

AN ESSAY

Hobbies and leisure

1

Complete the opinions below using words from the box. Which opinions do you agree with?

believe in my personally say see seems view would

1.

..... opinion, young people don't get enough free time these days. They're under too much pressure at school.

2.

I that having hobbies you enjoy helps you to work hard and do well in exams.

3.

It to me that there are lots of opportunities to do exciting hobbies such as rock climbing or skydiving, but you always need money to join in!

4.

In my most teenagers spend too much time on their mobile phones. They should get out and spend more time making friends!

5.

As I it, the internet has created loads of opportunities to explore new hobbies and interests, such as film-making and photography.

6.

I would that schools should do more to encourage young people to have a range of interests in their free time.

7.

Most people agree that it isn't healthy to spend all your time working or studying.

8.

....., I think it's really important to be active and do sport in your free time.



✓ Exam task

2

In your English class you have been talking about hobbies and free time. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write your essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your points of view. Write your essay in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.



Young people today spend too much of their free time playing video games.
Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. things you can learn from video games
2. doing exercise
3. (your own idea)

3

Complete the paragraphs about people's hobbies with the correct words and phrases.

I started playing the guitar a year ago, and I would recommend it as a hobby to anyone who likes music. Taking up an instrument doesn't need to be expensive. **(1)** *Therefore / For instance*, you can buy a second-hand guitar very cheaply online. **(2)** *As for / Therefore* lessons, you don't need to pay a teacher because there are lots of videos online that you can use to teach yourself to play. Playing music is really relaxing. **(3)** *Moreover / For example*, there are lots of opportunities to join a band and start performing. **(4)** *To sum up / In this way*, you can improve your skills and make friends. Why not have a go?

I have always been interested in food. **(5)** *For instance / For this reason*, I was delighted when my local college started offering cookery lessons. The classes weren't expensive, and I **(6)** *therefore / in this way* decided to sign up. I loved it from the start, and I've learned to make some great dishes. Cooking is a really creative hobby. **(7)** *As a result / Furthermore*, it's something you can share with your friends, because everyone enjoys eating good food! It isn't expensive, either. **(8)** *As a result / To sum up*, cooking is an affordable, fun and sociable thing to do in your free time – you should definitely try it!

✓ Exam facts

- In this part, you are given a question or statement and some notes.
- You have to write an essay of between 140 and 190 words that gives your opinion about the question or statement.
- You have to include the points given in the notes and an idea of your own.

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AN ESSAY

Health and fitness

1

Read the task and the essay. Then read the sentences and choose the correct answer, a or b.
Should adverts for junk food be allowed on TV?

Notes

Write about:

1. the problem with junk food
2. the effect of advertising on children
3. (your own idea)



1. People see adverts for junk food such as burgers and chocolate bars on their TV screens every day. Although there are problems with people eating too much junk food, banning adverts for it is not necessarily the answer.
2. It is true that eating junk food can have a bad effect on people's health. Eating foods that contain a lot of fat or sugar can make people overweight and cause health problems such as heart attacks. Moreover, advertising can have a very strong effect on children, especially if adverts use popular cartoon characters. This can encourage them to develop unhealthy eating habits.
3. On the other hand, eating junk food from time to time is not bad for your health, and can be nice on special occasions. Imagine a day at the seaside without an ice cream, or a birthday celebration without a box of chocolates! Without advertising, people wouldn't have good choices for these products.
4. In my view, the most important thing is to educate children about the importance of a healthy diet. In this way, they can enjoy junk foods occasionally, but also stay fit and healthy.

1. The first sentence of the essay ...
 - a introduces the topic and gives the writer's opinion.
 - b gives a general introduction to the topic.
2. In paragraph 1, the writer ...
 - a contrasts two different opinions about junk food and advertising.
 - b gives two similar opinions about the problem with junk food.
3. Paragraph 1 is ...
 - a quite short.
 - b longer than all the other paragraphs.
4. In paragraph 2, the writer ...
 - a gives arguments for and against junk foods.
 - b gives detailed arguments about the problem with junk foods.
5. In paragraph 3, the writer ...
 - a adds more arguments against junk food.
 - b gives a different point of view about junk food.

6. Paragraph 4 ...


- a states the writer's conclusion and opinion.
- b repeats all the opinions from paragraphs 2 and 3.

Exam task

2

In your English class you have been talking about healthy living. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write your essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your points of view. Write your essay in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.


<p>Schools are responsible for teaching young people all the skills they need to stay fit and healthy. Do you agree?</p>
<p>Notes</p> <p>Write about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exercise 2. food 3. (your own idea)

3

Complete the sentences with the correct words and phrases.

1. *Although / However* Jack is only fifteen, he takes his health very seriously.
2. Junk food is cheap, *despite / whereas* healthy foods are often quite expensive.
3. Schools can't force young people to do exercise. *On the other hand / Whereas*, they can certainly encourage them to take up a sport.
4. Joining a gym is quite expensive. *Although / However*, it can bring a lot of benefits.
5. I went for a run this morning *despite / in spite* the bad weather.
6. *While / Nevertheless* a lot of people would like to cycle to work, they don't do it because they think the roads are not safe.
7. We all know that junk food is bad for us, but *in spite of / although* this, we all eat it from time to time.
8. Walking is a very gentle form of exercise. *Nevertheless / Although*, it is still very good for your health.

Exam tips

- Quickly plan what you are going to include in your essay.
- Remember to include a brief introduction and a conclusion.
- Make sure you answer the question, include all the points given in the notes, including your own idea, and give reasons for your opinions.

AN ESSAY

The environment

1

Match the definitions with the words and phrases.

1. This gas causes pollution, and is causing the earth to become hotter.

a drought

2. This is a clean form of energy that uses light from the sun.

b carbon dioxide

3. This happens when there is a lot of rain.

c climate change

4. This describes animals that could disappear in the future.

d famine

5. The process of taking action to protect the environment.

e flooding

6. This is the process in which the weather is gradually changing because of pollution.

f endangered

7. This is a situation in which a lot of people suffer because they have no food.

g conservation

8. This happens when the land becomes very dry because there is no rain.

h reserve

9. To make water, air, soil, etc. dirty or harmful.

i pollute

10. This is an area of land where animals and plants are protected.

j solar

2

Read the task and the main paragraphs of the essay. Then read concluding paragraphs a–c and answer the questions. Which is the best concluding paragraph? Why?

Individuals can do a lot to help the environment. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. recycling

2. transport

3. (your own idea)

The environment is a very important problem in the world today. While governments clearly need to take action to protect the world we live in, individuals can also make a big contribution to improving the environment.

Firstly, people can buy products that can be recycled. When we throw things away, they often end up in the environment and cause a lot of pollution. If everyone recycled as much as possible, there would be a lot less rubbish in our seas and under the ground.

Secondly, people can think about how they travel to school or work. Cars have a very bad effect on the environment, so individuals can help by walking or cycling, or using public transport.

However, individuals cannot solve all our environmental problems. There are some things that only governments can do, such as deciding which forms of energy the country should invest in, or deciding whether to build new airports.

- a Another thing that individuals can do is refuse to fly, as planes cause a lot of pollution. On the other hand, it is the government's responsibility to decide on the price of flying. If they put the prices up, this would prevent people from using this damaging form of transport.
- b Both individuals and governments can play an important role in protecting the environment, and both should take this problem seriously and do what they can to help. If this happens, I believe that in the future the world will be a cleaner and safer place to live in.
- c Individuals can make a big difference to the environment by choosing environmentally friendly forms of transport, and by reusing or recycling products. However, governments must also help protect our world, for example by choosing clean forms of energy. Scientists all agree that we must take action soon.

Which concluding paragraph ...


1. introduces a new argument?
2. repeats all the arguments from the previous paragraphs?
3. provides a short summary of the arguments from the previous paragraphs?
4. expresses two different points of view? (2 answers)
5. ends with the writer's opinion?
6. ends by expressing someone else's opinion?

Exam task

3

In your English class you have been talking about the environment. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write your essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your points of view. Write your essay in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.

	
<p>There are lots of things governments could do to help deal with environmental problems. Do you agree?</p>	
<p>Notes</p> <p>Write about:</p>	
1.	pollution
2.	cost
3. (your own idea)

Get it right!

Look at the sentence below. Then try to correct the mistake.

Concluding, I think life nowadays is better than it was in the past.