**Discuss the following idea with your partner:**

*We cannot help everyone in the world that needs help, so we should only be concerned with our own communities and countries.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

**Read the essay below. Discuss with your partner whether you agree or disagree with the author. What would you add to this essay?**

**A:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_INTRODUCTION**

Some people believe that we should not help people in other countries as long as there are problems in our own society. I disagree with this view because I believe that we should try to help as many people as possible.

**B:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_BODY2**

On the one hand, I accept that it is important to help our neighbours and fellow citizens. In most communities there are people who are impoverished or disadvantaged in some way. It is possible to find homeless people, for example, in even the wealthiest of cities, and for those who are concerned about this problem, there are usually opportunities to volunteer time or give money to support these people. In the UK, people can help in a variety of ways, from donating clothing to serving free food in a soup kitchen. As the problems are on our doorstep, and there are obvious ways to help, I can understand why some people feel that we should prioritise local charity.

**C:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_BODY1**

At the same time, I believe that we have an obligation to help those who live beyond our national borders. In some countries the problems that people face are much more serious than those in our own communities, and it is often even easier to help. For example, when children are dying from curable diseases in African countries, governments and individuals in richer countries can save lives simply by paying for vaccines that already exist. A small donation to an international charity might have a much greater impact than helping in our local area.

**D:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it is true that we cannot help everyone, but in my opinion national boundaries should not stop us from helping those who are in need.

**Match the parts of the essay (1-4) with their place in the essay (A-D).**

1. Body 1 (=Argument 1)
2. Introduction
3. Conclusion
4. Body 2 (=Argument 2)

**Introduction**

A good introduction needs only **2 things**:

1. A sentence that introduces the topic;

2. A sentence that gives a short, general answer to the question (your opinion)

**Example question #1:**

*All high school students should be encouraged to take part in community service programs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

**Sample introduction:**

Some people believe that high school students would benefit from doing unpaid work in their local communities. I completely agree that community service programs for teenagers are a good idea. (30 words)

**Example question #2:**

*As computers are being used more and more in education, there will soon be no role for the teacher in the classroom.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

**Sample introduction:**

It is true that computers have become an essential tool for teachers and students in all areas of education. However, while computers are extremely useful, I do not agree with the idea that they could soon replace teachers completely. (39 Words)

**Strong view vs. balanced view**

**Study the examples below. To your mind, which introduction has a strong view and which one has a balanced view? Be ready to prove your point.**

**Example #1:**

*Governments should not have to provide care or financial support for elderly people because it is the responsibility of each person to prepare for retirement and support himself or herself.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

**Example introduction 1:**

People have different views about whether or not governments should help senior citizens. I completely disagree with the idea that elderly people should receive no support from the state.

**Example Introduction 2:**

People have different views about whether or not governments should help senior citizens. Although I accept that we all have a responsibility to save money for retirement, I disagree with the idea that elderly people should receive no support from the state.

**Example #2:**

*Some people think the main purpose of schools is to turn children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

**Example introduction 1:**

People have different views about what the main purpose of schools should be. Personally, I agree that a school's role is to prepare children to be productive members of society.

**Example introduction 2:**

Many people argue that the main role of schools is to prepare children for their future jobs. However, I believe that the purpose of education should be to help children to grow as individuals.

**Example introduction 3:**

To a certain extent I agree that the role of schools is to prepare children to be productive members of society. However, I also believe that the education process has a positive impact on us as individuals.

**Write your own introduction to the suggested topic. Clearly show your view.**

*Some people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, others disagree.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

*===============================*

In my view, money can be practical and convenient gift, but it shouldn’t be considered as the best gift for teenagers. What teenagers expect as a good present is not just valuable papers we call money but emotions and memory it contains.

**Together with your partner compare your Introductions with the suggested one.**

Certain groups of people are of the opinion that giving teenagers cash is the most appropriate present to present them with, however, some people disagree with this approach. Personally, I believe that this is not the case and this essay shall outline arguments for either side.

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In my introduction I began straight with my opinion which was not a good idea. The intro should begin with paraphrasing of the question.

**Body Paragraphs**

When you are writing main body paragraphs, try to aim for **five** or **six** sentences. Look at the example below. The structure of a well-organized body paragraph looks like this.

1. Topic sentence (e.g. There are several reasons why I believe…)

2. First reason/Explain why

3. Example (in more detail)

4. Second reason/Explain why

5. Example (in more detail)

6. Third reason/Explain why

Here is an example of how we can 'build' a paragraph using the above method.

**Some ideas about the benefits of mobile phones:**

1. The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world.

2. We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are.

3. Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and

listen to music.

4. Mobiles have also become fashion accessories.

5. Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate.

By linking these ideas and adding a few things, we can write a paragraph:

The mobile phone has become the most popular gadget in today's world. The reason for this is that it is portable and versatile. Mobile phones are now carried at all times by most people, allowing us to stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are. Furthermore, they now have many more functions than a standard telephone; mobile phone users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music, as well as making calls. Mobiles have become fashion accessories, and they have revolutionized the way we communicate.

(93 words)

**Make a plan for your first Body Paragraph. Feel free to connect it with your Introduction.**

*Some people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, others disagree.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Many people believe that money is the best gift to a *=================================*

teenager.

It is true that money can be …

Money is also a preferred gift by teenagers who …

On the other hand, money is not a creative gift which won’t last.

To sum up … Money is the default option when you don’t know the person well.

**Compare your plan with your partner. Are there any things to improve? Make sure that Reasons and Examples are connected to the Topic Sentence.**

**Write Body Paragraph 1 using your Plan.**

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Essay For: Money as the Best Gift for Teenagers

1. Money is a useful and universal gift

Money is often considered one of the most useful gifts to give to teenagers. It is a universal currency that can be spent on almost anything the recipient wishes for. Unlike specific gifts that may not fit a teenager's tastes, money allows them to make their own choices. This flexibility makes it a great option for parents and relatives who want to ensure that their gift will be appreciated.

2. Teens can buy necessary stuff

One important reason why giving money is advantageous is that teenagers can use it to buy necessary items. Whether it's clothes, school supplies, or personal gadgets, teenagers often need various things that they might not ask for directly. When given money, they can purchase what they require, which can help them feel more independent and responsible.

3. E.g. things for their education or hobbies

Moreover, the money can be used for educational purposes or hobbies. For instance, a teenager might want to buy books for school or materials for their favorite hobby, like painting or playing an instrument. By giving them money, you enable them to invest in their interests or studies, promoting their personal growth and encouraging them to pursue their passions.

4. Parents don't have to worry about whether teens like this present or not

Another significant advantage of gifting money is that parents or gift-givers do not have to worry about whether the teenager will like their present. With money, there is no chance of giving a gift that is unwanted or unsuitable. Instead of taking a risk on what to buy, parents can feel confident that money allows their teen to select what they genuinely want or need.

5. Teenagers will decide themselves what to do with money: spend them or save for their future

Finally, giving money teaches teenagers valuable life skills, such as budgeting and saving. When they receive cash, they face a decision: whether to spend it right away or save it for something bigger in the future. This decision-making process fosters a sense of responsibility and financial literacy, which are crucial skills for adulthood.

In conclusion, while some may argue against giving money as a gift, it provides teenagers with the flexibility and autonomy to purchase what they truly need or want. This makes it an ideal gift choice that not only satisfies immediate desires but also prepares them for future financial responsibility.

**Together with your partner compare your Body Paragrapghs 1 with the suggested one.**

Firstly, teenagers are often very impulsive by nature and are likely to make decisions that may not be in their best overall interest. As a consequence, if you hand over money to a teenager they may well simply go and waste the money on consumable goods and sometimes harmful items such as drugs, alcohol, or other such substances. Therefore, it is probably in the teenagers best interest if you buy them constructive presents that they can get greater value and education out of. For example, buying a teenager book tokens to further their knowledge is far more productive than giving them cash to blow on alcoholic beverages.

**Make a plan for your second Body Paragraph. Feel free to connect it with your Introduction and Body Paragraph 1.**

*Some people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, others disagree.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

**Compare your plan with your partner. Are there any things to improve? Make sure that Reasons and Examples are connected to the Topic Sentence.**

**Write Body Paragraph 2 using your Plan.**

**Together with your partner compare your Body Paragrapghs 2 with the suggested one.**

On the other hand, however, some people would say that allowing the teenager the freedom to choose what they want to spend their money on is an important lesson for them to learn. Not only does it allow them to see that you trust them but it also means that they are likely to buy something that they will actually value. Furthermore, if a teenager senses that you do not trust them then they are likely to hold this against you and use it against you at some point in the future, whereas, they may well act more responsibly if you hand over cash for them to spend.

**Conclusion**

It's fine to write a really short conclusion. You don't need to say anything new; just paraphrase what you wrote in your introduction or summarise your overall answer to the question. Just paraphrase your ideas in other words. Don't save any surprises for the conclusion; don't add new ideas; don't introduce new reasons.

**Study the Conclusion examples below.**

**Example #1:**

*The older generations tend to have very traditional ideas about how people should live, think and behave. However, some people believe that these ideas are not helpful in preparing younger generations for modern life.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?*

**Sample Introduction:**

It is true that many older people believe in traditional values that often seem incompatible with the needs of younger people. While I agree that some traditional ideas are outdated, I believe that others are still useful and should not be forgotten. (42 words)

**Sample Conclusion:**

In conclusion, although the views of older people may sometimes seem unhelpful in today's world, we should not dismiss all traditional ideas as irrelevant. (24 words)

**Example #2:**

*Some people think that strict punishments for driving offences are the key to reducing traffic accidents. Others, however, believe that other measures would be more effective in improving road safety.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

**Sample Introduction:**

People have differing views with regard to the question of how to make our roads safer. In my view, both punishments and a range of other measures can be used together to promote better driving habits.

**Sample Conclusion:**

In conclusion, while punishments can help to prevent bad driving, I believe that other road safety measures should also be introduced.

**Write Conclusion for the task you were practising with.**

*Some people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, others disagree.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

**Together with your partner compare your Conclusions with the suggested one.**

In conclusion, teenagers are at a very sensitive stage of their development, however, I remain of the opinion that they do need some guidance in the way that they spend their money. Parents should take care to manage this situation appropriately.

**Essay Cheat Sheet**

**Intro:**

1. An introductory sentence
2. Your Opinion

**Body Paragraph 1:**

Argument 1.

A1.1.

A1.1.1. For example,/ For instance,/ The example of X would be

A1.2. Furthermore/ Moreover/ Then

A1.2.1. For example,/ For instance,/ The example of X would be

(optional) A1.3. Finally,/ Additionally,/ Lastly

**Body Paragraph 2:**

Argument 2.

A2.1. Firstly,

A2.1.1. For example,/ For instance,/ The example of X would be

A2.2. Secondly,

A2.2.1. For example,/ For instance,/ The example of X would be

(optional) A2.3. Thirdly,

**Conclusion:**

For the reasons mentioned above,/ In conclusion/ To draw a conclusion,/ + I believe/think/suppose/stick to the opinion + repeat your opinion