

# IELTS Writing Correction Service

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Question Type: Descriptive

Question Number: 4

Question: In some countries, young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.

## Introduction Paragraph

### + Introduce the topic:

In some nations, young individuals are advised to spend a year travelling or working between high school graduation and tertiary education studies.

### + Thesis Statement:

This attitude has its merits and demerits.

## Feedback:

- 👍 - You introduced the topic accurately with good paraphrasing
- 👍 - You outlined your intention to address both pros and cons without an opinion
- 😬 - I expect to see 1 body paragraph about the benefits and 1 about the negatives

## Body 1: Point / Conclusion:

This idea can bring about two benefits for high school graduates.

[👍] - Good. Clear, separate topic sentence.

## Evidence / Supporting Details

**R1)** One is that they will have the chance to ~~increase~~ **broaden** their horizons. They have the opportunity to travel to many parts of the world, familiarise themselves with new cultures, and communicate with people from different nations. These experiences can lead to a better understanding of their own interests and abilities and to wiser decisions about choosing their majors at university. For instance, these young individuals may strike a friendship with prominent academicians and education consultants or international students during their trip, which could help them to choose the right field based on their personal and educational backgrounds.

**R2)** The second idea is that young graduates could find **promising careers** and earn enough money to pay for their future study tuition fees so that they can **focus only on their subjects** at university and **not worry about super expensive fees**.

- [? - C&C + 📖] - This phrase is slightly confusing. "Careers" is a long-term period of working, often many years. The focus of this essay topic is just taking "one year off."

- [💡] - "young graduates could find **well-paying jobs** and earn enough money to pay for their future tuition fees."

- [C&C] - This could be clearer: "This will also mean they don't have to work during their studies, allowing them to concentrate fully on their work."

## Extra Comments 🗨️:

- Choose your vocabulary carefully. Here it affected other parts of IELTS Writing criteria.

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| <b>Body 2: Point / Conclusion:</b> | On the other hand, this trend might bring about adverse effects.<br>[👍] - Good. Clear, separate topic sentence. |
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| <b>Evidence / Supporting Details</b>   |  |
| <p><b>R1)</b> One is that travelling for a year could be financially challenging for the majority of schoolers who have just graduated from high school and have no money in their budget. Demand for travelling has significantly risen, making the price of a one-year-trip <b>exorbitant</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- [C&amp;C] - <b>We're looking for disadvantages, so give me a clear, negative outcome of trips being "exorbitant".</b></li> <li>- [💡] - "Therefore, students would only be able to travel for a short time, or may be forced to work even if they wanted to explore other countries."</li> <li>- [💡] - "In more extreme cases, students might have to borrow money to simply travel, which would be an additional financial burden on them as well as their eventual tuition fees."</li> <li>- [💡] - "While some students may have enough to travel with, they are likely to return with nothing in their bank accounts, forcing them to work during their studies, or borrow more to pay their tuition fees, both of which increases the financial burden on them during and after their graduation."</li> </ul> <p><b>R2)</b> Another drawback is that <b>graduates who travel</b> may immerse themselves in the beauty of scenic <del>ery</del> places during their trip, and <b>workers</b> might become economically dependent on their income to the extent that <b>they give up on continuing their academic studies</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- [C&amp;C] - <b>Who is the subject of this example? "Graduates who travel" or "workers?" They sound like 2 different groups of people.</b></li> <li>- [C&amp;C] - <b>This idea isn't very well explained. Why would they "give up" - what would force them to stop?</b></li> <li>- [💡] - They can't afford tuition fees</li> <li>- [💡] - They can earn a lot of money without a degree?</li> </ul> |  |

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| <b>Extra Comments</b> 🗨️:   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The core ideas of this paragraph were good choices, but the explanation wasn't full-developed, or was incoherent.</b></li> <li>- <b>When explaining advantages or disadvantages, the clearest development is a positive or negative <u>result</u>. This is what I suggested in the [C&amp;C] points above.</b></li> </ul> |  |

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| <b>Conclusion Paragraph:</b> | In conclusion, studying or working for a year after high school graduation can produce a couple of both positive and negative results for high school students.<br>- [👍] - Good stuff. You didn't present a position. You concisely and accurately summarised the conclusions of Body 1 and Body 2 as well. |
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| <b>Band &amp; Criteria Feedback:</b>     | - <b>Task Response:</b> 8.0+ - You addressed both of the descriptive questions in the task. No position given.   |
| <b>Overall Score:</b><br><b>Band 7.0</b> | - <b>Coherence &amp; Cohesion:</b> 6.0 - The explanation of Body 1 : R2 was tricky to understand. Likewise, the arguments in Body 2 were underdeveloped.<br>- <b>Vocabulary:</b> 7.0 - Good, no spelling errors. I won't give higher than 7.0 because your vocabulary choice affected the coherence & cohesion of some arguments.<br>- <b>Grammar:</b> 8.0 - Very good. I made no real grammar changes |

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| <b>Extra Comments</b> 🗨️: Well done Mohammad! You can see from the criteria feedback that the Coherence & Cohesion of the arguments should be a main focus. Choose your words carefully, and make sure the reader gets a clear, positive or negative <b>result</b> to fully develop your ideas about advantages and disadvantages. Thank you! |  |
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**Feedback Key:**

- [👍] **Great! Well done!** - This sentence or paragraph is well-written, logically presented, addresses the task or supports your opinion / topic sentence.
- [TR] **Task Response** - If your ideas and arguments are not addressing the specific topic and specific question presented in the essay question. Any ideas or conclusions outside of the topic will harm this criteria.
- [C&C] **Coherence & Cohesion** - How well you logically build and present your reasons. Do the examples support the point? Is the conclusion of this point logical? It's also the connection between your position and the conclusions you reach in Body 1 and Body 2.
- [✂️] **Grammar** - Tenses, articles, prepositions, word order and other grammar changes that would be considered mistakes.
- [📖] **Wording / Vocabulary** - Words or phrases that are unclear or unfamiliar to native English readers. They may harm Vocabulary or Coherence & Cohesion scores.
- [💡] **Alternative Reasons** - I will suggest a different argument that more clearly supports your overall position, or the topic sentence of the body paragraph
- [?] **Confusing / Unclear** - I am not sure what you are trying to prove or explain. The wording or example could be unclear. Sometimes this is due to cultural differences or examples that I (a British person) am not familiar with.

Questions about the feedback? Email me: [mark@markteacher.com](mailto:mark@markteacher.com)

(Sample essay on next page)

## IELTS Task 2 Essay Sample

*In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decided to do this.*

After finishing high school, some young people are **advised** to take a year off before they begin university. This essay will explore the advantages and disadvantages for students who choose to take a gap year **prior** to their **tertiary education**.

There are a couple of key benefits that make this idea appealing. For many students, the biggest benefit of taking a year off is the ability to save money since university **tuition fees** can be extremely high. In the UK, for example, the vast majority of **state-run** universities charge over £9,000 per year. By taking a year off to work, young people can save up money to **put towards** those fees, while also lowering the amount of money they may have to borrow and therefore giving themselves more **fiscal** freedom after they have graduated. In addition to this, through work or travel, young people can understand what kinds of skills are truly important in life outside of education. In turn, this can help them make more informed and **fruitful** decisions about what degree or career they wish to **pursue** at university.

On the other hand, there are also downsides for students to consider. Some students who **opt for** a gap year find it difficult to return to an academic environment. A year off may involve travelling or spending time on their own personal fulfilment or being mostly independent, whereas higher education requires a strong **work ethic** and follows a demanding schedule, which may seem extremely **unappealing** to a young person after they have **become accustomed to** a more laid-back or flexible lifestyle. **Notably**, the **dropout rate** among students who had previously taken a gap year is considerably higher than those who did not. Moreover, while some students may have enough money to travel with, they are likely to return with nothing in their bank accounts, forcing them to work during their studies, or borrow more to pay their tuition fees, both of which increases the financial burden on them during and after their graduation.

In conclusion, **softening the blow** of **steep** tuition fees and gaining valuable skills are the chief advantages of taking a year off between high school and university, whereas the loss of motivation to **enrol** in higher education and the cost of travel can be considered some of the main drawbacks.

- **To advise** (v.) - to tell someone what you think they should do
- **Prior** (adj.) - before
- **Tertiary education** (n.) - university / college level education
- **Tuition fees** - the payment for instruction (lectures/seminars etc.)
- **State-run** (adj.) - controlled by the government
- **Put towards** (ph.v.) - to pay for the cost of something
- **Fiscal** (adj.) - financial, referring to money
- **Fruitful** (adj.) - beneficial
- **To pursue** (v.) - to follow, to choose
- **To opt for** (v.) - to choose
- **Work ethic** (n.) - the belief and discipline to work hard
- **Unappealing** (adj.) - not inviting or attractive.
- **To become accustomed to** - to get used to
- **Notably** (adv.) - significantly, worthy of noticing
- **Dropout rate** (n.) - the amount of students who quit university before finishing
- **Soften the blow** - making a difficult or damaging situation less severe
- **Steep** (adj.) - expensive
- **To enrol** (v.) - to sign up, to join

385 words