



Teenage Life

Essay: teenagers and responsibility

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What responsibilities do teenagers usually have?
2. Should teenagers be trusted with more decisions?
3. When can responsibility become too much pressure?

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 teenagers should be given more responsibility at home and 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:

'Responsibility helps teenagers become independent.'
'Students should have a voice in school decisions.'

'Adults sometimes expect too much too soon.'
'Teenagers still need guidance and support.'

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

Teenagers are often expected to prepare for adult life, but they are not always trusted with real responsibility. Some people believe young people should be given more chances to make decisions at home and at school. This can be positive if support is still available.

One argument in favour of more responsibility is that it helps teenagers become independent. For example, managing homework, helping at home or taking part in school decisions can teach organisation and confidence. It can also show adults that young people are capable.

On the other hand, responsibility should be introduced gradually. If teenagers are expected to manage too many tasks without guidance, they may feel stressed or make poor decisions. Adults still have an important role in setting boundaries.

In my view, teenagers should be trusted with more responsibility, but it must match their age and situation. Overall, the best approach is to combine freedom with clear support.

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 responsibility helps?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain need for support?	
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 responsibility helps	independence language	You are explaining how responsibility can prepare teenagers for adult life.	One argument in favour of more responsibility is that it helps teenagers become independent / For example,...
need for support	gradual support language	You are showing why responsibility needs guidance and boundaries.	If teenagers are expected to manage too many tasks without guidance, they may ... / As a result,...
your own view	balanced judgement language	You are giving a view that combines trust with support.	In my view, teenagers should be trusted with more responsibility, but it must match their age and situation / 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 teenage life	adult life / real responsibility / school decisions / boundaries	
describe benefits	become independent / organisation / confidence / capable	
describe concerns	introduced gradually / without guidance / feel stressed / poor decisions	
sound essay-like	This can be positive... / On the other hand... / In my view...	
upgrade ideas	trusted with / match their age / combine freedom with support	

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 single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no 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 trusted with and introduced gradually, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			