

Academic IELTS > A Gap Year (missing words)

When you must write an advantages-and-disadvantages essay, 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) explaining your choice and giving examples. 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.

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

Write ONLY ONE WORD in each blank.

INTRO

It is true these days that many high school leavers choose to start their work or take a trip before going to (1) _____. While a gap year can bring some immediate drawbacks, I am convinced that it is more likely to have long-term (2) _____ for their lives.

ADVANTAGES(S)

On the one hand, young students are very likely to encounter several difficulties when delaying their university study. One of these (3) _____ is the delay in academic progress caused by spending one year (4) _____ 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 result, gap-year takers may have to (5) _____ 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 mentally and physically overwhelming for inexperienced school leavers. They, for instance, may be at risk of (6) _____ 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 (7) _____ from unintended consequences.

DISADVANTAGES(S)

On the other hand, I would argue that these disadvantages are outweighed by the positive effects. A gap year is an ideal opportunity for students to (8) _____ about what is not taught at university. Working with other people who are experts in a particular (9) _____ 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 (10) _____ 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 (11) _____ stress in study. With a comfortable and willing attitude, undergraduates can acquire knowledge more effectively in (12) _____ with those who go to university straightaway.

CLN

In conclusion, 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 above.

+ 374 words



Exercise taken and adapted from IELTS Material JSC (2018) IELTS Writing Task 2 Actual Tests 2015-2016-2017 Sample Answers
Adapted by Andrés Barón-Avila
MA Education and Technology – UCL – IOE



LIVEWORKSHEETS