

# UNIT 7: SCHOOLS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are the advantages and disadvantages (pros and cons) of the following types of school:

- Boarding school
- A day school
- A public school
- A state school
- Single sex schools
- Co-educational schools

What type of school did you go to? What type of school do your children go to? Are you happy with the education you received at school?

What do you think the school-leaving age should be?

Who is responsible for disciplining an unruly child?

Are teachers right to blame parents for the poor discipline of children at school? Or is it the other way round?

Would you like to be trained to be a “good parent”?

## WRITING

Write a letter to the local newspaper giving your opinion about the type of school you prefer, state or private (opinion essay)

## OPINION ESSAYS

**What is it?** An opinion essay is a discursive essay in which you present your personal opinion on a particular topic.

### Where can I find it?

You can find this type of writing in the form of an article in newspapers, magazines...

### Structure

#### **Introduction**

##### **Paragraph 1**

Introduce the subject and state your opinion clearly

**Main body (the number of paragraphs depend on the number of viewpoints included)**

##### **Paragraph 2**

First viewpoint (supported by reasons / examples)

##### **Paragraph 3**

Second viewpoint (supported by reasons / examples)

##### **Paragraph 4**

Opposing viewpoint (supported by reasons / examples)

#### **Conclusion**

Restate your opinion using different words

### Linking words / phrases you can use

**To list points:** firstly, to begin with, for one thing, secondly, lastly.

**To add more points:** also, moreover, apart from this, in addition, furthermore.

**To introduce opposing viewpoints:** although, on the other hand, however, nonetheless.

**To introduce examples / reasons:** for example, such as, for instance, in other words, in particular, because, since (=because).

**To conclude:** to sum up, all things considered, taking everything into account.

**Useful expressions for giving opinions**

I believe / think / feel that...

I strongly believe that...

In my opinion / view...

To my mind...

**Grammar**

We normally use the present tense in this kind of text

**Register**

Opinion essays are normally written in formal style. Avoid using colloquial expressions, short forms or personal examples.