

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 ¹ 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.



Write an opinion essay.

PLAN

- 6 ★★ Look at the statement. In your notebook, write down three reasons why you agree or disagree with it.

It's more important to speak English today than in the past.

WRITE

- 7 ★★ Write your opinion essay. Remember to include four paragraphs, and examples of *used to*, *would*, the past simple, past perfect and the *Useful language* phrases from Exercise 3.

CHECK

- 8 Do you ...
- give your opinion?
 - give reasons for your opinion?
 - summarise your opinion?