8 Children and parents

Aims: Developing and linking supporting examples | Reviewing verb forms
Writing the conclusion

Part 1: Vocabulary

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2

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4

5

1 **Match the words a–e with the words i–v, then indicate which pair of words goes with each of the pictures 1–5 above.**

a adult	i old age
b adolescent	ii childhood
c infant	iii adolescence
d pensioner	iv adulthood
e child	v infancy

All of the words listed above are nouns. What is the difference between those in the column on the left and those in the column on the right?

2 **The expressions a–j can be associated with rights or responsibilities. Decide which of them are rights and which are responsibilities.**

a be entitled to
b have a duty to
c be obliged to
d be empowered to
e be committed to
f be allowed to
g be authorized to
h be permitted to
i be required to
j be held accountable for

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3 **Underline the verb in each of the sentences 1–5 which expresses the right or responsibility more emphatically.**

1 The children were *forced/obliged* to sit still throughout the lesson.

2 Adolescents generally appreciate being *allowed/empowered* to make their own decisions.

3 In some companies, once employees reach the age of sixty-five, they are *compelled/required* to retire.

4 Parents are *committed to doing/have a duty to do* their best for their children.

5 The young men were *required to join/coerced into joining* the army.

4 **The sentences 1–8 all contain common set expressions requiring one or more prepositions. Complete the sentences using the prepositions a–h below.**

a for **b** from **c** in **d** into **e** of **f** on **g** over **h** with

1 Parents sometimes want to exercise too much control _____ their children.

2 Young people often perceive their parents as interfering too much _____ their lives.

3 It is often better to negotiate responsibilities _____ adolescents than to impose responsibilities _____ them.

4 Children must learn to cooperate _____ others in order to achieve goals.

5 In some countries such as Scotland, the age _____ criminal responsibility is as low as ten.

6 When setting standards _____ behaviour, the child's level of maturity needs to be taken _____ account.

7 In order for children to distinguish right _____ wrong, they need to be held accountable _____ their actions.

8 Parents do not always behave _____ the best interests _____ their children.

5 **Complete the sentences 1–5 below with expressions from Exercise 4.**

1 It is unethical if professionals do not act _____ their clients.

2 If a child has a disability, this has to be _____ when deciding on a programme of education.

3 If you are applying for a job which requires teamwork, you need to demonstrate that you are able to _____.

4 When governments impose too many rules and regulations, people often complain that the state is _____.

5 If managers _____ their employees, workers may never develop the ability to take initiative.

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Part 2: Practice exercises: Task 1

1 Study the table below, which shows the results of a survey of 200 adolescents and their parents. Compare the two responses and answer questions 1–4.

1 Which response do you think is more satisfactory? Why?

2 Why do you think the writer of Response 2 has chosen to include certain supporting details and not others?

3 How are supporting details in Response 2 signposted and linked with the rest of the text?

4 Are any supporting details supplied without being explicitly signposted?

Parents and Adolescents' Views of Parental Restrictions on Adolescent Decision-Making

Parents should place restrictions on:	Fathers	Mothers	Adolescent girls	Adolescent boys
how adolescents spend their free time	72%	67%	23%	19%
what subject(s) they study	68%	60%	33%	45%
how they spend money they have earned	34%	23%	12%	9%
what occupation they pursue	55%	53%	18%	21%
what friends they make	76%	78%	17%	19%

Response 1

The table shows the results of a survey of 200 adolescents and their parents in which they were asked whether parents should exercise some control over a range of adolescent life choices.

Overall, parents said that they wanted more control over their children than did the adolescents surveyed. For some decisions, the difference in opinion was quite large. In addition, fathers reported wanting more control than mothers over all except one of the choices. Boys were also prepared to accept more parental control than girls in four of the six choices.

Response 2

The table shows the results of a survey of 200 adolescents and their parents in which they were asked whether parents should exercise some control over a range of adolescent life choices.

Overall, parents said that they wanted significantly more control over their children than did the adolescents surveyed. The areas where parents wanted most control were 'how adolescents spend their free time' and 'what friends they make'. Roughly three out of four parents wanted to place restrictions on these areas, whereas only approximately one in five children felt this was needed. The biggest conflict of opinion concerned young people's choice of friends, with nearly 80 per cent of mothers believing they should exercise control and only 17 per cent of adolescent girls agreeing.

In addition, ...

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2 Expressions that are commonly used to signal supporting detail include:

- **superlatives:** *most control; the biggest conflict of opinion*
- **focusing expressions:** *particularly, in particular, especially*
- **expressions indicating uniqueness:** *only, sole*
- **expressions indicating example:** *for example, for instance.*

Words used to link supporting detail to main clause include:

- **prepositions:** *with*
- **relative pronouns:** *where, in which*

Look again at the body paragraph in Response 2 on page 66 and at extracts 1–3 below, which are from sample Task 1 responses from previous units. Underline examples of the features listed above.

1 Women predominated in schools for children. This was particularly true of schools for very young children. Over 95 per cent of nursery school teachers, for example, were female. The situation was similarly one-sided in primary schools, where over 90 per cent of teachers were women.

2 In Arts and Social Science-related subjects, UK students tended to do better. The biggest gap in performance was in International Law, where three-quarters of UK students gained a second-class degree or better. In contrast, fewer than half of the international students attained this level.

3 There are four types of writing system in which characters represent sounds. The oldest of these is 'Abjad', in which each character represents a consonant sound. Arabic, for instance, uses this type of system.

3 **Complete the paragraph below with expressions from Exercise 2. For some gaps, there may be more than one correct answer.**

Fathers generally reported wanting more control than mothers, the (1) _____ exception being control over what friends their children make, (2) _____ 76 per cent of fathers, as opposed to 78 per cent of mothers, wanted a say. In addition to choice of friends, fathers were (3) _____ keen to exercise control over how adolescents spend their free time and what they studied. The (4) _____ gap between fathers' and mothers' views was over how children spend their self-earned money. Over a third of fathers wanted to place restrictions on this area, whereas (5) _____ 23 per cent of mothers wanted to do so.

4 **Choose supporting detail from the table in Exercise 1 to complete the paragraph below.**

The adolescent boys surveyed also indicated a greater acceptance of parental control than did the adolescent girls ...

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Part 2: Practice exercises: Task 2

5 In order to frame your ideas effectively, you need to use the correct verb forms. You have to choose the correct tense, the correct voice (active or passive) and, where appropriate, the right modal verb. Study the example Task 2 response below to the question: *What can society do to ensure that the rights of young people are respected?* Match the verb forms 1–9 in the text with the functions a–h below. Then answer questions 1–4.

a verb form used when making a promise or prediction _____

b conditional verb form used for describing the consequence(s) of an action _____

c passive voice, often used to describe an action when the agent is unknown or indeterminate _____

d modal verb used to indicate strong obligation or necessity _____

e verb tense indicating that the state or action is habitual, general or true now _____

f modal verb used for making a suggestion and indicating that an action is possible _____

g verb tense used for actions that occurred or were completed in the past _____

h verb tense linking past and present used to express an experience or an ongoing situation _____

i modal verb used for tentatively making a suggestion and indicating possibility _____

In most countries around the world, children (1) *are recognised* as persons by law. However, because children (2) *do not have* the same access to power as adults, they lack the means to defend their rights. It is therefore important that adults recognise the rights of young people. Some argue that this is uniquely the duty of parents. In my view, society as a whole (3) *must* bear some of this responsibility. In this essay I (4) *will outline* three measures that can be taken to safeguard the rights of young people.

Firstly, government (5) *can* ensure that its policies take the interests of children into account. It (6) *could*, for example, appoint a children's commissioner to scrutinise new legislation for compliance with frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This (7) *would ensure* that young people are continuously represented in the halls of power.

Secondly, local government and charities can ensure that young people have access to independent confidential sources of help. Telephone help lines are just one example of what could be done. One such service in the UK, Childline, (8) *answered* over 700,000 calls last year, suggesting a strong need for this kind of help.

A third possible measure is to ensure that information about children's rights is widely disseminated through schools, for example, and the mass media. Children who are well-informed about their rights are in a better position to seek help to defend them.

In short, society has an obligation to look after young people. Doing so can have benefits for all. Young people who (9) *have felt* valued by society are more likely to recognise the value of society and behave accordingly.

1 Which verb tense is used most frequently in the text?

2 How many examples of the passive voice are in the response?

3 Which modal verb is used most frequently? Why?

4 Why would you use the modal verb *should* instead of *must*, and why would you use *may*?

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Exam tip: Make good use of modal verbs to frame your ideas. Use:

- ***will* to state your intention:** *In this essay I **will** outline three measures that can be taken to safeguard the rights of children.*
- **emphatic modal verbs such as *must* and *should* to express a necessity:** *In my view, society as a whole **must** bear some of this responsibility.*
- ***can* and *could* to make suggestions:** *Firstly, the government **can** ensure that its policies take the interests of children into account.*
- ***would* to indicate the consequences of implementing a suggestion:** This **would** ensure that young people are continuously represented in the halls of power.

6 **Read the partially completed Task 2 response to the question: *What can be done to encourage young people to become responsible members of society?* Complete the text by adding a modal verb to the gaps 1–10. In some cases more than one modal verb is possible – your choice will depend on how emphatic you wish to be.**

In many societies these days, people are concerned about deteriorating standards of behaviour among young people. Petty crime, misuse of drugs and alcohol and apparent lack of respect for others all seem to be on the rise. Some people maintain that the best way to address this problem is to reinstate firm discipline within homes and schools. I (1) _____ suggest that although this (2) _____ be one solution, we (3) _____ approach the task of encouraging responsible behaviour among young people in a variety of ways.

One measure that both parents and teachers (4) _____ take is to involve young people in making decisions about what is acceptable behaviour. In schools for example, teachers (5) _____ draw up a contract with the children in their class. It (6) _____ need to be revised periodically as the children mature and are able to handle more freedom responsibly. Doing this (7) _____ discourage children from using misbehaviour as a means of expressing their independence.

Secondly, young people (8) _____ be taught leadership skills by taking part in organisations such as the Scouts. Young people who have experienced what it is like to be a leader (9) _____ probably have a better understanding of the difficulties involved. This (10) _____ encourage them to cooperate more easily with authority figures ...

Exam tip: Make sure you complete your essay by writing a conclusion, even if this consists of only one sentence. If you are running short of time, it is better to shorten or omit one of your body paragraphs than to fail to complete the task.

7 **In conclusions to academic essays, writers often:**

a restate their opinion
b summarise the main points
c make a recommendation
d make a prediction (often stating what may happen if the recommended action is or is not taken)

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Look at the three conclusions below and notice how the functions a–d have been used.

a The writer gives her opinion.

A more effective approach is to educate the public about the benefits of biodiversity. Money should be invested in the research and development of the world's biological resources. Once people understand that there are real benefits to exploiting natural resources in a sustainable way, they are more likely to make the short-term sacrifices necessary to preserve natural habitats.

d The writer makes a prediction.

b Here the writer summarises the main points.

In brief, it is not possible to make recommendations regarding the supervision of adolescents that fit all contexts. The physical environment, the cultural context, and the personalities of those involved should all be considered.

In short, there is little about today's celebrity culture that is fundamentally more harmful than the types of celebrity children have encountered in the past. Provided children are given appropriate guidance, they are unlikely to be adversely affected.

c The writer makes a recommendation.

Re-read the conclusion to the response in Exercise 5 reproduced below, then answer questions 1–5.

In short, society has an obligation to look after young people. Doing so can have benefits for all. Young people who have felt valued by society are more likely to recognise the value of society and behave accordingly.

1 What expression is used to signal that this is the conclusion?
2 What other expressions can be used for this purpose?
3 Which of the functions a–d above is evident in the first sentence?
4 Which of the functions a–d above is evident in the second sentence?
5 How would you summarise the main points of the essay in a single sentence?

8 **Complete the essay in Exercise 6 on page 69 by writing a conclusion. Write one sentence for each of the functions a–d listed in Exercise 7.**

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Part 3: Exam practice

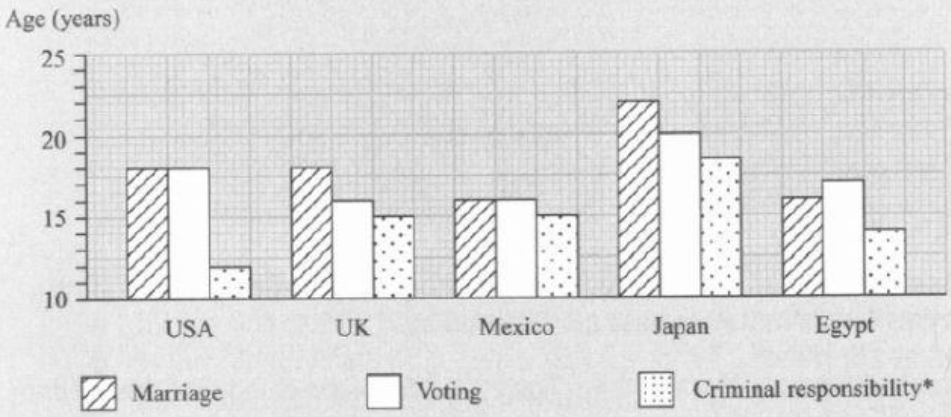
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The figure shows the results of a survey of 1000 adolescents in five different countries. The participants were asked at what age they believed certain rights and responsibilities should be granted to young people.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features.

Write at least 150 words.



* age at which person who commits a crime can be tried in a court of law

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries, young people are granted certain privileges and responsibilities at the age of sixteen. Clearly parents have a responsibility to both care for and prepare their children as they approach this important milestone.

To what degree should parents intervene in the lives of their 14–15 year-old children?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

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