



OVERALL BAND SCORE 7.5 7+8+8+8

[SEE BELOW C&C LR GRA](#) [MODEL ANSWER](#)

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Everyone should stay at school until 18.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

**Original answer -**

Opinions are divided on whether school children should attend school until they reach the age of 18. I strongly believe that they should, due to the reasons presented in this essay.

I would argue that the option of abandoning formal studies before finishing high school is not as appealing as it may seem at first. Perhaps the most obvious argument in favour of quitting high school is that students would have more time for trial and error in seeking the job best fitting their talents and qualities. However, this appears shortsighted, as most jobs available to a dropout are manual labor, with limited career prospects. Furthermore, it should be taken into account that one's passion for a particular career path may eventually fade away, and therefore, he or she may consider returning to formal education after doing the same job for an extended period of time. This, however, could be more difficult for those without a high school diploma, at least in my home country, Vietnam, thus significantly limiting career choices for the rest of one's working life.

Beyond the aforementioned drawbacks, there are several advantages/benefits to sticking to formal education. The most important of these is that one would have the chance to be exposed to important knowledge provided at school, which is critical for them to pursue higher education. As a matter of fact, studies have repeatedly shown that those with a college degree on average earn a higher income more than those without. In addition to valuable knowledge, young adolescents also learn various sets of skills needed both in real life and in the working environment. For example, high school students are usually equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, provided by a well-trained teacher, through different class activities. Lacking these skills, or awareness about the existence of such skills, could be a huge disadvantage of those who want to climb their career ladder.

In conclusion, the choice to drop formal education before turning 18 seems to be relatively unattractive, and students may also gain a wide



range of benefits from staying in school. Based on the aforementioned arguments, it is suggested that one should diligently pursue their studies at school, at least until graduation from high school.



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TR – Task Response nb – GRA and LR errors have not been corrected

Band score 7

You have addressed all parts of the question.

Your argument is that everyone would benefit from staying at school till they're 18, which is obviously an exaggeration. In that sense, it's overgeneralised, which is why I gave you 7 for TR. Not all examiners would be as mean as me. Nevertheless, it's a good idea to aim to please even the strictest examiner, if you're aiming for a high score.

- presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to overgeneralise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus

Band score 7 TR

I would argue that it only makes sense for children who have the ability and desire to graduate from high school and to go on to university. Many have no aptitude for academic studies and neither do they have the desire, so there's no point in them studying till they're 18. Indeed, anyone who's not prepared to commit himself to his studies would become a distraction to students who are committed.

In questions that invite you to agree with an extreme position – like *all children should stay at school till they're 18* – it is usually but not always impossible to fully agree without overgeneralising. This is true in the following questions:

With the increased use of mobile phones and computers, people no longer communicate by handwriting letters. As a result, the skill of handwriting letters will soon disappear completely.

To what extent do you agree with this?



It is sometimes said that it is always better for the young to get advice from older people than from other young people.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Distance learning is becoming more and more popular with the arrival of the internet and correspondence courses. In the future, it will replace traditional universities.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

ADVICE ON BRAINSTORMING FOR TASK 2

As you're planning and writing your answer, remember to constantly ask yourself if you're answering the question. Check back to the question a few times as you think of ideas to make sure they're directly relevant.

- Make sure your introduction directly addresses the question.
- Make sure your ideas address all parts of the question. If the question asks for **solutions**, in the plural, **you must suggest at least 2**.
- Make sure your main ideas, as stated in the first sentence of the main body paragraphs, are **directly relevant to the question**.
- Make sure your supporting ideas, which follow the main ideas in the main body paragraphs, **directly support the main idea**.
- **Make sure your supporting ideas are developed**, which means there should be more information in the form of evidence, reasons, and/or examples.
- **Very often, the optimum number of supporting ideas is 2**. This allows you to develop your ideas and your less likely to have



isolated, unsupported ideas that could get you a 6 for TR.

“some may be undeveloped/unclear” – band score 6 TR.

- Be especially careful if you’ve answered similar question before, as there will always be important differences.
- Make sure your conclusion **directly answers the question**, that it is consistent with the ideas in the main bodies, and that it does not contradict the introduction.



Opinions are divided on whether school children should attend school until they reach the age of 18. I strongly believe that they should, *due to* the reasons presented in this essay.

Commented [TG1]: Good introduction with a clear position



I would argue that the option of abandoning formal studies before finishing high school is not as appealing as it may seem at first. Perhaps the most obvious argument in favour of quitting high school is that students would have more time for *trial and error in seeking* the job best fitting their talents and qualities. However, this appears shortsighted, as most jobs available to a *dropout* are manual labor, with limited career prospects. Furthermore, it should be taken into account that one's passion for a particular career path may eventually fade away, and therefore, he or she may consider returning to formal education after doing the same job for an extended period of time. This, however, could be more difficult for those without a high school diploma, at least in my home country, Vietnam, thus significantly limiting career choices for the rest of one's working life.

Commented [TG2]: Good main idea

Commented [TG3]: the trial and error involved in the process of finding the

Commented [TG4]: a bit derogatory

Commented [TG5]: in manual labour / involve [...] - but is it fair to assume that everyone can or wants a career that requires a degree

Commented [TG6]: Relevant supporting ideas, the assumption that all students have an academic inclination is over general

Commented [TG7]: So this is all true, but it assumes that by going on to high school, everyone will have a professional career



Beyond the aforementioned drawbacks, there are several *advantages/benefits* to *sticking to* formal education. The most important of these is that one would have the chance to be exposed to important knowledge provided at school, which is critical for *them to* pursue higher education. As a matter of fact, *studies have repeatedly shown* that those with a college degree on average earn a higher income more than those without. In addition to valuable knowledge, young adolescents also learn various sets of skills needed both in real life and in the working environment. For example, high school students are usually equipped *with critical thinking and problem-solving skills*, provided by a well-trained teacher, through different class activities. Lacking these skills, or awareness about the existence of such skills, could be a huge disadvantage of those who want to climb their career ladder.

Commented [TG8]: Good main idea

Commented [TG9]: This may be true, but it doesn't mean the everyone could get a degree.

Commented [TG10]: Relevant supporting idea, but LOL – old, flawed studies in western countries *paid for by universities themselves*, that don't take into account student debt and degrees from lower tier universities

Commented [TG11]: LOL – not in England they don't. That's the last thing the government wants

Commented [TG12]: Relevant supporting ideas, but clearly college is not suitable for everyone



In conclusion, the choice to drop formal education before turning 18 seems to be relatively unattractive, and students may also gain a wide range of benefits from staying in school. Based on the aforementioned arguments, it is suggested that one should diligently pursue their studies at school, at least until graduation from high school.

Commented [TG13]: Good conclusion, consistent with the main ideas

Commented [TG14]: Not everyone is capable of this. Some students are not academically gifted



C&C - Cohesion and Coherence nb GRA and LR errors have not been corrected

Band score 8

Your usage of *one* that could cost you your band score 8. I gave you 8 instead of 7 because everything else is accurate, and because what you wrote may be considered correct in US English.

One is a useful pronoun and it can be a good way of avoiding the problem of the *gendered* singular third person pronoun [or the second person pronoun – a cardinal sin in IELTS writing and a hallmark of a band score 5]. In other words, it avoids the necessity to use *his* or *her*, which becomes extremely tedious with repeated use.

*A student who graduates from high school is more likely to be successful in **his or her** career.*

This can be avoided with the use of *one*, with some minor surgery on the sentence:

*After graduating from high school, **one** is more likely to be successful in **one's** career.*

However, in the example above, using the plural is simpler:

Students who graduate from high school are more likely to be successful in **their** careers.

If you use *one*, here are some rules:

- Don't mix *one* and other pronouns or nouns in one sentence.
[...] one's passion for a particular career path may eventually fade away, and therefore, ~~he or she~~ one may consider
- Don't overuse *one* in a sentence. I suggest a maximum of 2 *ones* in one sentence. If you find yourself wanting to use more than 2, some editing is required.



- Don't overuse one in your answer. Consider it for emergency use only.

[Here's some advice](#) – aimed at native speakers

PARAGRAPHING FOR TASK 2

I recommend you write 4 paragraphs as follows:

- Write an introduction, that explains **what the question is**. After reading the introduction, the reader should have a good idea what the essay is about, and **what your position (opinion) is**. It should be possible to write an introduction in under 50 words. It is not necessary to write a long background statement.
- Write 2 main body paragraphs. This should allow you to expand on the ideas sufficiently to persuade the examiner that you've fully supported the main ideas. If you write 3 main bodies, it is more difficult to expand and support them sufficiently to get a high score.
- If it's a two-part question, answer the questions in the order they're given and **write one paragraph per question**.
- **The main body paragraphs should be 100-120 words**, and each paragraph should have a **clear topic sentence** and 2 or more supporting ideas which support the topic sentence with **reasons, evidence, and examples**. Do not waste time with lots of background information.
- The topic sentences should **directly address** the question.
- The conclusion should be consistent with the introduction and the main ideas, and it should not introduce new ideas. **It should directly answer the question. Do not leave the examiner in any doubt about whether you've answered the question.**
- If you write a third paragraph in a *discuss both sides* question to clarify your position, make sure that give a good reason to reject



one of the sides. If you just restated the original ideas about one side, the examiner may decide you have covered one side more than the other.

- It is also ok to write a third body paragraph in a *to what extent* question if you have main ideas which both agree and disagree with the proposition. Avoid short paragraphs, with under 70 words, as it may be difficult to show a *clear central topic* in a short paragraph.

Opinions are divided on whether school children should attend school until they reach the age of 18. I strongly believe that they should, ~~due to~~ for the reasons presented in this essay.

Commented [TG15]: Good

I would argue that the option of abandoning formal studies before finishing high school is not as appealing as it may seem at first. Perhaps the most obvious argument in favour of quitting high school is that students would have more time for trial and error in seeking the job best fitting their talents and qualities. However, this appears shortsighted, as most jobs available to a dropout are manual labor, with limited career prospects. Furthermore, it should be taken into account that ~~one's~~ their passion for a particular career path may eventually fade away, and therefore, ~~he or she~~ they may consider returning to formal education after doing the same job for an extended period of time. This, however, could be more difficult for those without a high school diploma, at least in my home country, Vietnam, thus significantly limiting career choices for the rest of one's working life.

Commented [TG16]: Good topic sentence

Commented [TG17]: good

Commented [TG18]: good. better would be *however, in practice, [...]*

Commented [TG19]: better: Furthermore, it should *also* be taken into account [...]

Commented [TG20]: Good

Commented [TG21]: *their* is better, following *those without*

Beyond the aforementioned drawbacks, there are several advantages/benefits to sticking to formal education. The most important of these is that ~~one~~ they would have the chance to be exposed to important knowledge provided at school, which is critical for **them** to pursue higher education. As a matter of fact, studies have repeatedly shown that those with a college degree on average earn a higher income more than those without. In addition to valuable knowledge, young adolescents also learn various sets of skills needed both in real life and in the working environment. For example, high school students are usually

Commented [TG22]: good

Commented [TG23]: good



equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, provided by a well-trained teacher, through different class activities. Lacking these skills, or awareness about the existence of such skills, could be a huge disadvantage of those who want to climb their career ladder.

In conclusion, the choice to drop formal education before turning 18 seems to be relatively unattractive, and students may also gain a wide range of benefits from staying in school. Based on the aforementioned arguments, it is suggested that ~~one~~they should diligently pursue **their** studies at school, at least until graduation from high school.

**LR- - Lexical resource nb Some GRA errors have not been corrected****Band score 8**

Vocabulary is used accurately with sufficient flexibility to show precise meaning, and with only minor inaccuracies, which is good for a band score 8.

- uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings

Band score 8 LR

- skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation

Band score 8 LR

- produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation

Band score 8 LR

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I would argue that the option of abandoning formal studies before finishing high school is not as appealing as it may seem at first. Perhaps the most obvious argument in favour of quitting high school is that students would have more time for trial and error in seeking the job best fitting their talents and qualities. However, this appears ~~shortsighted~~ short-sighted, as most jobs available to a dropout are manual labor, with limited career prospects. Furthermore, it should be taken into account that one's passion for a particular career path may eventually fade away, and therefore, he or she may consider returning to formal education after doing the same job for an extended period of time. This, however, could be more difficult for those without a high school diploma, at least in my home country, Vietnam, thus significantly limiting career choices for the rest of one's working life.

Beyond the aforementioned drawbacks, there are several advantages ~~/benefits~~ to sticking to formal education. The most important

Commented [TG24]: better: *suited to / suiting*

Commented [TG25]: better: *manual in nature*



of these is that one would have the chance to be exposed to important knowledge provided at school, which is critical for them to pursue higher education. As a matter of fact, studies have repeatedly shown that those with a college degree on average earn a higher income more than those without. In addition to valuable knowledge, young adolescents also learn various sets of skills needed both in real life and in the working environment. For example, high school students are usually equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, provided by a well-trained teacher, through different class activities. Lacking these skills, or awareness about the existence of such skills, could be a huge disadvantage ~~of~~ to those who want to climb their career ladder.

In conclusion, the choice to drop formal education before turning 18 seems to be relatively unattractive, and students may also gain a wide range of benefits from staying in school. Based on the aforementioned arguments, it is suggested that ~~one schoolchildren~~ should diligently pursue their studies at school, at least until ~~graduation~~ graduating from high school.

Commented [TG26]: similar in meaning but used differently You could say *until their graduation*

see GRA



GRA - Grammatical range and accuracy **nb Some LR errors have not been corrected**

Band score 8

Grammar is used accurately with relatively few errors, some of which are penalised elsewhere, so it should be good for a band score 8.

- makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies

Band score 8 GRA

- uses a wide range of structures

Band score 8 GRA

- the majority of sentences are error-free

Band score 8 GRA

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Beyond the aforementioned drawbacks, there are several advantages/benefits to sticking to formal education. The most important of these is that one would have the chance to be exposed to important



knowledge provided at school, which is critical for them to pursue higher education. As a matter of fact, studies have repeatedly shown that on average, those with a college degree ~~on average~~ earn a higher income ~~more~~ than those without. In addition to valuable knowledge, young adolescents also learn various sets of skills needed both in real life and in the working environment. For example, high school students are usually equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, provided by a well-trained teacher, through different class activities. Lacking these skills, or an awareness ~~about of~~ the existence of such skills, could be a huge disadvantage ~~of for~~ those who want to climb ~~their~~ the career ladder.

In conclusion, the choice to drop formal education before turning 18 seems to be relatively unattractive, and students may also gain a wide range of benefits from staying in school. Based on the aforementioned arguments, it is suggested that one should diligently pursue their studies at school, at least ~~until graduation~~ before graduating from high school.

Commented [TG27]: see C&C, but you could also fix this with *for the pursuit of [...]* or more simply, *in higher education*

Commented [TG28]:

Commented [TG29]: this is usually a fixed expression

Commented [TG30]: see C&C



Model answer –

None available for the question you did