Describe arguments given in favour of the slave trade continuing.

Describe ways that anti-abolitionists campaigned for slavery.
Although some people in Britain opposed slavery, many other people wanted to see it continue. They believe it benefitted the country and so should not be abolished.
Many people in Britain supported the slave trade. This included merchants and politicians in cities which relied on money raised. It also included the King, British government and the Anglican Church.
Just like the abolition movement, those in favour of slavery had their own arguments.

These arguments centred around **money** and also the **power** anti-abolitionists felt that slavery gave Britain.
Economic arguments

Pro-slavery campaigners said that slavery had helped make a lot of money for Britain. Abolishing it would lose this.

They also pointed out that Britain received a lot of tax money from the trade.
They also argued that without slavery the sugar trade would collapse, meaning **no sugar**.

They pointed that thousands of Britons had jobs which depended on slavery and they would be **unemployed** without it.
Military arguments

Britain had a strong military because of the money slave trade made and the expertise it gave in shipbuilding.

Britain also needed slave money to fund the wars with France (from 1792).
Moral arguments

Anti-abolitionists also argued that Africans were *inferior*, meaning slavery was justified in God’s eyes.

They also claimed that slaves were *happier* living as Christians and were well treated.
Those in favour of slavery campaigned in similar ways to the abolition movement. They set up organisations to oppose the end of slavery. They also sent petitions to parliament and gained support from MPs (sometimes through bribes).
Groups were set up in Africa and the Caribbean to argue for the continuation of slavery.

They sent letters to newspapers and also suggested that British workers would be poorer and the country less safe without slavery.