



Global Issues

Essay: young people and world problems

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which global issues matter most to young people?
2. Can teenagers make a difference to large problems?
3. Should schools teach students more about global issues?

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 spend more time learning about global problems. 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:

'Students need to understand the world around them.'

'Some global problems feel too depressing.'

'Learning about issues can lead to action.'

'There is already too much to study.'

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

Global problems such as poverty, climate change and conflict are often discussed in the news. Some people believe young people should learn more about these issues at school. This can be valuable, but it must be handled in a balanced way.

One argument in favour of this learning is that students need to understand the world beyond their own lives. For example, lessons about global issues can build empathy and help young people think about possible solutions. They may also become more responsible citizens.

On the other hand, these topics can feel overwhelming. If lessons only focus on problems, students may feel anxious rather than motivated. Schools also need time for exam subjects, so global issues should not dominate the timetable.

In my view, young people should study global problems, but the lessons should include practical action and hopeful examples. Overall, understanding serious issues is important when it leads to informed and positive choices.

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 global issues matter?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain emotional pressure?	
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 global issues matter	scope and responsibility language	You are explaining why world issues matter to young people.	One argument in favour of this learning is that students need to understand the world beyond their own lives / For example,...
emotional pressure	emotive effect language	You are showing how serious topics may affect students.	If lessons only focus on problems, students may feel anxious rather than motiv... / As a result,...
your own view	solution-focused conclusion language	You are giving a view linked to practical action.	In my view, young people should study global problems, but the lessons should include practical action and hopeful examples / 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 issues	poverty / climate change / conflict / world beyond their own lives	
describe benefits	build empathy / possible solutions / responsible citizens	
describe concerns	feel overwhelming / anxious / dominate the timetable	
sound essay-like	This can be valuable... / On the other hand... / Overall...	
upgrade ideas	balanced way / practical action / informed and positive choices	

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.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 way and feel overwhelming, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			