



Transport and Travel

Note-taking: community cycle hubs | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. How safe is cycling in your local area?
2. What might stop people from cycling to school or work?
3. What services could make cycling easier for families?
4. Would a community cycle hub be popular where you live?

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 are two ways cycle hubs can help local communities?

Community Cycle Hubs

In several towns, community cycle hubs have been opened near train stations, parks and busy shopping streets. These small centres are designed for people who want to cycle but do not feel confident yet. Staff say the main aim is to make cycling safer, especially for families and new riders. The hubs are usually placed in visible public areas so that people can ask for help without booking an appointment. Some open early in the morning, when commuters discover a flat tyre just before catching a train.

One important service is the repair desk. Volunteers check brakes, pump up tyres and explain how to adjust a seat correctly. They do not replace a professional bike shop, but they can solve simple problems that stop people cycling. Some hubs also lend helmets, lights and reflective jackets. This is useful for students who only cycle occasionally or families who cannot buy every item at once. The equipment is returned at the end of the day, so it can be shared by many riders.

Cycle hubs often work with local schools. Trainers show students how to signal clearly, avoid rush hour traffic and plan a safe route. In one town, students practised using quieter side streets before cycling on main roads. Parents were invited to join the final session because younger riders often need adults to feel confident too. Trainers also discuss wet weather, because students may cycle safely in sunshine but take unnecessary risks when roads are slippery.

There are still difficulties. Some residents complain that cycle lanes take space away from cars, while others worry about theft. For this reason, many hubs include secure bike parking and advice about strong locks. Organisers say the biggest success is not the number of bikes repaired, but the number of people who start seeing cycling as a convenient way to travel. They argue that a cycle hub works best when it is linked to public transport, schools and local shops rather than hidden in a quiet corner. If families can borrow equipment, practise a route and fix a small problem in one place, they are more likely to try cycling again.

3. Strategy focus

Use headings to limit your answer

Read the heading first, then look for the part of the paragraph that matches it. Do not copy a detail just because it is about the same topic.

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
Where cycle hubs are located	- - -
Repair desk services	- - -
Support for students and families	- - -
Problems cycle hubs try to solve	- - -

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: Which cycle hub service would help people most in your area?
2. Strategy: Choose two notes and explain why the surrounding details are not needed.
3. Writing: Write a short notice advertising a cycle hub for students.
4. Vocabulary: Circle transport phrases connected to cycling, safety and commuting.

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Note-taking: community cycle hubs

2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they make cycling safer and help people repair bikes or borrow cycling equipment.

4. Practice note-taking task

Where cycle hubs are located

- near train stations
- near parks / parks
- near busy shopping streets / busy shopping streets

Repair desk services

- check brakes
- pump up tyres
- adjust a seat correctly

Support for students and families

- signal clearly
- plan a safe route
- parents were invited / younger riders often need adults

Problems cycle hubs try to solve

- cycle lanes take space away from cars
- theft
- simple problems that stop people cycling

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.