



Education and School Life

Essay planning bank: homework and learning

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether homework is useful for students. 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:

'Homework helps us practise independently.'

'It teaches students to manage their time.'

'Too much homework can cause stress.'

'Students also need time to rest.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: homework is a regular part of school life Issue: whether it supports learning or creates pressure My overall view:	☐ Some students believe... ☐ This essay will consider... ☐ In my view,...
Argument in favour	Idea: homework helps students practise independently Reason / example: Extra idea: it can teach time management Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This means that...
Argument against	Concern: too much homework can cause stress Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ However,... ☐ This can lead to...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: homework should be useful, limited and clearly explained Reason:	☐ I partly agree because... ☐ The best approach would be... ☐ Instead of...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ Therefore,... ☐ To conclude,...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue 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.



Education and School Life

Essay planning bank: later school start times

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether the school day should start later. 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 would feel less tired in the morning.'

'It could help students concentrate better.'

'Parents may find the new times difficult.'

'After-school clubs might finish too late.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: many students find early mornings difficult Issue: whether a later start would improve school life My overall view:	☐ Recently,... ☐ This raises the question of... ☐ I believe that...
Argument in favour	Idea: students would feel less tired Reason / example: Extra idea: better concentration could improve learning Detail / example:	☐ One clear benefit is... ☐ As a result,... ☐ This could lead to...
Argument against	Concern: parents may find the new times difficult Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ A possible problem is... ☐ Although this is important,...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: schools could trial a slightly later start Reason:	☐ In my view,... ☐ A sensible solution would be... ☐ This would allow...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ Therefore,... ☐ The most balanced approach is...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue 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.



Education and School Life

Essay planning bank: school uniforms

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether school uniforms are still necessary. 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:

'Uniforms make everyone look equal.'

'Students do not waste time choosing clothes.'

'They can be expensive for families.'

'They stop people showing their personality.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: school uniforms are common in many schools Issue: whether they are fair and useful today My overall view:	☐ Many schools... ☐ Some people argue that... ☐ This essay will discuss...
Argument in favour	Idea: uniforms can make students look equal Reason / example: Extra idea: they may save time in the morning Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For instance,... ☐ This may help...
Argument against	Concern: uniforms can be expensive for families Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ However,... ☐ Another concern is... ☐ This could be solved by...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: uniform rules should be simple, affordable and flexible Reason:	☐ I partly agree that... ☐ The best approach would be... ☐ Schools should consider...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ To conclude,... ☐ For these reasons,...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue 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.



Education and School Life

Essay planning bank: exams and coursework

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether coursework is a better way to assess students than exams. 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:

'Coursework shows what students can do over time.'

'Some students panic during exams.'

'Exams prepare students for pressure.'

'Coursework can be hard to organise fairly.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: students are assessed in different ways Issue: whether coursework is fairer than exams My overall view:	☐ Assessment is... ☐ The key question is... ☐ In this essay,...
Argument in favour	Idea: coursework shows progress over time Reason / example: Extra idea: some students panic during exams Detail / example:	☐ One advantage is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This gives students...
Argument against	Concern: exams prepare students for pressure Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ It could be argued that... ☐ A further issue is...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: students should be assessed in more than one way Reason:	☐ In my view,... ☐ A balanced system would... ☐ This would mean that...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ Therefore,... ☐ The fairest option is...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

[illegible]