



Future Plans and Ambitions

Article: should teenagers plan their futures early?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. When should students start thinking about future careers?
2. How can having a goal help teenagers?
3. Why might early planning put pressure on students?

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 teenagers should start planning their futures early. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'A clear goal can motivate you.'

'Planning helps with subject choices.'

'We are too young to decide everything now.'

'People change as they get older.'

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

Do We Need a Life Plan at Fifteen?

Should every teenager already know what they want to do in the future? It can feel as if we are expected to have a perfect plan before we have even finished school. Planning ahead can be useful, but it should not become a cage.

There are clear advantages to thinking about the future early. A career goal can motivate students to work harder and choose subjects more carefully. It can also make school feel more meaningful because students understand how their choices might connect to later opportunities.

However, teenagers are still changing. Someone who dreams of becoming an engineer at fourteen may discover a love of design, business or languages two years later. If students feel locked into one path too soon, they may become anxious or ignore new interests.

In my opinion, teenagers should explore future options without feeling forced to decide everything. Schools can help by offering talks, work experience and honest advice. The best plan is not a fixed map, but a starting point that can change as we grow.

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, hook, advantages, contrast and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain benefits of early planning?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why plans may change?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a flexible approach?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or image 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
benefits of planning	modal verbs + purpose language	You are explaining how planning can help students.	can motivate students / choose subjects more carefully
why plans change	contrast + possibility language	You are showing that one decision may not last forever.	However, teenagers are still changing / may discover a love of...
your view	flexible recommendation	You are giving advice without sounding too extreme.	should explore future options / The best plan is not a fixed map

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 we need a life plan at fifteen? / Should every teenager already know...? / Is one future plan enough?
add context	It can feel as if... / before we have even finished school / Planning ahead can be useful, but...
introduce benefits	There are clear advantages to... / can motivate students to... / It can also make...
show contrast	However, teenagers are still changing. / Someone who dreams of... may... / The problem is that...
use imagery	not become a cage / locked into one path / not a fixed map, but a starting point
finish with a view	In my opinion... / Schools can help by... / The best approach 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 planning	career goal / subject choices / future options / work experience	
describe benefits	motivate students / meaningful / later opportunities	
describe concerns	too young / locked into one path / anxious	
sound article-like	perfect plan / not become a cage / fixed map	
upgrade ideas	flexible / explore / honest advice	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another future planning issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of planning		
concerns / other side		
final view / suggestion		

