- For instance
- Such as
- In particular

Contrasting

- However

- Nevertheless
- On the other hand
- In contrast
- Although

Cause and effect

- Therefore
- Consequently
- As a result
- Thus
- Hence

Concluding

- To conclude
- Overall
- Taking everything into consideration
- Ultimately

Language Features

Use:

- Formal language
- Objective tone (even when expressing your opinion)
- Varied sentence structures
- Academic vocabulary
- Clear paragraphing

Avoid:

- Slang
- Contractions (*don't, can't*)
- Repetition
- Very emotional language
- Unsupported claims

Useful Phrases

Introducing the topic

- In recent years, ...
- There has been considerable debate about ...
- One of the most controversial issues today is ...

Expressing your opinion

- In my opinion, ...
- I firmly believe that ...
- It can be argued that ...
- From my perspective, ...

Introducing arguments

- One important reason is ...
- Another significant aspect is ...
- A further advantage/disadvantage is ...

Introducing counterarguments

- Some people argue that ...
- Critics claim that ...
- Opponents maintain that ...

Refuting

- However, this argument overlooks ...
- Nevertheless, it should be noted that ...
- Although this may be true, ...

Concluding

- To conclude, ...
- Taking all arguments into consideration, ...
- Ultimately, ...

Checklist Before Submitting

- ✓ Have I answered the task completely?
- ✓ Is my opinion clear?
- ✓ Does each paragraph focus on one idea?
- ✓ Have I used PEEL?
- ✓ Have I included examples?
- ✓ Have I considered a counterargument?
- ✓ Have I used linking words?
- ✓ Is my vocabulary formal and varied?
- ✓ Have I checked grammar, spelling, and punctuation?