


WRITING C1 SET 1 – SAMPLE ANSWER

TASK 1 – FORMAL LETTER

The European Commission is trying to tackle the problem regarding the availability and proliferation of illegal content online, and is planning to take measures against it. You are a member of the European Parliament, Paula/Paulo Rangel.

 Write a formal letter of 180-200 words to the European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel responsible for the coordination of digital policies and Digital Single Market.

Include the following points:

- express why it is urgent to tackle this problem,
- request considering the conflicting issues of crime and freedom of expression,
- describe what punishment you would consider appropriate for such a crime.

Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

I am writing regarding the availability and proliferation of illegal content online, which has become an important issue recently.

Firstly, it should be made clear what is considered to be illegal content. As we all know, some of this content is easy to be identified as illegal, such as terrorist content, child sexual abuse material or commercial fraud. It is sometimes difficult to judge what illegal hate speech covers, as there is no clear definition of this term, which gives causes for concern.

Secondly, I would like to share my worries regarding the abuse of surveillance. Online platforms are expected to take measures to identify and remove illegal content. As in some cases it is not clearly defined what constitutes illegal content, who will judge and decide to proceed with regards thereto?

Finally, there should be adequate and effective safeguards to ensure that the users of online platforms can exercise their right to freedom of expression and information. I am concerned about the limit to expressing an opinion as opposed to illegal content. What opportunity will be given to content providers to contest the decision on the removal of their content?

I am looking forward to your clarification regarding the above listed concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Paula/Paulo Rangel

210 words



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TASK 2 – ESSAY

Argue for or against the following title:

‘Leaking confidential information is illegal’.

 **Write an argumentative essay in 200-250 words.**

Explain your points and provide a conclusion at the end. Make sure you state your arguments in a logical way.

In your essay consider the following points:

- immoral or illegal official conduct,
- judgment of whistle-blowers may be biased,
- harms/benefits of disclosing confidential information.

Our life is encircled by lies and secrets, therefore, citizens need to be aware of the difference between just and unjust secrets before they can decide whether revealing secrets or releasing classified documents is justifiable and in the public interest. The difference between immoral and illegal official conduct is that immoral behaviour is a conduct that falls outside of what is considered morally right or proper for a person or a specific group.

All of us have heard about whistle-blowers, who, by taking a moral risk, reveal official secrets and lies. The morality of the whistle-blowers' actions can be judged only after the fact, even though they may act out of a sense of duty or conscience. Unlike those who leak information and act anonymously, and whose information might lead to the embarrassment of officials or unwanted public scrutiny, a whistle-blower is convinced that the information he or she reveals is a result of immoral or illegal official conduct.

The harm done by the disclosure of confidential information surpasses the benefits gained, no matter which area of life is affected. It might be considered by citizens that such an act is a form of civil disobedience, but it is the defiance of the law which entails legal punishment. However, when judging the disclosure of confidential information, the crime must be weighed against the government's subversion of the democratic process and the illegality and immorality of the revealed operation.

As far as I am concerned, there is a huge demand for greater transparency in decision-making, but it has to be fought for democratically.

262 words