

WRITING

An opinion essay



- 1 In what ways has life changed for teenagers in the last 30 years?
- 2 Read the essay. Does it mention any of your ideas in Exercise 1?

Are teenagers today more or less stressed than previous generations?

The world has changed a great deal in the last few decades, especially for teenagers, and not always in a positive way. In particular, people of my generation are a lot more stressed than teenagers in the past.

Firstly, we are under enormous pressure to do well in exams. This means that we spend a lot of time studying. Young people didn't use to study as much because it wasn't always necessary to go to university. Therefore, they had more time to relax and hang out with friends.

Secondly, previous generations didn't have online profiles to worry about. In fact, young people 20 or 30 years ago hadn't even heard of 'followers' and 'likes' because social media hadn't been invented yet. For people of my age, it is almost impossible to do without social media. In addition, it can become extremely addictive.

In conclusion, I would say that teenagers today have more stressful lives than our parents did.

- 4 Complete the essay with the linkers from the *Useful language* box. Do you agree with the writer? Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

Some people think that online games are worse for you than traditional games, because they are addictive and don't involve physical exercise, but is this always true?

In my opinion, online games have many good points. ¹Firstly, they improve your memory and your problem-solving skills.

² _____, you can make friends. ³ _____, you play with people from around the world.

⁴ _____ you often have to communicate in English and ⁵ _____ your English improves. However, it's important to spend time with your friends offline.

⁶ _____, online games can be unhealthy, but only if you spend all your time playing them.

Write an opinion essay.

PLAN

- 5 Look at the statement and make notes.

Teenagers today have more freedom than in the past.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Write two reasons for your opinion.

Give a summary of your opinion.

WRITE

- 6 Write your opinion essay. Remember to include, *used to*, the past simple and past perfect and phrases from the *Useful language* box.

CHECK

- 7 Do you ...

- give your opinion?
- give reasons for your opinion?
- summarise your opinion?

Finished? p119 Ex 4

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