CHAPTER TWENTY

Teachers’ Guide

Recommended Grammar Link:
Discourse markers
Conjunctions
Signposting
Focus on style: the language of academic essays.
Focus on form: writing a succinct and clear overview

Warmer activity
This activity encourages students to think about their study skills and the processes they go through when they are writing essays. The purpose is twofold: firstly to encourage students to articulate the techniques that they now have to use and secondly to suggest different techniques that students may not have previously used.

Attività 1

A preface is used as a condensed version of a long essay, in this case a monograph. Students are asked to analyse its function and structure with a close reading and textual analysis. The writing outcome in this activity is note taking, based on extrapolating the main points of the argument and is linked to encouraging students to engage with and comment on secondary sources.

Attività 2

In this activity students are asked to create a flow chart of the sequence of the preface. In doing this students are focusing on the structure and organisation of the text and equipping themselves for their own planning by providing a model.

Attività 3

This activity gives the students an opportunity to practise creating their own thesis based on the three essay questions provided. Students should have freedom of choice of the essay topics that are all based on the preface they have been working on. Going through the ideas phase of writing an essay, brain-storming, writing notes, ranking their points, redrafting them, adding extra points for discussion, the students should reach the writing outcome of gaining an idea of the structure and argument they would like to present.

Attività 4

The diagram guides students through the creation of a detailed essay plan that mirrors the preface they have been working on. The diagram provides students with a wealth
of useful phrases and expressions that will enable the student to create an articulate, clear and well-structured essay.