

Wasps serve no useful purpose. Discuss.

(This is a 30 minute exam answer)

I disagree with this statement. Wasps can serve many useful purposes.	Straight to the point – although a little brief!
Wasps are an integral part of nature. They are carnivores, so they kill pests and keep them away from plants. In this way, they can help to preserve both farm crops and garden flowers. They are completely harmless to plants, and their fearsome reputation is ill-deserved – they only ever sting humans in self-defence.	An interesting idea, explained, developed and tied back to the question
Certain species of wasp have actually been trained as “sniffer wasps”. They can be taught to respond to certain smells in return for some kind of edible reward. Although this research is relatively new, it opens up countless possibilities – in the near future, could wasps be trained to detect drugs or explosives at airports?	Quirky idea – and it’s true, too! Good – you’re thinking broadly about what you’re being asked, giving a memorable example, and tying it back to the question.
Ladybirds also eat aphids off crops, increasing food yields. Earthworms aerate the soil enabling plants to grow. Great White Sharks have earned an undeserved reputation as vicious killers: they only attack if food is scarce, and even then they don’t always intend to kill humans. After all, a person lying on a surf board looks very much like a seal to a starving shark.	I think you’re going off into the realms of fantasy, somewhat. Is there a way of tying this back to the question? Perhaps making it more obvious that there are many creatures other than wasps which might not deserve their reputations?
Darwin’s theory of evolution talks of “the survival of the fittest”. Creatures have adapted over millions of years so as to be capable of survival. Wasps certainly have many traits which afford them security – as well as their sharp sting, they can fly quickly, and have bright stripes to warn off attackers. Just because humans remember them only for their stings does not mean that they serve no useful purpose – after all, there is so much in this world which we don’t understand.	Getting back on track. Humans don’t understand everything, and wasps have evolved so as to be well suited to their environment. Good points.
Wasps didn’t ask to evolve, and they can be useful. I personally feel that we should treat them with a little more respect!	A brief and slightly pompous conclusion!
13/25 A little short, overall. You’ve done some good thinking on your feet though! A slightly random question, and you’ve drawn on your wider knowledge and reading to write a rather quirky answer. Brief introduction and conclusion, and a little pompous here and there. Also, a somewhat random paragraph half way through. Nevertheless, a perfectly acceptable exam answer, with a decent structure, and displaying a wide general knowledge.	