

Снятие трудностей в
подготовке выпускников школ к
сдаче ЕГЭ по английскому
языку
Раздел «Письмо»

Young people in modern society

YOUNG PEOPLE IN MODERN SOCIETY

Task 1 Comment on the following statement

- Some people believe that modern teenagers are really awful.
- However, most teenagers think that they are criticized for no reason.
- What's your opinion? Do you agree that teens are really so bad?
- Write 200-250 words
- Use the following plan:
 - make an introduction (state of the problem)
 - express your personal opinion and give reasons for it
 - give arguments for the other point of view
 - explain why you don't agree with it
 - draw a conclusion

STEP 1. INTRODUCTION

Exam tip

- Try to paraphrase the topical statement, using synonyms and different grammatical structures
- Remember that the purpose of the introduction is to attract the reader's attention and to give background information on the topic. Remember to express your opinion in the introduction or in the first paragraph
- *Think about beginnings for your introduction*
- According to
- It is often said that....
- It is often argued that....
- Nowadays, we are becoming aware of the fact that...

- These days, it seems that...
- Recently we have all become concerned that...
- There is no doubt that...

Example of introduction

- According to the older generation, teenagers are lazy, they wear ridiculous clothes and they are appallingly rude to their betters and elders. However, are they really much worse than they used to be a hundred years ago? It seems to me quite the opposite of the truth.

STEP 2. THE ESSAY BODY

Exam tips

- *Think about language*
- *Examples of phrases which are often used to give personal opinions.*
- I believe that...
- Personally, I feel that...
- It seems to me that...
- I would argue that...
- I feel strongly that...
- I am convinced that...
- I am greatly in favor of (against)...
- I am completely opposed to...

Think about style

- In discursive writing, especially essays, it is important to use neutral style and avoid over-generalizations (People tend to ... instead of People always... or people often ... instead of People always...)

Think about vocabulary

- Adjectives that describe teenagers: cruel , aggressive, disobedient, rebellious, constructive, hard-working, helpful, caring
- Word combinations and expressions: take drugs and alcohol; get involved in fights; become successful; have part-time jobs; achieve great things; listen to awful music; gawp at unsuitable films

Think of two or three arguments to support your opinion

- a) Teenagers are purposeful and highly-motivated
- b) They achieve great things in sports
- c) They do household chores to help their parents

Think of two arguments of your opponents

- a) Teenagers are often criticized for having bad habits like taking drugs and alcohol
- b) They are cruel, aggressive and disobedient .
According to sociologists the crime rate among teens has increased dramatically in the last 20 years.

Think of one or two counterarguments

- a) young people are aware of the consequences of such bad habits, very few of them get addicted to drugs or alcohol
- b) Not everyone gets involved in fights or tends to commit a crime

Think about linking words to introduce arguments

- Firstly, secondly...
- Moreover
- Furthermore
- In addition
- Besides

Think of transition between paragraphs as the links of a chain

- However
- Anyway
- Nevertheless
- Nonetheless

8..

Example of the body of the essay

Personally, I am convinced that teenagers are misjudged. To begin with, most of them are purposeful and highly-motivated. The great majority of school-leavers today enter universities and institutes. They also achieve great things in sports and seem to be more ambitious than they used to be in the past. Besides, lots of teens do household chores as their parents are busy following their career paths and no longer have the energy to fulfill their duties.

However, teenagers are often criticized for having bad habits like taking drugs and alcohol and doctors are concerned about the increasing number of young people suffering from alcoholism or drug-addiction. More than that, some people claim that teenagers are cruel, aggressive and disobedient which results in growing crime rate among teens.

Yet, most teenagers are aware of the consequences of such habits and very few of them get addicted to drugs or alcohol. As for high criminal rate among teens, I feel strongly that it is not fair as not everyone gets involved in fights or tends to commit a crime.

STEP 3. CONCLUSION

Exam tip

- *Think about language*
- To sum up,...
- In conclusion...
- To conclude

Example of the conclusion

- To sum up , I believe that teenagers are not as bad as they are thought to be. The main reason for such unfair attitudes to teenagers is misunderstanding between adults and young people. Very often adults disapprove of their fashion, music and habits. Of course, not all teens are ideal< but they are not worse than their parents.

TASK 2. COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

- Many people want to start their own business. However, others feel that this is too risky and brings too much responsibility. What is your opinion? Is it better to start your own business or work for someone else?

Use the following plan:

- make introduction
- express your personal opinion
- give arguments for the opposite point of view
- explain why you don't agree with it
- draw a conclusion

Step 1. Introduction

Exam tip

- Try to paraphrase the topic statement, using different grammatical structures. Remember that the purpose of the introduction is to attract reader's attention and to give background information to the topic. Remember to express your opinion in the introduction

Think about beginnings for your introduction

- According to...
- It is often said that...
- It is often argued that...
- Nowadays, we are becoming aware of the fact that...
- These days, it seems that...
- Recently, we have all become concerned that...
- There is no doubt that...

The example of an introduction

- The idea of setting up a business seems to be very attractive to some people. However, most people prefer to work for big companies finding it more secure and stable. From my point of view, taking a job in a company is more convenient for a vast majority of people.

STEP 2. The body of the essay

Exam tips

Think about language

- Examples of phrases which are often used to give personal opinions
- I believe that...
- Personally, I feel that...
- It seems to me that....
- I would argue that...
- I feel strongly that...
- I am convinced that...
- I am greatly in favor of (against)...
- I am completely opposed to...

Think about style

- In discursive writing, especially in essays, it is important to use neutral style and avoid overgeneralizations (e.g. use ‘People tend to’ ... instead of “People always” ...)

3. Think about vocabulary

- Qualities: talent, persistence, the ability to work 24 hours a day
- Word combinations and expressions: to set up a business; to be likely to achieve success; to take risks; to run a company; to take responsibility; to be your own boss.

Think of 2 or 3 arguments to support your opinion

- the combination of such qualities as talent, incredible persistence and the ability to work 24 hours a day is rare
- very few people are capable of taking responsibility for other people

Think of two arguments your opponents could use

a) you become more independent

b) starting your own business is likely to be lucrative

Think of one or two counterarguments

- being your own boss you are bound to depend not only on your workers but on the market conditions too
- most businessmen go bankrupt after the first year if work

5. Think about linking words to introduce arguments

- Firstly,
- Secondly,...
- Moreover,...
- Furthermore
- In addition
- Besides

Think of transition between paragraphs as the links of a chain

- However
- Anyway
- Nevertheless
- Nonetheless

Example of the body of the essay

- First of all, according to some sociologists, only 5 % of people are likely to achieve success in business because the combination of such qualities as talent, incredible persistence, the ability to work 24 hours a day and to take risks is rather rare in one person. Secondly, running your own company involves taking responsibility for your employees and very few people are capable of doing it.

- Still, owners of companies are bound to work longer hours than their employees and depend not only on their workers but on the market conditions and many other things. Furthermore, according to the statistics, most businessmen go bankrupt after the first year of work.

Step 3. Conclusion

- Exam tip
- Think about language
- To sum up,...
- In conclusion,...
- To conclude

Example of the conclusion

- To conclude, I would like to stress, that working for a company enables people to develop a rewarding career whereas setting up a business involves too much stress and very little certainty that your attempt will turn out to be successful.