

WRITING

An opinion essay



1 Look at the essay quickly. Does the writer think that life used to be better in the past?



2 Read the essay and answer the questions. Tick (✓) and circle the correct answers.

1 In which TWO paragraphs does the writer give ideas to support their opinion?

A B C D

2 In paragraph A, the writer *asks a question / gives their opinion.*

3 In paragraph D, the writer *repeats their opinion / asks the reader a question.*



3 Complete the essay with the *Useful language phrases* in the box.

firstly in addition in conclusion
secondly therefore
this means that



4 What different words or expressions does the writer use to avoid repeating items 1–4 below?

1 in the past (paragraph B)

2 better (paragraph B) _____

3 situation (paragraph B) _____

4 look at (paragraph D) _____



5 Complete the sentence.

In paragraphs B and C, to describe life in the past, the writer uses the past simple, _____ and _____.

Did life use to be better?

A Older people often say that, in the past, life used to be better. However, in my opinion, this is simply not true.

B Firstly, let's look at the situation of women. In the old days, many men (and some women) used to think that a woman's role in life was to be a mother and to do the housework and the cooking. Fortunately, attitudes have changed a lot since then! ² women today are in a much more favourable position.

C ³, the number of very poor people around the world has decreased significantly in the last 20 or 30 years.

⁴, many children in poor countries would die when they were still very young. This happens far less often now. ⁵ we can talk about huge change in two very important areas.

D ⁶, the world today is a much better place. If we examine the facts, no one would want to go back to a 'golden past'. This past only exists in some people's imagination. It never existed in reality.

