



Education and School Life

Note-taking: library homework clubs | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Where do students in your area go if they need help with homework?
2. What makes a good place to study after school?
3. Why might some students fall behind with homework?
4. Should libraries offer study support for teenagers?

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. How can library homework clubs support students?

Library Homework Clubs

Public libraries in some towns run homework clubs for teenagers after school. The clubs are not private lessons. Instead, they provide a quiet study space for students who may not have one at home. Librarians say the atmosphere matters: students can work near others, but away from noise at home or school. This can be especially important before exams, when students need a regular place to revise.

At the start of each session, students choose a task and set a time limit. This helps them meet deadlines and avoid leaving work until late at night. Volunteers do not complete homework for students, but they can explain instructions, suggest useful books and show students how to search safely online. Some clubs also teach students how to organise notes before exams. A simple routine helps students see homework as a series of manageable steps rather than one large problem.

Homework clubs can support students who feel under pressure. If someone has missed lessons, a volunteer may help them catch up on work by identifying the first task to finish. Students who are learning English can use bilingual dictionaries, but they are encouraged to write answers in their own words. This helps them make progress without copying long sections from websites. Some students also ask for help understanding feedback, because they know they made a mistake but do not know how to improve it.

There are challenges for libraries. Staff need enough computers, reliable internet and clear rules about noise. Popular clubs may need a booking system because space is limited. Some libraries also create a separate area for younger children so teenagers do not feel watched by families. Librarians try to avoid making the club feel like detention, so students can leave once they have finished their chosen task. They also collect feedback from students, because a timetable that suits one school may not suit another. However, many librarians believe the clubs are worth the effort because students become more independent learners and start seeing the library as part of their school routine.

3. Strategy focus

Choose the phrase that fits the heading

A sentence may include several useful details. Check the heading before choosing which phrase to copy into the notes.

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 homework clubs provide	- - -
Study habits students practise	- - -
Support from volunteers	- - -
Library challenges and benefits	- - -

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: What rule would make a homework club fair and useful?
2. Strategy: Choose two answers and explain which extra words from the sentence were not needed.
3. Writing: Write a short message inviting students to a library homework club.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to studying, deadlines and school life.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they provide a quiet study space and help students manage homework more independently.

4. Practice note-taking task

What homework clubs provide

- a quiet study space
- a regular place to revise
- work near others / away from noise at home or school

Study habits students practise

- choose a task
- set a time limit
- organise notes before exams

Support from volunteers

- explain instructions
- suggest useful books
- show students how to search safely online

Library challenges and benefits

- enough computers
- reliable internet
- more independent learners

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.