

## Write An essay (discussing advantages and disadvantages)

### A. Discuss.

- When you do school projects, do you prefer working in a group or do you prefer working on your own? Why?

B. Read the writing task and underline the key words. Then read the essay and answer the questions that follow.

Your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the following topic:  
*What are the advantages and disadvantages of team project work at school?*

Team project work is becoming more and more popular in schools nowadays. Some teachers and students believe that it has many advantages while others disagree.

It is a fact that students benefit in many ways from doing team project work. To begin with, it is an ideal way for students to learn to cooperate and, at the same time, learn about a particular subject. In addition, each member of the team contributes different ideas, knowledge and skills and that adds to the success of the project. Team members are also able to learn from each other this way.

However, there are also certain disadvantages involved in team project work. Firstly, members of the team often become very competitive or cannot get along with each other, which can destroy the project. Secondly, team members do not always contribute equally. For instance, some do all the work while others avoid getting involved. Lastly, working in a team can be very time consuming. As a result, students often become frustrated and think that they could do it all faster alone.

On the whole, I believe that the advantages are more important than the disadvantages. From my point of view, team work should be encouraged in class, but there should be a balance of individual work and team work so that students can benefit the most.

1. What is the function of the underlined sentences in the essay? Choose a or b.
  - a. to summarise what the writer has said in the previous paragraph
  - b. to introduce the main idea of the paragraph
2. In the second paragraph, how many advantages does the writer mention?
3. How many disadvantages does the writer mention in the third paragraph?
4. In which paragraph does the writer express his / her opinion?
5. Which linking words / phrases has the writer used?



C. Read the essay below about whether it is necessary for students to have homework. Choose the most suitable topic sentence (a or b) for each paragraph and say why you think it is the most suitable choice.

**NOTE:** Topic sentences introduce the central idea of the paragraph. The other sentences in the paragraph develop the idea expressed in the topic sentence by expanding on it, giving examples or explaining it.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Most students hate the thought of it. However, most teachers think it is a necessary part of the learning process.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ By doing homework, students have the opportunity to practise what they have learnt during the lesson. Furthermore, homework helps students to revise and consolidate knowledge.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ They feel that spending time with friends and family or doing a sport is a very important part of growing up. Moreover, as they see it, practice, revision and consolidation can be done during school hours.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Personally, I would rather have time after school for my own interests. However, whenever teachers need to assign homework, it should be very little.

1.

- a) Ask a student about homework and you will be told that it is a form of punishment.
- b) If you ask students and teachers about homework, you will get a variety of different reactions.

2.

- a) Those who believe that homework is necessary, believe that without it, learning is not as effective as it should be.
- b) However, we have to admit that there are some advantages to having students do homework.

3.

- a) On the other hand, many believe that students spend enough time in school and need time after school for free-time activities.
- b) In fact, that is only one side of the story.

4.

- a) The way I see it, students should not have to do schoolwork at home.
- b) To sum up, homework has more advantages than disadvantages.