

GRAMMAR AND WRITING TASK 2: A VARIETY OF COMPLEX STRUCTURES

These days more fathers stay at home and take care of their children while mothers go out to work. What could be the reasons for this? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

Plan:

- Introduction - Introduce topic (question title in own words)
- Say there are reasons for this and give your opinion of whether it is a positive or negative development
 - Say this essay will discuss those reasons and why it is positive

Main body (2 paragraphs)

Paragraph 1 – reasons

- men and women are educated and skilled so also have jobs and may have higher earning potential
- it is no longer frowned upon if men look after children or are not the 'breadwinner'

Paragraph 2 – why it is positive

- it reflects a more modern way of thinking and will educate the children to think this way
- it will help to create more equality between men and women

Grammar Variety

25% of the grade for your writing is concerned with 'Grammatical range and accuracy'. By 'range', the examiner means 'variety' – so, they are looking to see whether you can use a variety of different grammatical structures 'accurately', 'correctly'.

Remember this is your one chance to show the examiner all that you know so try to show them a range of grammar, for example:

Different tenses:

Present simple

Present continuous

Past simple

Present perfect

Future simple

Modal verbs:

Can

Might

Should

Passive

Active

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Conditional:

1st Conditional

Simple

Complex

See if you can identify these different grammatical structures in the example essay below. The examples are highlighted in different colours. The answer is on the following page.

Example essay

As part of modern day society, it is no longer unusual to see men looking after the children at home and women going out to earn money. **There are a number of explanations** for this move away from traditional gender roles and these will be discussed in this essay along with an explanation as to why surely, **this can only be a positive development** for everyone.

There are perhaps two main reasons for this transformation. The first reason is that, unlike in the past, both men and women are now educated and so, they have the same chance of gaining a well-paid job. **It might then be** that the mother has a higher paid career than the father and so, logically, **the mother should continue working**. Secondly, there are no longer society's traditional expectations of fixed gender roles. **In the past, men had to be the 'breadwinner' and it was frowned upon if they were not**. Nowadays, it is much more acceptable for roles to be shared.

This change in views is undoubtedly only a positive thing. Firstly, **if children are learning at home that their parents' roles are shared as opposed to fixed like in the past, then in the future they will also have this more balanced view**. Consequently, this should lead to equality between men and women, **something that has been sought for centuries** but which still has not been achieved in many parts of the world.

In conclusion, it is clear **people's views on gender roles are changing** and the 'traditional' roles of men and women are finally fading. **This reflects a modern society** that promotes the equal rights of both genders. (274 words)

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Vocabulary:

unusual (adj) = strange

gender (n) = male or female

transformation (n) = change

gain (v) = get, obtain

the breadwinner (n) = the person who earns the main salary for the household

to be frowned upon = to be seen as a bad thing

as opposed to = instead of

sought = looked for

fade (v) = disappear

reflect (v) = show

Answers:

A variety of tenses

Present simple: There are a number of explanations

Present continuous: people's views on gender roles are changing

Past simple: men had to be the breadwinner

Present perfect: something that has been sought for centuries

Future: these will be discussed

Modal verbs

This can only be a positive development

It might then be that

The mother should continue working

Passive and active

Passive: their parents' roles are shared

Active: this reflects a modern society

Conditional

1st conditional: if children are learning at home that their parents' roles are shared as opposed to fixed like in the past, then in the future they will also have this more balanced view.

Simple and complex

Simple: This change in views is undoubtedly only a positive thing.

Complex: In the past, men had to be the 'breadwinner' and it was frowned upon if they were not.