

Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE): How to Write an Essay



Your class has listened to a radio discussion about how grandparents can help in the raising of children. You have made the notes below.

Ways that grandparents can help in the raising of children:

- childcare
- giving advice
- education

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

"Grandparents can give parents that vital night off once a month."

"Grandparents have gathered a lot of wisdom."

"The world is changing too fast for grandparents to keep up."

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways in your notes that grandparents can help in the raising of children. You should **explain which way is more important, giving reasons** to support your opinion.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible. Write your essay in 220-260 words in an appropriate style.

Read the essay and choose the correct thesis statement and topic sentences (A-F) from below.

Most people have happy memories of visiting their grandparents. These are the people who thought everything we did was wonderful, and who would always let us do whatever we wanted. **But** that's not all grandparents have to offer. **1**

2 Nowadays, when both parents work, they can easily become exhausted and grandparents can offer them a much-needed break. **For example**, children might spend the night with their grandparents once or twice a month. This is a great option because parents can feel relaxed in the knowledge that their children are safe and secure with close relatives.

3 Their life experience and accumulated knowledge make them ideal advisors. **Moreover**, they can often be more objective than parents, who sometimes worry about everything that bothers their child. **Thus**, a child has somewhere else to turn if they are not comfortable sharing a problem with their mother or father.

4 They can offer parents time away from their children every now and then, but I think the most important thing they can do is to provide invaluable advice to a child. This is because any good babysitter can look after a child, but grandparents are an incomparable source of life lessons and wisdom. As Alex Haley wrote, "Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do."

- A **In addition**, grandparents can be there to offer their guidance when the child needs it.
- B **However**, grandparents sometimes have trouble keeping up with the quickly changing world.
- C It can be said that grandparents have an essential contribution to make towards bringing up a child.
- D **On the whole**, grandparents clearly have a lot to contribute to bringing up a child.
- E **First of all**, grandparents can help by giving parents the occasional night off.
- F **What is more**, children are at a disadvantage when both parents work.

Match the introductions to the conclusions.

1 An extraordinary 74% of the population have made a donation to charity in spite of the fact that the country is coming out of the worst recession in modern history. But charitable giving is just one way of helping society. Is donating to charity more effective than volunteering your time and effort?

2 The poet Alexander Pope wrote: "To err is human; to forgive divine." Pope recognised that forgiveness was of vital importance despite its difficulty. Making mistakes is part of being human, but luckily there are several ways to make it easier for us to forgive our friends and family.

3 The Internet has revolutionised the way we communicate. We can send emails, tweet our latest news or post an update on Facebook. But is the Internet really the best way to stay in touch with friends and family or would it be better for us to return to more traditional forms of communication?

4 Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have no family? Growing up, we depend on our families for support and understanding as well as for setting rules. Our families play many significant roles in our lives, but which of them is the most important to us?

A All things considered, I believe it is better for us to communicate face-to-face since this is more personal than just sending messages over the Internet. Every day, I become more concerned that the Internet is replacing most forms of human interaction. If we stop talking face-to-face, the only way we'll be speaking to each other is through a screen.

B All in all, it seems to me that trying to see things from the other person's perspective is the better way to help us forgive our friends and family. This is because it is much easier to gain a fuller understanding of the situation in this way than by simply speaking our mind. However, if all else fails, we can always turn to the words of Oscar Wilde: "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

C To sum up, I think that the support and understanding young people get from their families is more important since these are much more precious than the setting of rules. After all, everywhere in our lives we find rules, but it is very rare to find others who know us well and accept us for who we are.

D In conclusion, I think that donating money is more effective than volunteering your time. This is because charities can choose how they spend your money, whereas many people do not have the skills that charities need in order to work most effectively. But however you go about it, isn't the fact you are helping others always the most important thing?



Your class has attended a discussion group about where elderly relatives can live. You have made the notes below.

Where elderly relatives can live:

- with their own family
- in a care home
- in their own home

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

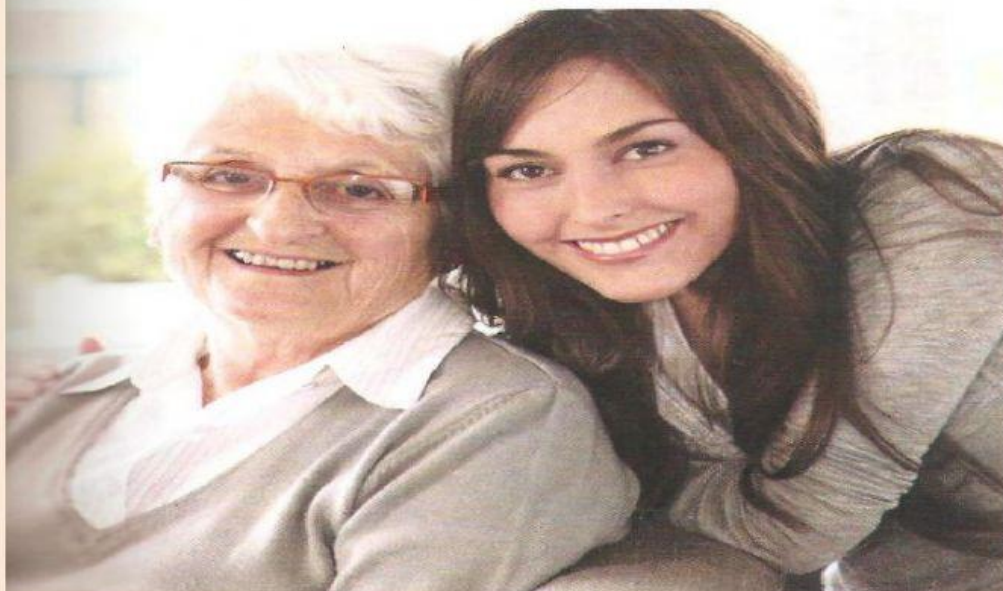
“Most households wouldn’t be able to cope with elderly residents.”

“Care homes are the only realistic option for many.”

“Elderly people who have some independence often feel happier.”

Write an essay discussing **two** of the places where elderly relatives can live. You should **explain where you think is better** for an elderly relative to live, **giving reasons** in support of your answer.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible. Write your essay in 220-260 words in an appropriate style.



The number of people living into their nineties is continually increasing, and this means that more of the elderly will need care and assistance in later life. At some point in our lives, most of us will have to consider where the best place is for an elderly relative.

One option is for elderly people to move in with close family. By doing this, they can live in the comfort of a loving home environment and, as a result senior citizens would not feel at the mercy of an impersonal care home. Furthermore, they can help with household tasks or looking after their grandchildren and in this way they can both keep a sense of self-worth and help the family as well.

Alternatively, the elderly could stay in their own homes. While they might need regular visits from friends and family or even a professional carer, they would certainly have a more positive approach to life as they preserve some degree of independence. What is more, when living at home, elderly people can stay in their familiar surroundings, which is often full of memories. This allows them to keep a sense of their identity, which is vitally important to well-being.

Taking everything into account, I believe that it is better for elderly people to stay in their own home for as long as possible. This is because I think that a sense of independence is the most important thing for the well-being and happiness of an elderly person. As the saying goes, you are only as old as you feel.

Replace the underlined phrases in the model essay with the phrases below.

- ❖ environment
- ❖ on the whole
- ❖ caring for
- ❖ in the hands of
- ❖ in addition
- ❖ even though
- ❖ the consequences would be that

