

,It is a good idea for students to have a ‘gap year’ before they start university.’ Say whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Give at least two reasons for your opinion and acknowledge the opposing opinion with at least one reason.

Write 200-220 words.

Many students decide to take a year off in order to do something interesting, often voluntary work, before they start university. On balance, provided the university is prepared to accept the student one year late, I believe this is a good idea.

Firstly, going straight from secondary school to university can mean that a student experiences only an academic environment until his/her early twenties. A gap year, especially if you leave home, gives useful experience of the ‘real world’ and should help to give the student a headstart when he/she joins the job-market after graduation. My second reason for supporting gap years is that school-leavers have many skills and qualities to offer. They are usually energetic, curious and adaptable. These qualities are extremely useful in many fields so that it is not only the student who benefits but also his/her employer or the wider society.

On the other hand, it is true that some gap years fail. This might be because the student has an unrealistic idea of what he/she might be able to accomplish or because his/her idea does not correspond with the employer’s.

Overall, however, I am very much in favour of gap years. When they do not work, it is often because of problems such as lack of communication. The concept of the gap year is an excellent one and can be made to work even better.

230 Words

Student Tasks

1. ‘The most important thing in a job is a high salary.’ Say whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Give at least two reasons for your opinion and acknowledge the opposing opinion with at least one reason.

Write 200-220 words.

2. ‘The most important thing in a job is job security.’ Say whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Give at least two reasons for your opinion and acknowledge the opposing opinion with at least one reason.

Write 200-220 words.

3. ‘The most important thing in a job is that you find it interesting.’ Say whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Give at least two reasons for your opinion and acknowledge the opposing opinion with at least one reason.

Write 200-220 words.