

WORKSHEET

Some people believe that school children should not be given homework by their teachers, whereas others argue that homework plays an important role in the education of children. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

1. Read the essay and choose the most appropriate words/ phrases in italics

(0) *People's opinions differ as to* / *There are a lot of opinions about* whether or not school children should be given homework. While there are some strong arguments against the setting of homework, I still believe that it is (1) *something students just need to do* / *a necessary aspect of education*.

There are several reasons why people might argue that homework is an unnecessary burden on children. (2) *The first thing is* / *Firstly*, there is evidence to support the idea that homework does nothing to improve educational outcomes. Countries such as Finland, where school children are not given homework, regularly top international educational league tables and (3) *outperform* / *are way better than* nations where setting homework is the norm. Secondly, many parents would (4) *agree* / *say* that the school day is already long enough, and leaves their children too tired to do further study when they return home. Finally, (5) *it is recognised* / *everyone knows* that play time is just as beneficial as study time from the perspective of brain development.

(6) *In spite of the above arguments* / *But actually even with all that*, I support the view that homework (7) *has an important role to play* / *is a big deal* in the schooling of children. The main benefit of homework is that it encourages independent learning and problem solving, as children are challenged to work through tasks alone and at their own pace. In doing so, students must apply the knowledge that they have learnt in the classroom. For example, by doing mathematics exercises at home, students (8) *can get* / *consolidate their understanding of* the concepts taught by their teacher at school. In my view, it is important for children to (9) *develop* / *have* an independent study habit because this prepares them to work alone as adults.

In conclusion, homework certainly has its drawbacks, but I believe that the benefits outweigh them **(10)** *in the end / in the long term*.

2. Reorder the following sentences to create a discussion essay.

- (1) It is often argued that homework is a necessary tool for reinforcing lessons taught in class and for developing self-discipline.
- (2) In conclusion, I believe schools should move away from the traditional model of homework and instead focus on creating more effective and engaging learning experiences within the classroom.
- (3) In my opinion, while the intention behind homework may be to promote academic success, its negative impacts on a child's well-being and equitable learning opportunities cannot be ignored.
- (4) It often leads to unnecessary stress and anxiety, depriving students of valuable time for rest, play, and engaging in other extracurricular activities crucial for holistic development.
- (5) Nowadays, a growing number of parents and educators are questioning the overall value of homework.
- (6) However, the disadvantages of assigning homework are significant.
- (7) Many assignments are also criticized for being monotonous rote memorization that contributes little to genuine learning.
- (8) Furthermore, the practice can exacerbate existing social inequalities, because not all students have access to the same quiet study environment or parental support at home.
- (9) Proponents believe that this disciplined approach to studying is essential for developing a strong work ethic and achieving higher academic results.
- (10) By practicing skills and reviewing concepts at home, students can strengthen their understanding and prepare for future lessons.

3. Write an essay for this following question

Some people believe that children should not be given homework every day, while others believe that they must get homework every day in order to be successful at school. Discuss both views and give your opinion.