



Culture and Traditions

Essay: learning about local traditions

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which traditions are important in your community?
2. Should schools teach local culture as well as global culture?
3. Can traditions feel old-fashioned to young people?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an essay, often for a teacher.
Present an argument or point of view.
Support ideas with reasons and examples.
Use a formal or neutral register.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether young people should learn more about local traditions. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your opinion about this topic.

In your essay, you should discuss both sides of the argument and give your own view.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Traditions help us understand where we come from.'
'Local stories and celebrations bring people together.'

'Some traditions do not feel relevant today.'
'Young people need to learn about the modern world too.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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 essay

Local traditions can seem less important in a modern, international world. Some young people may prefer learning about technology, travel or global culture. However, traditions still have a useful place in education and community life.

One argument in favour of learning about traditions is that they help young people understand their identity. For example, local stories, food and celebrations can explain how communities developed and why certain values matter. This can also encourage respect between generations.

On the other hand, schools must be careful not to present traditions as fixed or perfect. Some customs may feel old-fashioned, and students also need knowledge that prepares them for the modern world. Therefore, tradition should not replace wider learning.

In my view, young people should learn about local traditions, but they should also be encouraged to question and compare them. Overall, this balanced approach can help students respect the past while still thinking about the future.

4. Explore the model: structure, argument and register

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

Focus	What to find	Done?
Essay structure	Find the introduction, argument for, argument against and conclusion.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain why traditions matter?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain possible limits?	
Own view	Where does the writer give a clear personal view in a formal or neutral way?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the essay sounds formal or neutral rather than chatty.	
Development	Find one reason, example or effect that improves the argument.	

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 traditions matter	reason language + abstract nouns	You are explaining why traditions may matter to identity and community.	One argument in favour of learning about traditions is that they help young people understand their identity / For example,...
possible limits	contrast + modern relevance	You are recognising limits without dismissing the topic completely.	Some customs may feel old-fashioned, and students also need knowledge that pre... / As a result,...
your own view	balanced conclusion language	You are weighing both sides before giving your final view.	In my view, young people should learn about local traditions, but they should also be encouraged to question and compare them / Overall,...

6. Build a clear essay

Notice how essay phrases help you organise arguments and make your viewpoint clear.

Job	Useful essay phrases
introduce the issue	This question is not simple. / Many people believe that... / It is important to consider both sides.
present one side	One argument in favour of... is that... / For example,... / This can help...
present the other side	On the other hand,... / However,... / This may cause...
show result	As a result,... / Therefore,... / This means that...
state your view	In my view,... / I believe that... / Overall,...
conclude clearly	The best solution is... / A balanced approach would... / ...without creating unnecessary problems

7. Vocabulary and useful essay phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise, formal or neutral phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe traditions	local stories / celebrations / customs / community values	
describe benefits	understand identity / respect between generations / bring people together	
describe concerns	old-fashioned / less relevant / modern world / wider learning	
sound essay-like	Some people may argue... / However... / In my view...	
upgrade ideas	balanced approach / cultural identity / prepare students for the future	

8. Plan your own essay

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

Section	My idea	Useful language
introduction / issue		This question is not simple. / Many people believe...
argument for		One argument in favour of... / For example...
argument against		On the other hand... / This can lead to...
my view		In my view... / I believe that...
conclusion		Overall... / The best solution is...

9. Write your own essay

Write a formal or neutral essay for the task. Discuss both sides, develop your ideas and make your view clear.

[illegible]

10. Self-check and peer-check

Success criteria	What to check	Self	Peer
Content	The essay discusses both sides of the issue and gives a clear view.		
Essay structure	The answer has an introduction, organised argument paragraphs and a conclusion.		
Audience and register	It sounds formal or neutral and suitable for a teacher.		
Prompt-led language	The writing uses opinion language, contrast linkers and cause/effect language accurately.		
Cohesion	Ideas connect naturally with formal linking phrases such as <i>One argument in favour of...</i> , <i>On the other hand...</i> , <i>As a result...</i> and <i>Overall...</i>		
Vocabulary	Topic words and precise phrases, such as balanced approach and old-fashioned, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			