

Some believe that young people should be required to attend full-time education until they are at least 18 years old. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience

There has been an ongoing debate about whether young individuals should be obligated to remain in full-time education until the age of 18. While I acknowledge the benefits of continuous academic engagement, I believe that allowing some flexibility through part-time education or alternative learning experiences can better cater to the diverse developmental needs of adolescents.

On the one hand, full-time education offers a structured environment that equips students with essential academic knowledge and life skills. The standardized curriculum is carefully designed to provide a solid foundation in key areas such as mathematics, science, and literacy, which are critical for most career paths. Moreover, remaining in school full-time reduces the risk of youth unemployment and social issues, as students are less likely to engage in unproductive or harmful activities. For example, countries with mandatory full-time education until 18 often report higher rates of literacy and better social outcomes.

On the other hand, rigidly enforcing full-time education may overlook the potential of experiential learning and individual interests. Many young people benefit significantly from engaging in part-time jobs, volunteering, or creative pursuits such as music, sports, or digital content creation. These activities help foster important soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management—skills that are sometimes underemphasized in formal education. For instance, numerous successful entrepreneurs and artists discovered their passion through extracurricular activities rather than conventional classroom settings.

In conclusion, although full-time education until the age of 18 can provide young people with valuable academic grounding, I believe that incorporating more flexible and personalized learning paths can lead to more holistic development. A balanced approach that combines formal education with real-world experiences may better prepare students for both professional and personal success.

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