

SCHOOL UNIFORMS: FOR OR AGAINST?

Reading comprehension – B1
Based on André Spicer, The Guardian, 25 September 2023

1. BEFORE READING – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are school uniforms a good idea? Give two possible advantages and two possible disadvantages.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1.	1.
2.	2.

2. FIRST READING – THE MAIN IDEA

What is the author's main opinion?

- a. ☐ School uniforms should be stricter.
- b. ☐ School uniforms are useful because they prepare students for work.
- c. ☐ Traditional school uniform rules are outdated and should be reconsidered.
- d. ☐ Students should be allowed to wear anything they want.

Find one sentence or idea from the article that supports your answer:

3. SCHOOL RULES – FIND THE INFORMATION

Situation	What happened?
The author's daughter	
Students in Cornwall	
A 12-year-old girl in Hull	
Students wearing the wrong socks	

What do these examples suggest about some schools?

4. SCHOOL VS THE WORLD OF WORK

Are these statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify with information from the text.

- a. People in the workplace are dressing more formally than before. ☐ True ☐ False

Justification:

- b. Most people surveyed think employees should wear a tie. ☐ True ☐ False

Justification:

- c. Some famous business leaders wear jeans and trainers. ☐ True ☐ False

Justification:

Why does the author compare schools with workplaces?

5. DO UNIFORMS IMPROVE SCHOOL LIFE?

Possible benefit of uniforms	Possible problem with uniforms
Classroom management:	Physical activity:
Teaching:	Comfort:
Behaviour / organisation:	Academic performance:

Complete: According to research, uniforms can help _____, but there is no clear evidence that _____.

6. WHO CAN BE DISADVANTAGED BY SCHOOL UNIFORMS?

Match the group with the possible problem.

1. Girls 2. Non-binary students 3. Students with sensory sensitivities 4. Poorer families

- a. ☐ Uniforms can be very expensive. b. ☐ Some materials can be uncomfortable or irritating.
c. ☐ Traditional uniform rules may not correspond to their identity. d. ☐ They may have less freedom of movement or be required to wear skirts.

What argument is the author challenging?

- ☐ Uniforms improve academic results. ☐ Uniforms make everybody equal and included. ☐ Uniforms prepare students for employment.

7. VOCABULARY - TALKING ABOUT UNIFORMS

Find words or expressions in the article that mean:

- a. clothes worn for professional/formal situations: _____
b. not formal: _____ c. to make people obey a rule: _____
d. uncomfortable because of very hot weather: _____
e. to make everybody have the same opportunities: _____
f. old-fashioned / no longer appropriate: _____
g. freedom to show your personality: _____

8. ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST?

Put each argument in the correct category.

- A. Uniforms can improve classroom management. B. They can be expensive for families. C. Students may settle down more quickly.
D. They can restrict physical movement. E. They can create a sense of equality. F. They do not necessarily improve academic performance.
G. Some students find them uncomfortable. H. They reduce differences in clothing between students.

FOR uniforms	AGAINST uniforms

9. LANGUAGE - GIVING AND CONTRASTING OPINIONS

Complete the expressions with: opinion – agree – however – because – and – think.

In my _____, school uniforms are... I _____ that uniforms are useful / unnecessary.

I _____ with the author _____... One advantage is that...

On the other _____, ... _____, there are also disadvantages.

10. YOUR OPINION

"School uniforms are outdated and students should be allowed to choose what they wear."

Do you agree? Write 80–100 words on a separate page. Give at least two arguments and use some of the expressions below.

LANGUAGE TOOLBOX

Opinion: In my opinion... / I believe that... / From my point of view...

Arguments: One advantage / disadvantage is that... / One reason is that...

Contrast: However,... / On the other hand,... / Although... / Whereas...

Examples: For example,... / For instance,... Agree / disagree: I agree / disagree with the author because...