AGES 12-18 · EXAM WRITING

Opinion Essay Planning Scaffold

A step-by-step structure for planning Cambridge/IELTS-style opinion essays.

Exam skill: This is the standard structure used for opinion essays in Cambridge B2/C1 Writing and IELTS Task 2. Use this scaffold to plan your own essay.

Essay Question: Some people think schools should teach practical life skills like cooking and budgeting. Others believe schools should focus only on academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Introduction (1-2 sentences) — *Paraphrase the question and state that you will discuss both sides.*

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Paragraph 1: First viewpoint — *Present arguments FOR the first opinion, with one example.*

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Paragraph 2: Second viewpoint — *Present arguments FOR the second opinion, with one example.*

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Paragraph 3: Your opinion — *State clearly which view you agree with and why.*

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Conclusion (1-2 sentences) — *Summarise your main point without repeating it word-for-word.*

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