

## WRITING DEVELOPMENT

**RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.**

### Industry and the 5-Year Plans

#### 19. Measuring Importance II – criteria of comparison [MEAL]

in Writing Exercise #16, we looked at the idea of importance, noted some modifiers of importance ('greatly', 'to a degree' etc.) and realised the need to explain why/how a result was importance.

But how do you MEASURE that importance?

Your teachers may have taught you Partington's taxonomy, or a mnemonic such as: 'GREAT', the '5Rs' or 'NAME'.  
**If they have, follow their advice.**

If they have not specified an approach, however what I would suggest, for this kind of question, is that you should look at the event's/development's results and think about:

- **At The Time:** How impactful/ what did people feel & say about it *at the time*?
- **Legacy Effect:** With the benefit of hindsight, *how long-lasting* were the results/ were they a turning point in events/ do they still affect today

Say I have been asked to write an essay which requires me to say how important the 5-Year Plans were in modernising the USSR. The first paragraph is on **PRODUCTION LEVELS**, and I plan it as follows:

- **Basic sentence:** Production levels rose.
- **Modifier:** *dramatically*
- **Effect:** **Electricity** 5-36bn kWh/ **coal** 35-128m tons/ **steel** 4-18m tons (Dnieper Hydroelectric/ Magnitogorsk)
- **At The Time:** did not lead to a better standard of living/ consumption
- **Legacy Effect:** but supplied Soviet armies during WWII/ turned the USSR into a superpower

1. Write the first paragraph, on the importance of Increased Production, based on the paragraph plan above.

2. Using the webpage, plan the 2nd paragraph, on the expansion in **INFRASTRUCTURE**, using the frame:

- **Basic sentence:** .....
- **Modifier:** .....
- **Effect:** .....
- **At The Time:** .....
- **Legacy Effect:** .....

**TOP TIP: following this approach to measuring importance – MEAL – will make it easier to COMPARE the importance of two alternative factors.**