



Digital Life and Technology

Note-taking: AI homework planners | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. How do students usually organise homework deadlines?
2. What could an AI planner do well?
3. What risks might there be if students rely on AI too much?
4. Should schools recommend digital planning tools?

Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. What is the main benefit of AI homework planners?

AI Homework Planners

AI homework planners are digital tools that help students organise tasks and manage deadlines more effectively. A planner might scan a homework list, estimate how long tasks could take and suggest a study schedule. Some tools also send reminders before deadlines or divide a large project into smaller steps.

These features can be useful for students who forget dates or feel overwhelmed by several subjects at once. A planner can show that a project needs more than one evening, or that a short quiz should not take a whole afternoon. This can help students make better decisions about time management.

However, the tool cannot do the thinking for the student. Learners still need to check instructions, judge task difficulty and update the planner when a teacher changes a deadline. If students accept every suggestion without thinking, they may create unrealistic schedules or ignore important revision.

Schools that use AI planners usually set rules. Students should protect personal information, avoid uploading private documents and tell a teacher if the planner gives confusing advice. Used responsibly, the tool can support independent learning. Used carelessly, it can become another distraction on a screen.

Teachers often remind students that planning is only useful if it leads to action. A perfect schedule will not help if the student ignores it or spends too long adjusting colours and labels. Some classes practise comparing an AI-generated plan with a plan written by a student. This helps learners discuss which suggestions are realistic, which are too vague and which need more detail from the teacher.

The discussion can also include fairness. Some students have fast internet and personal devices, while others share a phone or work in noisy homes. Schools need to remember that a digital tool is only helpful if students can access it reliably.

Teachers may ask students to keep a short reflection after using the planner. They can record whether the schedule was realistic and what they changed. This encourages students to evaluate the tool instead of following it blindly.

Students may compare the planner's advice with their own study habits. This helps them notice whether they usually underestimate reading, writing or revision time.

3. Strategy focus

Separate tool features from student habits

A digital tool may have many features, but the notes may ask for habits students still need to practise.

4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
What AI planners can do	- - -
Students the tool may help	- - -
Habits students still need	- - -
Safety rules	- - -

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Would an AI homework planner help you? Why, or why not?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and explain how the heading stopped you copying the wrong nearby detail.
3. Writing: Write advice for using an AI planning tool responsibly.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to AI, homework and time management.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they help students organise tasks and manage deadlines more effectively.

4. Practice note-taking task

What AI planners can do

- scan a homework list
- suggest a study schedule
- send reminders before deadlines

Students the tool may help

- students who forget dates / forget dates
- students who feel overwhelmed / feel overwhelmed
- students managing several subjects at once / several subjects at once

Habits students still need

- check instructions
- judge task difficulty
- update the planner

Safety rules

- protect personal information
- avoid uploading private documents
- tell a teacher if the planner gives confusing advice / tell a teacher if advice is confusing

Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.