



Future Plans and Ambitions

Essay planning bank: choosing a career early

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether students should choose their future career while they are still at school. 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:

'It helps students set goals.'

'It makes subject choices easier.'

'People change their minds.'

'It can create pressure too early.'

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 is often when students start thinking about future careers Issue: whether they should decide early My overall view:	☐ Recently,... ☐ The question is whether... ☐ I believe that...
Argument in favour	Idea: choosing a career can help students set goals Reason / example: Extra idea: it may make subject choices easier Detail / example:	☐ One clear benefit is... ☐ As a result,... ☐ This could help...
Argument against	Concern: young people may change their minds Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ A possible concern is... ☐ Even so,... ☐ This might mean that...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: students should explore career ideas without feeling locked into one path Reason:	☐ In my opinion,... ☐ A balanced solution would be... ☐ This would allow...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ For these reasons,... ☐ The most sensible view is...

Write your essay

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

Essay title _____

[illegible]



Future Plans and Ambitions

Essay planning bank: university or work

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether going to university is the best choice for everyone. 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:

'University gives people more opportunities.'

'Graduates may earn more later.'

'Some jobs need practical experience.'

'University can be very expensive.'

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: young people often compare university with work or training Issue: whether university is the best route for all students My overall view:	☐ Some people believe... ☐ This essay will consider... ☐ In my view,...
Argument in favour	Idea: university can create more opportunities Reason / example: Extra idea: graduates may earn more in some careers Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This means that...
Argument against	Concern: some jobs need practical experience more than degrees Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ However,... ☐ This can lead to...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: students should choose the route that fits their goals and strengths 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.



Future Plans and Ambitions

Essay planning bank: gap years

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether students should take a gap year before further study or work. 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:

'A gap year can build independence.'

'Students can gain work experience.'

'Some people lose motivation.'

'It may be too expensive.'

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: some students take time out before study or full-time work Issue: whether a gap year is a good choice My overall view:	☐ Recently,... ☐ The question is whether... ☐ I believe that...
Argument in favour	Idea: a gap year can build independence Reason / example: Extra idea: students may gain useful work experience Detail / example:	☐ One clear benefit is... ☐ As a result,... ☐ This could help...
Argument against	Concern: some people may lose motivation Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ A possible concern is... ☐ Even so,... ☐ This might mean that...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: a gap year can be valuable if it has a clear purpose Reason:	☐ In my opinion,... ☐ A balanced solution would be... ☐ This would allow...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ For these reasons,... ☐ The most sensible view 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.



Future Plans and Ambitions

Essay planning bank: learning career skills

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether schools should teach more career skills. 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:

'Interview practice would be useful.'

'Students need to understand the workplace.'

'Academic subjects matter more.'

'Schools cannot teach every job skill.'

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: career skills can include interviews, applications and workplace communication Issue: whether schools should spend more time teaching them My overall view:	☐ Some people believe... ☐ This essay will consider... ☐ In my view,...
Argument in favour	Idea: interview practice could be useful Reason / example: Extra idea: students need to understand workplace expectations Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This means that...
Argument against	Concern: academic subjects may need priority Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ However,... ☐ This can lead to...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: schools should teach general career skills alongside academic learning 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 vertical margin lines or other markings present. The paper appears to be a standard sheet of notebook paper.