Useful phrases for writing an essay expressing an opinion in favor of a statement

A) Rephrasing the idea given by the subject of the essay, which is necessary in the first, short paragraph of the essay.

Basic idea: “Everyone knows that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun.”

It is common knowledge that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun.
Few would disagree that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun.
It stands to reason that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun.
It goes without saying that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun.
Who would disagree with the statement that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun? (NOTE that this is a rhetorical question)
The fact that knowledge of a foreign language can make holidays abroad more fun is well-known to many.

Basic idea: “Knowledge of a foreign language allows us to communicate with the local population.”

Knowing a foreign language, we can communicate with the local population.
It is possible to communicate with the local population if we know a foreign language.
Communicating with the local population is possible if we know a foreign language.
Without knowing a foreign language we cannot communicate with the local population.
Not knowing a foreign language renders it impossible to communicate with the local population.
Communicating with the local population depends on knowledge of a foreign language.
Communicating with the local population is only possible with knowledge of a foreign language.
Knowing a foreign language can help us to overcome difficulties in communicating with the local population.
Basic idea: “Let’s look at the (main) advantages of knowing a foreign language.”
So, what are the (main) advantages of knowing a foreign language? (NOTE that this is a rhetorical question)
Below we shall see some of the (main) advantages of knowing a foreign language.
Some of the (main) advantages of knowing a foreign language follow (below).
Below, I hope to show some of the (main) advantages of knowing a foreign language.

B) Setting out the advantages (Second and third paragraphs)

Basic idea: “The main advantage of knowing a foreign language is…”
[* see below] The main reason why knowing a foreign language is advantageous is that…
[* see below] The main reason why knowing a foreign language is an advantage lies in the fact that…
[* see below] People in the know see knowledge of a foreign language as an advantage because…
[* see below] It is highly advantageous to know a foreign language as/because…
[* see below] Knowing a foreign language can be a real boon because…
[* see below] Knowing a foreign language aids us greatly because…
[* see below] Individuals who know a foreign language find themselves able to […] and this can be considered a major advantage.
[* see below] Knowing a foreign language allows one to […] and this constitutes a significant advantage.
[* see below] Perhaps the principal advantage to knowing a foreign language is…

* In front of any of the above phrases it is a good move to put a short phrase meaning “I think”. You can use any of the following phrases (but you must also use the comma if one follows them, too): To my mind, / In my opinion, / In my view, / It is my view that… / I am of the view that… / It is my belief that… / It has to be said that…

Basic idea: “When we know a foreign language, it is easier to…”
Knowing a foreign language makes it easier to...
If we know a foreign language, we are in a better position to...
[Noun phrase/Gerund phrase, e.g. Communication with the local population / Communicating with the local population] is more easily achieved when we know a foreign language.
It is (only) when we know a foreign language that we can really...
Knowing a foreign language renders us (more) able to...
We are given the ability to […] if we know a foreign language.
Should we know a foreign language, we are able to...
When we know a foreign language we find ourselves capable of...

Basic idea: “Another advantage of knowing a foreign language is…”
A further advantage of knowing a foreign language is…
Another plus of knowing a foreign language is…
It is also advantageous to know a foreign language because…
Yet another advantage of knowing a foreign language is…
We can find yet another advantage of knowing a foreign language and that is…
Knowing a foreign language can have an additional advantage in that we can…

C) Concluding your favorable opinion essay

Basic idea: “I think I have shown that knowing a foreign language is an advantage.”
[** see below] It would seem to me from all the above that knowing a foreign language can only be an advantage.
[** see below] One can clearly see that knowing a foreign language is advantageous.
[** see below] Knowing a foreign language must, consequently/therefore/thus/as a result, be considered a plus.
[** see below] The advantages of knowing a foreign language are clear to see.
[** see below] One cannot doubt that knowing a foreign language is an advantage.
[** see below] Knowing a foreign language is clearly advantageous.
**In front of any of the above phrases it is a very wise move to put a short phrase meaning “I am going to conclude my essay”. You can use any of the following phrases (but you must also use the comma if one follows them, too): In conclusion, / To conclude, / To sum up, / In summary, / To summarize, / To summarize the above, / To sum all of the aforementioned ideas up, / It can, therefore, be concluded that… / The logical conclusion of the aforementioned ideas is that… / What can be concluded, then, is that… / The conclusion that can be drawn from the above is that…

REMEMBER: When writing this type of essay, it is far better to choose just a few important advantages in support of your view and to give examples of why these advantages are significant. Trying to give a long list of advantages without saying why they are advantages is not a good idea and will result in a much lower mark in the examination – or will result in the essay being failed by the examiner. Examiners are not just judging your ability to write in English; they are interested in whether you can write persuasively in English, and giving a long unsupported list of ideas is not persuasive writing. The key is to choose your advantages carefully and make sure you explain clearly why you believe they are important.