

Section 1:

#1 **The Limits of Traditional Exams** (First paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've effectively highlighted the problem with time constraints in traditional exams.
- Your connection between cramming and lack of retention is well articulated.

Weakness: Underdeveloped critique → Your analysis of the "one-size-fits-all approach" could be more specific. The phrase "This method overlooks the unique learning styles" needs more elaboration on what these learning styles actually are. You mention "prioritize memorization over true understanding" but don't provide concrete examples of what true understanding might look like.

Exemplar: *Traditional exams often follow a one-size-fits-all approach, expecting every student to showcase their knowledge under tight time constraints. This method overlooks unique learning styles such as visual, auditory, and hands-on learners, who may struggle to demonstrate their knowledge in written form. Many students find themselves cramming for exams, only to forget the material shortly after.*

#2 **The Pressure of Exams** (Second paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've captured the emotional impact of exam pressure on students.
- You've made a good point about how anxiety can misrepresent a student's true abilities.

Weakness: Limited solution presentation → Your paragraph thoroughly describes the problem of exam stress but doesn't suggest alternatives or coping strategies. The phrase "A brilliant thinker might struggle in such high-pressure situations" introduces an important point but doesn't follow through with examples or solutions for these brilliant thinkers.

Exemplar: *Moreover, exams can create significant pressure. Students are tasked with recalling large amounts of information in a short time, which can lead to anxiety that negatively impacts their performance. A brilliant thinker might struggle in such high-pressure situations, benefitting instead from take-home assessments where they can demonstrate deep thinking without time constraints.*

#3 **The Benefits of Project-Based Assessments** (Fourth paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've provided a range of project examples that illustrate your point well.

- You've established a clear contrast with traditional exams.

Weakness: Lack of specific outcomes → While you mention that project-based assessments allow students to "gain hands-on experience that boosts both comprehension and retention," you don't explain how this happens or provide evidence. The phrase "explore topics, conduct research, and present their findings" could be strengthened with examples of the lasting benefits this approach provides.

Exemplar: *Project-based assessments inspire students to dive deep into subjects instead of just skimming through information for a test. Rather than responding to set questions, students apply their knowledge to real-world challenges, such as designing a scientific experiment that tests local water quality or creating a business plan that solves a community problem.*

■ Your piece presents a thoughtful comparison between traditional exams and project-based assessments. The main idea is clear, but you could strengthen your argument by including specific examples from classroom settings. For instance, you might describe a particular project that helped students retain information better than an exam did. Also, try balancing your critique of exams with acknowledgment of when they might be useful. Perhaps certain subjects or basic knowledge checks still benefit from traditional testing approaches. You could improve the flow between paragraphs by adding clearer transition sentences that connect your ideas. The paragraph about real-world skills could be expanded to include examples of how project work directly prepares students for future careers. Your conclusion seems to be missing - adding a strong final paragraph that summarises your main points would make your piece feel complete and leave readers with a clear takeaway message.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

The Limits of Traditional Exams

Traditional exams often follow a one-size-fits-all approach, expecting every student to showcase their knowledge under tight time constraints. This method overlooks the unique learning styles of individuals and tends to ~~prioritize~~ [prioritise] memorization over true understanding. Many students find themselves cramming for exams, only to forget the material shortly after. This cycle of short-term retention doesn't foster lasting knowledge or intellectual growth. #1

Moreover, exams can create significant pressure. Students are tasked with recalling large amounts of information in a short time, which can lead to anxiety that negatively impacts their performance. A brilliant thinker might struggle in such high-pressure situations, resulting in a grade that doesn't truly reflect their understanding or capabilities. The stress tied to exams can even dampen a genuine passion for learning, turning education into a challenge to survive rather than an opportunity to thrive. #2

Additionally, exams often miss the mark when it comes to assessing vital real-world skills. While they may evaluate how well students can ~~memorize~~ [memorise] facts, they fall short in measuring creativity, collaboration, or practical application—qualities that are crucial for success outside the classroom. On the other hand, project-based assessments mimic real-life problem-solving scenarios, allowing students to showcase their knowledge in meaningful ways.

The Benefits of Project-Based Assessments

Project-based assessments inspire students to dive deep into subjects instead of just skimming through information for a test. Rather than responding to set questions, students have the freedom to explore topics, conduct research, and present their findings in creative ways. Whether they're designing a scientific experiment, crafting a business plan, or building an engineering prototype, they gain hands-on experience that boosts both comprehension and retention. #3

This method also nurtures critical thinking. Unlike traditional exams that reward rote ~~memorization~~ [memorisation], projects challenge students to ~~analyze~~ [analyse] problems, weigh solutions, and develop their own ideas. They must ask meaningful questions and engage with the material in a way that promotes deeper understanding.