

C1 Advanced – Essay Feedback

1. Read the sample essay. Are the ideas in it similar to the ones you wrote?

Friendships – when do they matter most in life?

It goes without saying that our lives are enriched by the friendships we have. However, the importance we give these relationships tends to vary as we age, due to the changes in personality, outlook and priorities that invariably occur. So, when exactly do our friends take centre stage – is it in our formative years or later, when we become adults?

Thinking back on my years at school, I can confidently say that nothing counted more for me than the time I spent with my friends. This is a period when your life experiences can fundamentally change you, so it is obvious that the people whom you share these gain a significant importance to you. Even something as ordinary as getting together to talk about your first crush makes your companions essential to you, as they can lend a sympathetic ear and partake in your joys or sorrows.

But as the years pass, that crush might become your spouse, and it is them you end up turning to more often for company, advice or sympathy. Clearly, going into adult life involves a shift in priorities for everyone, as new bonds are created, and new responsibilities crop up. So, if your main concern as a teen is hanging out with your mates, as an adult, that may be taken over by family duties, work, or being a contributing member of your local community.

All in all, while you may continue keeping in touch with your friends when you are older, other aspects of life take priority. It is only when you are young that your mates seem indispensable, as they grow and develop alongside you, and share with you experiences that come to define you as a person.

2. Match the highlighted phrases / sentences to their purpose.

Introduction

1. introduces the topic __
2. makes its importance clear __
3. mentions / gives an idea of the two areas that will be discussed (two ideas from the bullet-pointed list) __

[a] It goes without saying that our lives are enriched by the friendships we have. However, [b] the importance we give these relationships tends to vary as we age, due to the changes in personality, outlook and priorities that invariably occur. [b] So, when exactly do our friends take centre stage – [c] is it in our formative years or later, when we become adults?

3. Answer the question and then match the highlighted phrases / sentences to their purpose.

Main Body Paragraph 1

Does it deal with one (and **only** one) of the two ideas chosen? **Yes / No**

1. presents the method as being more important / the best one / in a positive light __
2. brings arguments supported by reasons __
3. includes examples to further persuade the reader __

Thinking back on my years at school, [a] I can confidently say that nothing counted more for me than the time I spent with my friends. [b] This is a period when your life experiences can fundamentally change you, so it is obvious that the people whom you share these gain a significant importance to you. [c] Even something as ordinary as getting together to talk about your first crush makes your companions essential to you, [b] as they can lend a sympathetic ear and partake in your joys or sorrows.

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4. Answer the question and then match the highlighted phrases / sentences to their purpose.

Main Body Paragraph 2

Does it deal with one (and **only** one) of the two ideas chosen? Yes / No

1. presents the method as being less important / less effective / in a negative light __
2. brings arguments supported by reasons __
3. includes examples to further persuade the reader __

But as the years pass, that crush might become your spouse, and [a] it is them you end up turning to more often for company, advice or sympathy. Clearly, going into adult life involves a shift in priorities for everyone, [b] as new bonds are created, and new responsibilities crop up. [c] So, if your main concern as a teen is hanging out with your mates, as an adult, that may be taken over by family duties, work, or being a contributing member of your local community.

5. Match the highlighted phrases / sentences to their purpose and then answer the question.

Conclusion

1. clearly says which idea is superior (reiterates the writer's personal view on the matter) __
2. explains why that idea is superior by summarising the main points presented in the main body __

Does the writer introduce any new arguments that have not been mentioned in the previous paragraphs? Yes / No

[a] All in all, while you may continue keeping in touch with your friends when you are older, other aspects of life take priority. [b] It is only when you are young that your mates seem indispensable, [a] as they grow and develop alongside you, and share with you experiences that come to define you as a person.