

SECTION III. Written Communication (10 marks)

Read the article below. Write an essay of 200-250 words on ONE of the two options that follow. You may use the article as a source of information for your essay.

Your essay will be graded on its structure, expression, content, and argumentation.

Spend 20 minutes on this section.

In 2011, activists were camping in Dunedin's Octagon from 15 October to 20 December to protest corporate greed and the social inequality that stems from it.

On 30 October, they received a trespass notice and final letter of warning from the Dunedin City Council, requesting they vacate Dunedin's Octagon by 8 p.m. on 1 November. They refused to move, and the police refused to act on the Council's orders to evict them.

Dunedin-Clutha area Commander, Inspector Greg Sparrow, said, "this is not a straightforward matter and requires careful consideration from a police perspective. The rights of people to go about their lawful business and the rights of people to peacefully protest need to be carefully considered."

The number of tents dwindled at the "Occupy Dunedin" encampment, but the battle for public opinion continued to rage. Dunedin City Council figures showed Council staff and Mayor Dave Cull had received 626 phone calls and emails since the protest began on 15 October and the date of the eviction notice.

Most of those messages received in the first week were from Dunedin residents opposed to the protest, but the subsequent comments largely came from protest supporters across New Zealand and overseas. The figures were released by the Council after a request by the *Otago Daily Times* last week and left both sides claiming vindication.

The Council's aim was to see an end to the protesters' encampment, not their protest, Cull stressed. "Obviously, they've got a right to protest. It's the fact that they are camping there," noted Mayor Cull.

However, even after the eviction notice, protesters were showing no signs of quitting the site completely, with general assemblies and other activities continuing each day. The group's Facebook page had attracted 1167 "likes" by 1 November and was hosting a lively debate between supporters and opponents of the occupation.

OPTION 1

Do you support the actions of the protestors? Why or why not?

OPTION 2

As a Dunedin resident, what would you have suggested to Mayor Dave Cull about dealing with the protest in the Octagon?