

**Exam question**

In your English class you have been talking about life skills: skills which are needed in everyday life. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay.

*Life skills should be taught to teenagers at school together with traditional subjects like maths and science. Do you agree?*

Write about:

1. managing finances
2. cooking
3. .... (your own idea)

Nowadays, some schools are teaching life skills as well as traditional subjects. Some people say this prepares students better for life in the real world, whereas others say it is not necessary.

In my opinion, school should prepare students for adult life. Financial skills such as budget planning and saving money are essential to avoid falling into debt. It would also be a good idea to learn basic cooking, as this is fundamental for survival when you are living on your own.

On the other hand, some people argue that there is no time for extra subjects at school and that life skills should be learnt at home. Personally, I think we already learn many life skills while doing traditional subjects. For example, we learn teamworking by doing group projects, and organising our homework teaches us time management skills.

To sum up, I believe all schools should teach life skills. It would not require too much extra work because there is no need to teach them separately from conventional subjects. This will make sure that students leave school better prepared for university and work.

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**Top Tips for writing**

1. Organise your essay in paragraphs with an introduction, a conclusion and middle paragraphs. Use phrases like **Nowadays** and **To sum up** to start the first and last paragraphs.
2. Think about how to organise your middle paragraphs. This essay has two, discussing views for and against the topic. Alternatively, you can write three, one for each of the three points in the question.
3. Use a range of expressions for organising your ideas, showing contrast and giving examples.
4. Use phrases such as **Personally, ...** to show your personal opinion.
5. Use phrases like **Some people say ...** and **Others say ...** to present contrasting opinions.
6. Try to use synonyms to avoid repetition.