

Work with a Model

Read the task below and answer the questions that follow.

Teenagers can benefit from working part-time in the evenings, after school or at weekends.

Write an **essay** on whether you agree or disagree with the statement above. Include specific reasons and details to support your opinion.

1. Do you agree with the statement?
2. What should you include in your essay? **specific reasons and details to support my opinion**



Read the model essay and complete the plan. Use the words below. Some words can be used twice. Then answer the questions that follow.

current • arguments • issue • other • opinion • sides

Plan	Model
<p>Paragraph 1 Introduction Introduce the topic by stating the <u>current</u> situation. Show that there are two <u>sides</u> to the issue.</p>	<p>Nowadays, it is quite common for teenagers to work part-time at weekends or during the summer in shops, cafés and restaurants. Although teenagers can benefit from this kind of employment, there are some drawbacks that they should bear in mind.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2 Present <u>arguments</u> on one side of the <u>issue</u>, with reasons or explanations.</p>	<p><u>First and foremost</u> the main advantage of part-time work is that it enables young people to earn some money, which gives them more independence. It also teaches them to appreciate the value of money and gives them experience managing it. <u>In addition, part-time work gives teenagers useful work experience</u>, which will be a definite plus when the time comes to apply for a permanent job.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3 Present <u>arguments</u> on the <u>other</u> side of the issue, with reasons or explanations.</p>	<p><u>Having said that</u>, teens may find that working part-time has a negative impact on their education. Trying to keep up with studies while working might be tiring and stressful. Schoolwork should take priority, particularly for young people who need high grades to get into university. <u>Last but not least, working leaves little time for a social life</u>. It may result in teenagers missing out on hobbies or spending time with family and friends. Finding the right balance between studying, working and leisure can be difficult.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4 Conclusion Restate both <u>sides</u> and give our <u>opinion</u>.</p>	<p>All in all, while part-time work may be beneficial for a teenager, the disadvantages can be considerable. And since most people will work all their adult lives, <u>teenagers should perhaps focus on just being teenagers</u>.</p>

Tip A strong closing comment leaves the reader with food for thought and strengthens your overall opinion. Underline the comment the writer made.

1. Is the writer for or against teenagers working part-time? **against**
2. Circle the phrases the writer uses to introduce the main reason in Paragraphs 2 and 3.
3. The writer gave additional reasons in Paragraphs 2 and 3. Underline the reasons.

ADDING A REASON OR DETAILS What reasons or details has the writer included to support the following ideas:

1. young people can earn money **It also teaches them to appreciate the value of money and gives them experience managing it.**
2. gives useful work experience **which will be a definite plus when the time comes to apply for a permanent job**
3. has a negative impact on their studies **trying to keep up with studies while working might be tiring and stressful.**
4. has a negative impact on social life **It may result in teenagers missing out on hobbies or spending time with family and friends.**

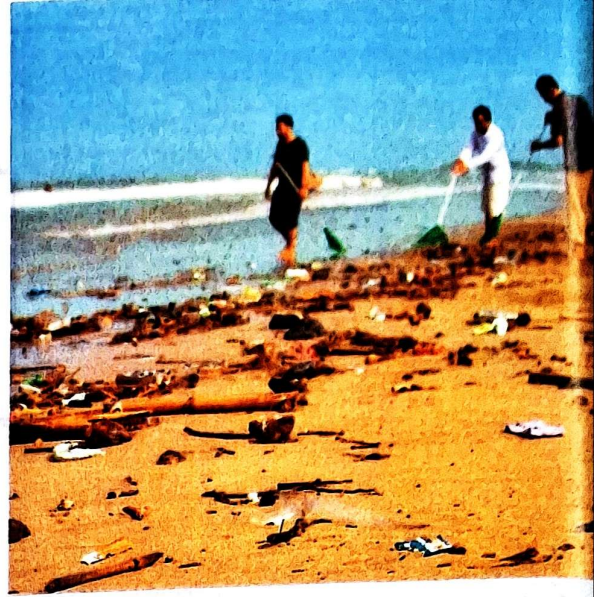
Prepare for Your Task

4 Read the task below and answer the questions that follow:

Teenagers should give up their free time to take part in volunteer projects at weekends or in the summer.

- Write an **essay** on whether you agree or disagree with the statement above.
- Include specific reasons and details to support your opinion.

1. Do you agree with the statement?
2. What should you include in your essay? **specific reasons and details to support your opinion**



5a BRAINSTORM IDEAS Asking yourself why you agree or disagree with the task statement will help you come up with ideas, reasons, advantages or disadvantages to justify your opinion. Look at the chart below. Add one advantage and one disadvantage of your own. Then complete the chart with reasons or details.

advantages of voluntary work

1. **benefits local community**

2. **teens get useful work experience**

disadvantages of voluntary work

1. **time-consuming**

2. **have a negative impact on schoolwork**

Reason / Details

help improve the neighbourhood / local environment

a definite plus / asset when applying for a job

may not have enough time for sports or hobbies

school should take priority - need high grades for university

5b Now think of a strong closing statement to end your essay.



Organization: We usually introduce the side of the we do not agree with (Par 2). Then we discuss the we support (Par 3). This leads to a logical conclusion and strengthens your opinion (Par 4).

Your Task

6 Read the task in Exercise 4 again and write your essay. Use the ideas in Exercise 5 and the plan below to help you.

Plan

Essay

Par 1 Introduction

- Introduce the topic by stating the current situation.
- Show that there are two sides to the issue.

Par 2 Present arguments on one side of the issue, with reasons or explanations.

Par 3 Present arguments on the other side of the issue, with reasons or explanations.

Par 4 Conclusion

Restate both sides and give your opinion.

See Teacher's Guide for model writing.

Nowadays, it is quite common ...
Today, young people often ...
Although, ... there are ...

The main *advantage / benefit* ...
On the one hand, ... / First and foremost, ...
In addition ... / Furthermore, ...

Having said that ... / However, ...
Nevertheless, there are *drawbacks / disadvantages*.

On the other hand, ...
Above all, ... / Most importantly, ...
Last but not least, ...

All in all, ... / To sum up, ...
In conclusion, ... / To conclude, ...

