1 Read the letter to the editor of a newspaper. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1 Michael Tate’s letter was published on Tuesday 15th June. _____
2 The writer feels that the newspaper prints many similar articles. _____
3 He believes that the title of the article is accurate. _____
4 The dessert recipes in Harry Miller’s article probably contain little or no sugar. _____
5 Michael Tate wants the newspaper to stop printing articles about food. _____

Dear Sir,

I am writing to complain about the article by Harry Miller entitled ‘Healthy and Delicious’, which was published in your newspaper on Tuesday 15th June.

I am sick and tired of your newspaper giving its readers advice on what they should and should not eat. Nearly every day, there is a new piece telling us that we should give up everything we enjoy or we will drop dead tomorrow.

Mr Miller’s article was the worst yet. Apart from the question of whether his recipes are healthy, I cannot see how a dish with no salt, butter or oil can be described as ‘delicious’. In the same way, if you put almost no sugar in a dessert, can you actually call it a dessert?

His dislike of caffeine also has no real scientific basis, as studies have shown that a cup of coffee in the morning does our systems a great deal of good. Logically, therefore, if I drink four cups of coffee, it will do me four times as much good.

In future, I hope to read more balanced articles in your newspaper, which give both sides of the argument about what a balanced diet consists of.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Tate

2 Read the letter again. Match the paragraphs (1–5) with the main ideas (a–f). There is one idea you do not need to use.

Paragraph 1 _____
Paragraph 2 _____
Paragraph 3 _____
Paragraph 4 _____
Paragraph 5 _____

a what action the writer wants to be taken
b the problems the writer had making the recipes
c criticism of the science behind the article
d the purpose of the letter
e a general criticism of the newspaper
f the first detailed attack on Miller’s article
Read the writing task and answer the questions.

You have read the article by Harry Miller and the letter Michael Tate wrote in response. You disagree with nearly everything in Michael Tate’s letter. Write a letter to the newspaper attacking what Michael Tate said.

1. Who is the letter to?
   a. Harry Miller  
   b. Michael Tate  
   c. the editor

2. What should the register of the letter be?
   a. formal  
   b. informal

3. Which of the following would you expect to have read in Harry Miller’s article? Tick the boxes.
   - Caffeine has no health benefits.
   - It’s harmful if you drink a lot of caffeine.
   - You should avoid any food that contains sugar.
   - You should not add extra sugar to your food.
   - Never use any salt when cooking food.
   - There should not be a lot of salt in a recipe.
   - Food with butter or oil in it tastes awful.
   - A dish does not have to have butter or oil in it to be tasty.
   - Sugar-free desserts can still be full of flavour.

4. How should you finish your letter?
   a. Yours faithfully,  
   b. Yours sincerely,  
   c. With love,

4. Write the task presented in Exercise 3.