**Doubts and Questions about the Link Question Following the ATS Spring Workshop 2016**

* Teachers felt that the Chief examiner reports could give more information/ detail on how the essays were marked for language & content**.**
* How should the marking scheme be interpreted? It’s quite vague and after today’s session, it is clear that it is being interpreted in various ways.

**Content**

* Are students penalised for writing over 150 words?

(This is a major source of doubt for teachers as some are making their students strictly adhere to this number but many others think that it’s very hard to write a decent opinion piece this short. If students aren’t penalised for writing over 150, are they penalised for writing 200/300 etc. words? If the content is good, can an essay be too long?)

* In the introduction, do students have to mention what they will discuss or considering strict adherence to the 150 word limit, should they get straight into their essay once they have agreed or disagreed with the title.
* Do students have to write 3 separate points as well as an introduction and conclusion or is 1 or 2 well developed points ok?
* Are students marked down if they don’t give a personal opinion?
* How much are students penalised if they go off topic on only one point?

**Language**

* If the language is good but the content isn’t, how much are they penalised? Bottom end only?
* Can you grade in different bands for language and content?
* If the subjunctive or other ‘higher’ grammar isn’t used but everything is grammatically correct, are they penalised? The same question as regards idioms.