

Write essay: Agree with a statement or opinion

Expert Writing 6.1

Task

20 mins. You will have 20 minutes to plan, write and revise an essay about the topic below. Your response will be judged on how well you develop a position, organise your ideas, present supporting details and control the elements of standard written English. You should write 200–300 words.

‘Children should learn a second language from as early an age as possible.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Support your point of view with reasons and/or examples from your own experience.

Sample answer

cut

copy

paste

Total word count

216

Learning a second language from an early age is beneficial and all children should be encouraged to do it. Two important reasons for this are the cognitive benefits and a greater understanding of the world.

Firstly, it has been shown that knowing two languages improves a range of cognitive skills in children, for example, problem solving and creative thinking skills. Children who speak two languages generally perform better on tests of these skills than those who know only one. These skills are very important in life. Thus, anything to help children to develop them has to be positive.

Further, knowing another language can help considerably in understanding the world. People who speak only one language may be able to read about other countries. However, it is much better to actually experience them and find out first-hand from people from those countries what their life is like. In this way, knowledge and relationships can be developed, leading to two things. The first is greater personal satisfaction. The other, if applied to enough people, is the encouragement of more positive connections between nations, allowing business links between them to run smoothly.

In conclusion, learning multiple languages is beneficial for children, adults and even whole countries. It should be encouraged at every opportunity and from the earliest possible age.

The essay's opinion is stated clearly in the introduction.

A clear **topic sentence**, usually at the beginning of the paragraph, states the paragraph's main idea clearly. Each body paragraph has only one main idea and this supports the opinion of the essay.

Discourse markers clearly signal the order of ideas and relationships between ideas within the essay.

The essay's **main ideas**, supporting the essay's opinion, are usually mentioned briefly at the end of the introduction.

After the topic sentence, the rest of the paragraph consists of **supporting points** that explain and support the paragraph's main idea.

Unless describing your own experiences, essays usually avoid using personal words such as *I* and *my*, as this isn't academic writing style. While this isn't strictly necessary for the PTE Academic, it is good practice.

The last paragraph is the **conclusion**, which first summarises the main points and then gives a recommendation for future action that is related to the essay's opinion.

Further practice

20 mins. You will have 20 minutes to plan, write and revise an essay about the topic below. Your response will be judged on how well you develop a position, organise your ideas, present supporting details and control the elements of standard written English. You should write 200–300 words.

‘Volunteering to help the less fortunate should be an important part of school education.’ Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your point of view with reasons and/or examples from your own experience.