



Work and Careers

Essay: part-time jobs for teenagers

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What jobs can teenagers do while studying?
2. How can part-time work help young people?
3. What problems can happen if students work too much?

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 have part-time jobs 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:

'Part-time jobs teach responsibility with money.'

'Work experience can build confidence.'

'Schoolwork should come first.'

'Students may become too tired to study well.'

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

Part-time jobs can give teenagers useful experience before they leave school. Some students may work in shops, cafes or family businesses. Although this can be valuable, it should not damage their education.

One argument in favour of part-time work is that it teaches responsibility. For example, teenagers can learn to manage money, arrive on time and communicate with customers. Work experience can also build confidence and help students understand what different jobs involve. These lessons are difficult to learn from textbooks alone.

On the other hand, schoolwork should remain the priority. If students work long hours, they may become tired, miss deadlines or have less time for revision. A job that causes stress could reduce progress at school.

In my view, teenagers can benefit from part-time jobs if the hours are limited. Overall, work should support students' independence without taking attention away from their studies.

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 part-time work helps?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain study and tiredness?	
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 part-time work helps	responsibility language + examples	You are explaining how work can build useful life skills.	One argument in favour of part-time work is that it teaches responsibility / For example,...
study and tiredness	priority and consequence language	You are showing how too much work can affect study.	If students work long hours, they may become tired, miss deadlines or have les... / As a result,...
your own view	conditional opinion language	You are giving a view that depends on sensible limits.	In my view, teenagers can benefit from part-time jobs if the hours are limited / 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 work	part-time jobs / work experience / customers / family businesses	
describe benefits	manage money / arrive on time / communicate / build confidence	
describe concerns	schoolwork / long hours / tired / miss deadlines / revision	
sound essay-like	Although... / On the other hand... / Overall...	
upgrade ideas	remain the priority / limited hours / support independence	

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 remain the priority and schoolwork, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			