UNIT 3 · LESSON 10

The whole answer

How do I finish a “How far…?” answer?

AIMS

How confident are you now? Circle one face for each aim at the end of the lesson.

Content Finish a whole “How far…?” answer about Titanic, and learn the context for Lesson 11: Krakatoa, 1883. ☹ 😐 ☺

Language Write a judgement with academic phrases: Overall, … / The strongest evidence is … because … ☹ 😐 ☺

Skills Analyse a model answer, then write and check your own judgement. ☹ 😐 ☺

Read: A full answer

Read the whole answer. Then answer questions 1–3 on page 2.

Question How far do Sources A, D, E and F support the view that Titanic sank mainly because it was travelling too fast for the icy conditions?

Opening	Several sources support the view that Titanic sank mainly because it was travelling too fast for the icy conditions. However, some sources challenge this view.
Evidence paragraph 1	Source A supports the view. It shows that the British inquiry called Titanic’s speed “excessive”. This suggests that the ship was going too fast for the conditions, because the inquiry says: “No directions were given to reduce speed.” Source E corroborates this. It shows that another ship was “stopped and surrounded by ice”, so the ice was very dangerous. In ice like this, ships needed to go very slowly or stop, so a high speed was a big risk. However, Source E does not tell us Titanic’s speed, so it only partly supports the view.
Evidence paragraph 2	In contrast, Source D challenges the view. It shows that some rivets at the front of the ship were made of weak iron. This suggests that the rivets may have broken much more easily than expected when Titanic hit the iceberg, so water came in faster. However, the evidence does not prove this. The Olympic, Titanic’s sister ship, had the same rivets. If the rivets were very weak, the Olympic would probably have had problems with them over time, even without a collision, but it sailed for 24 years.
Judgement	Overall, the sources mostly support the view. The strongest evidence is Source A, because the inquiry called the speed “excessive”, and Source E shows that the ice was very dangerous. However, Source D suggests that weak rivets may also have made the ship sink faster, so speed was probably not the only reason. Source F is not relevant, because it is about the lifeboats, not the sinking.

Think: How does the answer work?

Answer the questions about the model answer on page 1.

1 What is the writer's first answer?

2 Why does the writer start a new paragraph for Source D? Which words show the link?

3 Which source is not used in the evidence paragraphs? Why?

Annotate: The Judgement

The Judgement does four jobs. Underline where the writer does each job. Write the job name in the margin.

Answer	Strongest	Less certain	Not used
an overall answer to "How far?"	the strongest evidence, and why	what makes the answer less certain	why one source is not used

Judgement

MARGIN

Overall, the sources mostly support the view. The strongest evidence is Source A, because the inquiry called the speed "excessive", and Source E shows that the ice was very dangerous. However, Source D suggests that weak rivets may also have made the ship sink faster, so speed was probably not the only reason. Source F is not relevant, because it is about the lifeboats, not the sinking.

Learn: Volcano words

Say each word. Read the meaning. Write the word in a language you know.

WORD	MEANING	IN MY LANGUAGE
volcano	a mountain with a hole at the top; hot rock, gas and ash can come out	
erupt / eruption	when a volcano throws out hot rock, gas and ash	
explosion	a very loud, very strong bang that breaks things	
ash	very small grey pieces of rock that fly into the sky	
tsunami	a very big wave from the sea that hits the coast	
coast	the land next to the sea	

Read: Krakatoa, 1883

Read the text. Then answer the three questions.

Krakatoa was a small volcanic island in the Sunda Strait, between the islands of Java and Sumatra. In 1883, this area was part of the Dutch East Indies, a colony of the Netherlands. Today it is part of Indonesia.

On 26 and 27 August 1883, Krakatoa erupted. There were several huge explosions. People heard the biggest one about 4,800 km away, on Rodrigues Island in the Indian Ocean. About two thirds of the island disappeared.

The eruption caused tsunamis. In some places, the waves were more than 30 metres high. They destroyed towns and villages on the coasts of Java and Sumatra. The official number of deaths was 36,417, and most people died in the tsunamis.

Ash went high into the sky and travelled around the world. For months, people in many countries saw strange red sunsets.

1 Where is Krakatoa? Which country is it in today?

2 How far away did people hear the biggest explosion?

3 What caused most of the deaths?



Modern illustration: a red sky over a European city, late 1883.