



Education and School Life

Note-taking: student-led clubs | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What clubs are popular in your school?
2. Why might students want to run a club themselves?
3. What responsibilities would club leaders have?
4. Should every school encourage student-led activities?

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 can students gain from leading clubs?

Student-Led Clubs

Student-led clubs are activities organised mainly by students rather than teachers. A club might focus on chess, coding, drama, debate, photography or environmental action. Teachers still supervise, but students plan meetings and make many decisions. Supporters say club leaders can develop leadership, organisation and communication skills.

Running a club involves practical responsibilities. Student leaders choose meeting dates, prepare materials and welcome new members. They may also write announcements or manage a small budget for equipment. These tasks help students understand that a successful club depends on preparation, not just enthusiasm.

Student-led clubs can make school life more inclusive. A student who does not enjoy sport may join a film club, while a quiet student may become confident by helping with a book group. Some clubs also connect year groups because younger students can learn from older students in a relaxed setting.

There are challenges. Club leaders need to be reliable, and teachers must make sure no one is excluded. If the same confident students lead every activity, others may not get a chance. Some schools solve this by rotating roles, offering leadership training and asking members for feedback at the end of each term.

Student leaders may need support at the start. A teacher can help them write a simple plan, decide how to welcome new members and set realistic goals for the term. Without this support, a club can become disorganised after the first few meetings. With it, students learn how to turn an idea into a regular activity. This is why student-led clubs can be useful preparation for future work or volunteering.

Clubs can also help students feel more connected to school. A student who is quiet in lessons may become more confident when sharing a hobby with others. This can improve friendships and give students a reason to take part in school life.

A successful club may eventually train younger leaders. Older students can pass on documents, routines and advice before they leave school. This helps the club continue instead of disappearing when one enthusiastic student becomes too busy.

Students who have led clubs can later use the experience in applications. It gives them specific examples of planning, teamwork and problem-solving.

For some students, this is the first time they have been trusted to organise something for others, which can be highly motivating.

3. Strategy focus

Distinguish responsibility from benefit

A club leader's task may lead to a skill. Use the heading to decide whether your note should be the task or the skill.

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 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Examples of student-led clubs | - - - |
| Responsibilities for leaders | - - - |
| Benefits for school life | - - - |
| Ways schools manage challenges | - - - |

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 student-led club would you start?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and check whether each is short enough for a note-taking answer.
3. Writing: Write a short proposal for a new school club.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to clubs, leadership and school community.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they can develop leadership, organisation and communication skills.

4. Practice note-taking task

Examples of student-led clubs

- chess
- coding
- environmental action

Responsibilities for leaders

- choose meeting dates
- prepare materials
- welcome new members

Benefits for school life

- more inclusive
- a quiet student may become confident / quiet student may become confident
- connect year groups

Ways schools manage challenges

- rotating roles
- leadership training
- asking members for feedback

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.