2 Read this newspaper editorial. Do you agree with what it says? Why/Why not? Compare ideas with a partner.

It's official! People were more INTELLIGENT *in the past*

This week we reported that the results of British fourteen-year-olds on IQ tests are going down, not up. Personally, I am very worried about teenagers today. When I was a child, I played outside with my friends after school. There were no computers and no games consoles. We had television but we could only watch it at the weekend. But we were happy and healthy. And now these IQ results show that we were more intelligent too. Today's teenagers need to change fast, or the future looks very bad, for us and for them.

Model text

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing about your editorial from last Thursday's newspaper. I disagree with what you say in this editorial.

In my opinion, teenagers have a different type of intelligence. IQ tests are not good tests for this generation. We spend a lot of time finding out how to use new games and some of the games we play train our brains.

Personally, I think we are much more intelligent than teenagers in the past. We just think in a different way and we don't just memorise things, we have our own opinions. These are much more difficult to measure in standard tests. Computers are not a bad thing – they have changed the world for the better.

I feel very strongly about this subject. I am very interested in hearing other reader's opinions.

Yours faithfully,

Ned Buster

Dear Sir/Madam,

a I am writing about your editorial from last Thursday's newspaper. I agree completely with what you say in this editorial.

b In my opinion, teenagers today are not learning anything. They sit in front of a computer all day. This does not make you intelligent. It stops you from thinking, and from doing other things like playing sport and making friends.

c Personally, I think that the real problem is that teenagers today never read. In my view, reading helps you to learn new words, it helps you to be more creative, and it helps your concentration. Spending three hours reading makes you more intelligent than playing a computer game for three hours.

d I feel very strongly about this subject. I am very interested in hearing other readers' opinions.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Dean

Look at the letter again. Which paragraph ...

1 asks for other people's opinions?
2 gives an explanation of why you are writing and a quick statement of opinion?
3 gives a second opinion and explanation?
4 gives a first opinion and explanation?

Look at Robert's letter again and complete the useful expressions in the Writing bank.

Useful expressions in formal letters of opinion

- We write *Dear* (a) _____ when we do not know the name of the person we are writing to.
- We do not use contractions. For example, we write (b) _____, not *I'm writing about your editorial.*
- To express our opinions we use words and phrases like *I agree, I disagree, I think, Personally, In my* (c) _____ or *In my* (d) _____.
- When we do not know the name of the person we are writing to, we end the letter *Yours* (e) _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

UK TEENAGERS GOT MORE POCKET MONEY FIVE YEARS AGO

A recent survey showed that, on average, a British teenager gets £6.50 pocket money every week. This is lower than five years ago, when the average was £9.75. The explanation is probably that many more parents are unemployed and so families are poorer. Teenagers say that life is more expensive these days, and that £6.50 is not enough. Today's teenagers need to work for their money, according to the writer of the survey.

Read the article on the left

Do you agree with the writer of the letter or not?

Answer the questions to help you.

Do you get any pocket money?
How much pocket money do you get?
How much did you get last year?
Do you have to do chores in the house?
Do you agree that teenagers are lazy?
Are your parents fair, in your opinion?

Read this letter to the editor. Correct the beginning and ending of the letter. Then put the paragraphs into the correct order.

Dear Sir/Mrs

A ☐ *Firstly, in my view, teenagers today are very lazy. They get too much pocket money and they don't do anything to earn it. £6.50 a week is a lot of money. When I was a child, my father gave me a pound a week, but I didn't get it for nothing. I washed his car and cut the grass in the summer.*

B ☐ *As a parent, I feel very strongly about the question of pocket money. I want to know what other people think about this.*

C ☐ *I am writing about your article in last night's newspaper. I agree completely with the writer of the survey. Personally, I think the real problem is this.*

D ☐ *All teenagers do is spend money. Shopping is their favourite hobby! Everything they buy costs a lot of money. It is also very unfair to ask parents for more money. Children need to think of the whole family and not just themselves.*

Yours truthfully,

Barney Pitt

Write your letter to the editor. Use formal letter style and opinion phrases follow the correct paragraph order in the letter . Give your opinion with your ideas (answers to the questions above)

Write in your notebook

LIVEWORKSHEETS