



C1 Advanced Writing Part 1

Essay Practice Worksheet · Work
& Young People



Your class has listened to a podcast discussing the best ways to prepare teenagers for the world of work. You have made the notes below.

Ways to prepare teenagers for the world of work:

- part-time jobs
- volunteering
- career guidance at school



Some opinions expressed in the podcast:

- "A Saturday job teaches you more than any classroom ever could."
- "Volunteering builds character — and looks great on a CV."
- "Schools should do more to help students understand what jobs actually involve."

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways above. You should **explain which you think is most useful for preparing teenagers for working life**, giving reasons in support of your answer.

Word count: 220–260 words **Register:** Formal / neutral **Time suggested:** 45 minutes

Step 1 — Analyse the Task Read the task carefully and answer these questions.

1. What is the main issue?	
2. Circle your two bullet points:	Part-time jobs / Volunteering / Career guidance
4. Can you use opinions from the podcast?	
3. What must your conclusion decide?	
5. What register should you use?	

Step 2 — Expressions Bank

Tick the expressions you plan to use as you read through them. Use at least one from each category.

Introducing the topic

Expression	When to use it
The question of ... is one that many people feel strongly about.	<i>Shows the topic has genuine public relevance</i>
There are several ways in which teenagers can be prepared for working life.	<i>Good for opening when you plan to list approaches</i>
Few would dispute that ... is an important issue for today's young people.	<i>Establishes common ground before developing your argument</i>

Developing a point / building an argument

Expression	When to use it
Furthermore, it is worth noting that...	<i>Add a supporting point within the same paragraph</i>
Not only does ... provide X, but it also...	<i>Highlight two benefits of one approach in a single sentence</i>
This is particularly significant because...	<i>Explain why a point matters — don't just state it</i>
What is more, ...	<i>Add a further, often stronger point</i>
In practice, this means that...	<i>Make an abstract point concrete and real</i>

Conceding / acknowledging the other side

Expression	When to use it
Admittedly, ... does have certain limitations.	<i>Concede a weakness before countering it</i>
While it is true that ..., it should be noted that...	<i>Acknowledge the opposing view, then redirect</i>
Although ... may seem appealing, ...	<i>Introduce and then challenge a competing argument</i>
It could be argued that ...; however, ...	<i>Present an alternative view, then give your response</i>

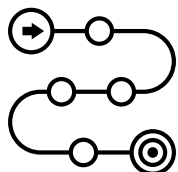
Concluding and giving your verdict

Expression	When to use it
On balance, it would seem that...	<i>Weigh both sides before announcing your verdict</i>
Taking everything into account, ...	<i>Classic, neutral conclusion opener</i>
In conclusion, I would argue that...	<i>Direct personal verdict — confident and clear</i>
For these reasons, ... is undoubtedly the most effective approach.	<i>Strong, final statement — use only if your argument supports it</i>
All things considered, ...	<i>Signals you are wrapping up and deciding</i>

Step 3 — Plan Your Essay

Spend 5 minutes on this before you write. A clear plan leads to a better-structured essay.

Paragraph 1 Introduction <i>Name the topic & your two bullet points. Do NOT give your verdict yet.</i>	
Paragraph 2 First approach <i>Main arguments in favour. A concrete example or reason. Any limitations?</i>	
Paragraph 3 Second approach <i>Main arguments in favour. Compare with paragraph 2 where possible.</i>	
Paragraph 4 Conclusion <i>Your clear verdict: which is MORE useful, and your strongest reason why.</i>	



Step 5 — Peer Review

Reviewer: _____ Writer: _____

Read your partner's essay carefully. Score each criterion 1–5, then write your comments in the right-hand column.

Criterion	Score (1–5)	Your comments
Task achievement <i>Did they discuss exactly two points and reach a clear verdict on which is most useful?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	
Structure & paragraphing <i>Is there a clear intro, two developed body paragraphs, and a strong conclusion? Each in its own paragraph?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	
Cohesion & linking <i>Do they use linking expressions to connect ideas? Does the essay flow logically?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	
Register <i>Is the language formal throughout? No contractions, slang, or conversational phrases?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	
Vocabulary range <i>Do they use varied, precise vocabulary beyond basic words?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	
Word count <i>Is it within the 220–260 word range?</i>	1 2 3 4 5	

One thing that works particularly well:

One specific suggestion to improve the essay:

Step 6 — Self-Assessment Checklist

Complete this after you have written your final draft. Be honest with yourself!

Content & Task

<input type="checkbox"/>	I discussed exactly two of the three bullet points.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I explained which approach I think is most useful and gave clear reasons.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I used at least one opinion from the podcast (in my own words).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I did NOT simply list points — I developed each one with explanation.

Structure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Each body paragraph focuses on one approach and is clearly developed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	My introduction introduces the topic without revealing my conclusion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	My conclusion gives a clear, decisive verdict.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each paragraph has its own clear purpose.

Language & Register

<input type="checkbox"/>	I used formal language throughout — no contractions (don't, it's, etc.).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I used at least three different linking expressions from the expressions bank.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I varied my vocabulary — I did not repeat the same words.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I acknowledged the other side at least once (concession language).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I checked my spelling and grammar.

My biggest strength in this essay: _____

One thing I will focus on improving next time:

Sample Essay – Spot the Problems

Read this candidate essay carefully. It contains deliberate weaknesses. Use the task below to identify them.

There are lots of ways that teenagers can get ready for work. In my opinion, part-time jobs and career guidance are the two most important things. I will talk about both of them in this essay and decide which one is better.

First of all, part-time jobs are really good for teenagers. When you work in a shop or a café, you learn how to talk to customers and be responsible. Also, you get money, which is great. Lots of teenagers I know have part-time jobs and they say it's very useful. The main problem is that some jobs are boring and don't teach you much.

Career guidance at school is also good. Teachers and counsellors can give you information about different jobs. They can help you write a CV too. But I think a lot of students don't really listen in these sessions because they find them boring. So sometimes it doesn't work very well.

To conclude, I think part-time jobs are better than career guidance because you actually experience the world of work instead of just learning about it in a classroom. Both options have good and bad points but part-time jobs teach you things that are impossible to learn at school like punctuality and dealing with difficult people.

Your Task – Find the Weaknesses

The essay above contains at least one example of each problem below. Find them and write them in the right-hand column.

Problem to find	Your example from the essay
An informal / conversational phrase	
A contraction that should be written in full	
A vague, unsupported claim (no reason or example)	
A weak opening sentence that could be more formal	
A missing linking expression (where would one fit?)	
A place where the argument could be more developed	

Discussion question for class:

Despite its weaknesses, what does the essay do well? Can you find two things that are effective?

Teacher's Notes & Answer Key

Suggested Timing

Phase	Suggested time
Steps 1–2 (analyse + expressions)	10 minutes (pairs or whole class)
Step 3 (plan)	5 minutes (individual)
Step 4 (write)	25–30 minutes (individual)
Step 5 (peer review)	10 minutes (swap with partner)
Sample essay analysis	10 minutes (pairs or whole class discussion)

Answer Key — Step 1

1. What is the main issue?	How to best prepare teenagers for the world of work
2. Bullet points	Any two of: part-time jobs / volunteering / career guidance at school
3. What must the conclusion decide?	Which of the two chosen approaches is most useful for preparing teenagers for work
4. Can you use podcast opinions?	Yes — but students must paraphrase and use their own words as far as possible
5. Register	Formal / neutral throughout

Answer Key — Sample Essay Analysis

Problem	Example in the essay
Informal / conversational phrase	"A ton of..." / "which is great" / "Lots of teenagers I know"
Contraction	"it's very useful" / "don't really listen"
Vague, unsupported claim	<i>"Lots of teenagers I know have part-time jobs and they say it's very useful."</i>
Weak opening sentence	<i>"There are lots of ways that teenagers can get ready for work."</i>
Missing linking expression	E.g. between para 2 and 3: "Turning to career guidance..." / "In contrast,..."
Underdeveloped argument	"The main problem is that some jobs are boring" — needs a concession structure and counter-argument

What the essay does well: follows four-paragraph structure; reaches a conclusion with a reason; gives some concrete examples (shop, café, CV).

Teacher Assessment Focus Points

When marking, pay particular attention to:

1. Task achievement — did the student choose exactly TWO bullet points and give a clear comparative verdict?
2. Development — are arguments supported with reasons and examples, or merely listed?
3. Cohesion — are linking expressions used accurately and with variety?
4. Register — is the language consistently formal? Penalise repeated contractions or colloquial phrases.
5. Word count — essays significantly under 220 or over 260 words should be flagged.