

Voc. and Writing Ex. – Advantages & Disadvantages Essay (A Gap Year)

When you must write an advantages-and-disadvantages essay, you must paraphrase the question, outline the views stated in the statement or your main ideas, and state your opinion (if required). Then state the advantage(s)/benefits explaining your choice and giving examples/results. Next, you must state the disadvantage(s)/problems explaining your choice and giving examples/results. Finally, summarize the key points and (re)state your opinion (if required) in the conclusion. Exercise taken and adapted from IELTS Material JSC (2018) IELTS Writing Task 2 Actual Tests 2015-2016-2017 Sample Answers

Task > Some students take a year off between school and university, to work or to travel. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

For this exercise, some words have been removed in each paragraph. Write ONLY ONE OR TWO WORDS on each blank.

Model Essay

INTRO

It is true these days that many high school leavers choose to start their work or take a trip before going to _____. While a gap year can bring some immediate drawbacks, I am convinced that it is more likely to have long-term _____ for their lives.

ADVANTAGES(S)

_____ one hand, young students are very likely to encounter several difficulties when delaying their university study. One of these problems is the delay in academic progress caused _____ spending one year off school. It is understandably almost impossible for young people to enjoy their experiences in doing a job or travelling to a new place but still arrange a certain amount of time for revision. As a _____, gap-year takers may have to face the challenge of becoming familiar with the knowledge at school again, receiving more pressure of catching up with their peers. Besides, the life out of university campus may prove to be _____ and physically overwhelming for inexperienced school leavers. They, for instance, may be at risk of _____ exploited in an exhausting job or face potential dangers on their trips to a new country. If not well prepared for such possible obstacles, young high school graduates can suffer from unintended consequences.

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DISADVANTAGES(S)

On the _____, I would argue that these disadvantages are outweighed by the positive effects. A _____ is an ideal opportunity for students to learn about what is not taught at university. Working with other _____ who are experts in a particular field can give these newcomers not only understanding of the job but also valuable practical lessons to help them become more mature. When it comes to _____ for a position in a company, employers tend to favourably consider applicants who possess extensive experience in life and the occupation. Furthermore, in terms of recreation, having a year to relax can be advantageous as students can have a chance to _____ stress in study. With a comfortable and willing attitude, undergraduates can acquire knowledge more effectively in _____ with those who go to university straightaway.

CONCLUSION

In _____, despite some negative aspects, it seems to me that the benefits of a gap year are more significant for young people for the reasons mentioned _____.

