



Education and School Life

Article: should schools give less homework?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. How much homework is useful for students?
2. What problems can too much homework cause?
3. Should schools set the same homework rules for every subject? Why?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.

Use a catchy title and opening hook.

Develop ideas with reasons and examples.

Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether schools should give students less homework. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Homework helps me remember what we learnt in class.'

'It prepares us for exams.'

'After clubs and revision, I feel completely worn out.'

'There should be more time for hobbies and family.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

Less Homework, Better Learning?

Do students really learn more when every evening is packed with homework? This question came up in a recent class discussion, and it is one many students will recognise. Homework is a normal part of school life, but that does not mean every task is useful.

On one hand, homework can be valuable when it has a clear purpose. It gives students a chance to practise skills from lessons and notice what they still find difficult. For example, short revision tasks can help students remember key ideas before a test. Homework can also encourage independence as students move towards exams.

However, too much homework can have the opposite effect. Many students already stay late for clubs, music practice or extra revision, so a long list of tasks can leave them worn out. As a result, they may rush their work instead of thinking carefully. It can also reduce time for exercise, hobbies and family life, which are important for wellbeing.

In my view, schools should not remove homework completely. Instead, teachers should set shorter, more focused tasks and avoid deadlines from several subjects on the same day. That way, homework could support learning without taking over students' lives.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, opening hook, main ideas, contrast and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain why homework can be useful?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain problems caused by too much homework?	
Final view	Where does the writer give a personal view or suggestion?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one reason, example or effect that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
why homework helps	modal verbs + purpose language	You are explaining possible benefits and reasons.	homework can be valuable / can help students remember key ideas
problems with too much homework	cause/effect language	You are showing how one situation leads to another.	can leave them worn out / As a result, they may rush their work
your view or suggestion	opinion + recommendation language	You are ending with a clear personal response.	In my view, schools should... / That way, homework could...

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	Do students really learn more when...? / Have you ever wondered whether...? / Is homework always helpful?
add context	This question came up in a recent discussion. / It is one many students will recognise. / Homework is part of school life, but...
introduce one side	On one hand, homework can be valuable. / It gives students a chance to... / It can also encourage...
show contrast	However, too much homework can... / The problem is that... / This does not mean...
show effect	As a result, they may... / This can reduce time for... / Over time, students might...
finish with a view	In my view, schools should... / That way, homework could... / A better solution would be...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe school work	homework / revision tasks / deadlines / subject teachers	
describe benefits	practise skills / remember key ideas / encourage independence	
describe problems	packed evenings / worn out / rush their work	
sound article-like	Do students really...? / one many students will recognise	
upgrade ideas	focused tasks / support learning / take over students' lives	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another school-life issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
why homework helps		
problems / other side		
final view / suggestion		

