



People and Achievement

Essay: rewarding teamwork

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What achievements are usually rewarded at school?
2. Should teamwork be valued as much as individual success?
3. How can schools recognise different kinds of achievement?

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 schools should give more rewards for teamwork rather than only for individual achievement. 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:

'Teamwork teaches students to support each other.'

'Group success can include quieter students.'

'Individual effort should still be recognised.'

'Some people do most of the work in a team.'

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

Schools often reward top marks, prizes and individual success. These achievements are important, but they are not the only skills students need. Teamwork should also be recognised because many real-life achievements depend on cooperation.

One argument in favour of rewarding teamwork is that it teaches students to listen, share responsibility and support each other. For example, group projects can help quieter learners contribute ideas and build confidence. These skills are useful in further study and future workplaces, where people often need to solve problems together.

On the other hand, teamwork can be difficult to judge fairly. In some groups, one student may do most of the work while others receive the same reward. Individual effort should therefore not be ignored.

In my view, schools should reward both teamwork and personal achievement. Overall, a fair system would recognise strong group work while still noticing individual effort and responsibility.

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 teamwork matters?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain fairness in groups?	
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 teamwork matters	skills language + examples	You are explaining what students can learn from teamwork.	One argument in favour of rewarding teamwork is that it teaches students to listen, share responsibility and support each other / For example,...
fairness in groups	fairness and judgement language	You are showing why group rewards can be difficult.	In some groups, one student may do most of the work while others receive the s... / As a result,...
your own view	balanced comparison language	You are weighing teamwork against individual achievement.	In my view, schools should reward both teamwork and personal achievement / 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 achievement	top marks / prizes / individual success / group projects	
describe benefits	share responsibility / support each other / build confidence / cooperation	
describe concerns	judge fairly / do most of the work / receive the same reward	
sound essay-like	These achievements are important... / On the other hand... / In my view...	
upgrade ideas	recognised / contribute ideas / fair system / personal achievement	

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.

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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 recognised and judge fairly, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			