WRITING SECTION

You are a graphic art student at university and in one of your exams, you are asked to COMPAR E and CONTRAST ANIME (JAPANESE CARTOONS) and AMERICAN CARTOONS. Use the relevant information below.

* In the first paragraph, compare the two by focusing on the similarities.
* In the second paragraph, contrast the two by focusing on the differences.
* Be sure to:
  - use point by point method of comparison and contrast,
  - use patterns of exemplification, and patterns of comparison and contrast, and
  - paraphrase the information.
* You may add your own ideas and examples as well.

My 16-year-old son is fond of Anime. He spends hours watching Japanese cartoons on TV or reading Anime. I don’t approve of this for several reasons. First of all, I don’t like the themes in Anime. They don’t avoid concepts like sex, death and violence. They are sometimes highly philosophical and sophisticated. There is no clear line between good and evil. I also think that the characters in Anime, like the Pokemons, are quite disturbing. They have complex personalities embodying good and evil at the same time. They have flaws, problems and strange habits. Even the relatively good ones are aggressive and violent. I prefer American cartoons, where the characters have simple personalities. They are either good or bad, and it is always the good that win. The themes are simple, too. They are humorous and entertaining. I know some people think that there is no intellectual stimulation or thought-provoking issues in American cartoons. I know that the humour is base-level, such as in Bugs Bunny cartoons, but I like them. I wish my son would like them, too. Cartoons are for fun. They don’t have to be realistic or philosophical. By the way, these days there are some philosophical cartoons like The Simpsons and South Park. If you like something more "adult", you can watch them, can’t you?

Daisy Miller, typist from Des Moines, Iowa

Children mostly rent American cartoons. Japanese cartoons are directed towards a wider audience, especially adults and teenagers. Disney and Warner Bros cartoons are the most popular ones among children. As for films, children prefer comedies most, while teenagers tend to rent action movies. Men also rent action movies, whereas women like dramas and European films. Nobody seems to care for documentaries, by the way.

Joey Profundo, video shop owner, New York
At university, my major was graphic art and I wrote my thesis on two important aspects of Japanese Anime and American cartoons: attention to detail and unrealistic depiction of characters. These cartoons have extraordinary technique in terms of paying attention to details. They have a sense of three-dimensionality. Buildings, machines, costumes, furniture and nature are drawn very carefully and realistically. You cannot find such technique and artistry in French or German cartoons. I guess that’s why American and Japanese cartoons are better and more popular than others. I also studied the way characters are drawn in Japanese and American cartoons. Almost all have unrealistically drawn characters. In Anime, characters have extremely large eyes and strange hair colours. In American cartoons, characters have distorted faces, funny skin colours and strange hair styles like the Simpsons.

*Jeremy Cage, graphic artist from San Francisco*