



Public Places and Services

Essay: free public transport for students

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which public services do students use most?
2. Would free transport help young people?
3. What problems might free student transport cause?

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 students should be able to use public transport for free. 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:

'Free buses would help families save money.'
'More students might travel safely to activities.'

'Transport services already cost a lot to run.'
'Some buses are already very crowded.'

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

Public transport is important for many students, especially those who live far from school or after-school activities. Some people believe students should use buses and trains for free. This could help families, but it would also need careful funding.

One argument in favour of free student transport is that it would reduce pressure on families. For example, travel costs can be high when students attend school, clubs or revision sessions every week. Free transport could also help young people travel more safely and independently.

On the other hand, transport services are expensive to run. If many more students used buses for free, some routes could become crowded and councils might have to cut money from other services. This would not be fair to everyone.

In my view, free or reduced-price transport for students would be useful, but it should be targeted carefully. Overall, support should go first to students who need it most.

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 free transport helps?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain cost and crowding?	
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 free transport helps	benefit language + modal verbs	You are explaining how transport support could help families.	One argument in favour of free student transport is that it would reduce pressure on families / For example,...
cost and crowding	cost and consequence language	You are showing possible problems for public services.	If many more students used buses for free, some routes could become crowded an... / As a result,...
your own view	targeted support language	You are giving a careful view about who should receive help.	In my view, free or reduced-price transport for students would be useful, but it should be targeted carefully / 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 services	public transport / buses and trains / routes / councils	
describe benefits	save money / travel safely / independently / after-school activities	
describe concerns	expensive to run / crowded / cut money / other services	
sound essay-like	This could help... / On the other hand... / Overall...	
upgrade ideas	careful funding / reduced-price / targeted carefully / need it most	

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 careful funding and expensive to run, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			