

TASK 2: DISCUSS BOTH VIEWS – PARENTS VS TEACHERS

The Question

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society. Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this. //

Discuss both these views // and give your own opinion. //

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

Write at least 250 words.

Approach

1 Write the **question** at the top of your paper.

2 Read and underline the **key words**.

3 Think of some **synonyms** for these key words – here they could be:

some people – some individuals

parents – mothers and fathers, primary carers

should – ought to

teach - educate

children – young people

how – in what way

good – educated, polite, well-behaved

members of society – citizens of the world

others – other people, other individuals

believe – think, feel

school – teachers

place to learn – location for learning

4 Read the question and **break it down** into parts – here there are three parts:

1) The situation concerning what people believe about who should teach children how to behave

2) Discuss both these views

3) Give your own opinion

5 Decide what **kind of question** it is – here it is a 2-sided essay. This helps you to decide which **structure** to use – here you need four paragraphs:

1) Introduction

2) Give one side of the argument (2 or 3 points with explanations or examples)

3) Give the other side of the argument (2 or 3 points with explanations or examples)

4) Conclusion – summary saying there are two sides to the argument and give your opinion.

6 Make your **plan**. Here, the plan could be:

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- 1) Introduction – describe situation, say there are 2 sides to the argument, say what you will do in this essay
- 2) Parents should teach the children because
 - they brought them into the world and are responsible for them
 - they have more time to do this in the home, at weekends and in the holidays
- 3) They should be taught at school because
 - teachers can be trained in how to deal with young people
 - teachers are paid for this and it is part of their job
- 4) Conclusion – give a summary to say there are 2 sides to the argument and your opinion
 - education begins at home and should not be expected of the teachers as their primary aim is to teach their subject, not behaviour

7 **Write** the essay, looking back to the plan and the title at the end of each paragraph.

8 If you only have a few minutes left, stop writing and **check** what you have written. Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar and that your sentences are clear and make sense.

Answer

A debate exists around whose responsibility it is to educate children in how to behave and be good citizens of the world. Whilst some people argue that this task lies with the parents, others maintain that they should be taught about this at school. This essay will discuss both points of view and then give the writer's opinion.

It is thought by some that 'education begins at home' and teaching good behaviour is the responsibility of the parents or primary carers. Firstly, this might be argued because in most cases it is the parents who have brought the children into this world and therefore, they should be the ones to discipline and teach their children to be decent, well-mannered individuals. Secondly, although youngsters spend a lot of time at school, the majority of their time is spent at home, and so, parents have more time in which to teach them vital social skills.

On the other side of the debate are those who feel it is the school's responsibility to educate pupils to be good members of a community. One reason for such a belief is that teachers are better qualified to instil such qualities in children for they are trained in how to do this. Moreover, it is believed that this is their job; it is what they are paid to do, as school has never been just about gaining information but rather learning how to function successfully in society.

In conclusion, it is clear there are arguments for both sides. However, school is a place that should be dedicated to learning and teachers should not have to deal with behavioural issues – children should have already learned respect for others from their parents.

(284 words)