

ARTICLES AND LETTERS

Collection of Articles and Letters written by IGCSE students

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Students' Response

Introduction

I am happy to share with you a few letters and articles written by two of my students of Gr. 10, (2015 batch) Kaafu Dhiffushi School, Kaafu Atoll, Maldives. These are responses to class work and assignments and their own work with a slight editing here and there. It is gratifying to see that one of them got A* and the other B grade. I thought it would be useful to share it with others. Hope this will help the students preparing for IGCSE.

V.K. Sushanth Kumar

Letter Writing

Student 1

1. You have recently been to a new fast food restaurant in your town.

Write a letter to a friend, telling him or her about your visit. In your letter you should:

- **say where the restaurant is, when you went there, and why**
- **describe the restaurant and its atmosphere**
- **Explain what you ate and what you thought of the food**

Hi Julia,

How are you? I'm good. I hope you are fine. Did you score well in your exams? Have you done anything funny and exciting lately? It has been ages since I heard from you.

Do you know about the cool restaurant which opened in our town? Well, last week my friends and I went there for dinner. We walked there since it was not too far away. It was only a few blocks away on Cherry Wood Lane.

It was a victory dinner given by my friend Pete. He won the national essay competition. The restaurant was called Blue Curve and there were all kinds of tasty food available there.

The restaurant had paintings of dolphins, oysters and a cute little baby turtle too. It was painted in different shades of blue.

We ate a dish called Lobsterloco Moco, shrimps and pizzas. We were served within 15 minutes and the food was delicious and tasty.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was cool and calm. I felt really relaxed and happy. The experience was refreshing and awesome.

When you visit me next time may be we can go there and grab lunch together.

Best wishes

2. On your birthday your uncle who lives in another country has sent you some money as a present.

Write a letter thanking your uncle for the present. In your letter you should thank your uncle and describe how happy you were to receive the money. Tell him how plan to spend the money. Give your uncle some news about yourself.

Dear uncle,

Hello! How's my favourite uncle? How are things going on your side of the world? I haven't heard from you for ages. I terribly miss hearing your voice and seeing your familiar face.

I received the biggest and nicest gift from you. I have to admit, I was kind of shocked and surprised, mainly because I haven't heard from you recently and thought you have forgotten about me. But the present proved otherwise. I'm very pleased and happy right now.

I want you to know how much I appreciate your kindness and how blessed I feel to have a caring uncle like you. Once again, thank you so much.

When I first spied your present in the jungle of presents in my room, I did not give it any care or attention. But when I opened it my heart fluttered a little as I gently fingered the 10,000 dollar bills I felt grateful and happy.

Ten thousand dollars is actually more than enough for a simple girl like me. I plan to spend the money in several constructive ways. I'm planning to buy a lap top. I've always wanted one badly but could not buy due to numerous reasons. I'm planning to enter a photography school which is little bit expensive but you've made it possible. Along the way I also plan to buy a Nikon camera which would be essential for me.

Do you remember when I was a kid and I never wanted to get out of you townhouse pool? Well, in all the years you were away I've become a professional swimmer. Last month, I got the opportunity to represent Maldives swim team in Olympics. I'm so psyched about it and looking forward to it.

Once again, thank for the present and please pass my regards to your family and tell them I miss them. Hope to hear from you soon. Bye!

Yours lovingly,

3. The new headteacher at your school is making some important changes which will affect school life.

Write a letter to a friend who left school last year explaining the changes.

In your letter you should:

- **describe the new head teacher**
- **outline the changes that are being made**
- **explain how you feel about the changes.**

Dear Navy,

It has been ages since I heard from you. How are you? Done anything cool recently? I miss you badly. You have to visit me sometimes soon. We could have lots of fun together. School has been tedious and boring since you left. But I think it is going to change dramatically very soon.

Our Head Teacher, Ms Hanna 'Horrible' Stuart has left the school for good. Her replacement is a very cool and friendly Head Teacher. Her name is Ms Scarlett Rose and she's blonde. All the way from England and totally hip. She's of average height with long hair and is beautiful.

She has already decided to do many great things to completely change our school life. For one she has planned to add some books to our neglected library for the brainy and intellectual students. For the sporty ones a football field and some tennis racquets have been brought. School hours had been lengthened to cover the syllabus. The toilets have been newly painted and new cabinets and mirrors have been installed. A garden is going to be constructed where we could relax our overly stressed and highly tensed minds.

I'm in complete favour of these terrific plans. They almost cover all the cliques usually found in a school. Furthermore, they make the school a more desirable place in which we could study peacefully.

I'm very grateful for these improvements.

With lots of love

Yours

4.

Dear Michael,

How are things going on? Is London still windy and rainy? It's sunny in the Maldives.

Guess what? We have got a new Head Teacher. She is an American and she is green eyed and usually wears formal clothes. She is also very strict and sophisticated.

She has made a lot of drastic changes so now the school is hardly recognisable. The changes, appearance wise she had brought are, the repainting of the school, installing new cabinets in the bathroom and showers and transforming a quarter of the humongous sports field into a luscious garden. Now the school looks as good as new.

She has also arranged new school hours. This will help us to enrich our brains and help us to attain a mass of knowledge.

I have saved the best for the last. She has somewhat loosened the reins on disciplinary measures and actions. That does not mean that school life has become a barrel of laughs.

I support all the changes she has brought since it will benefit us tremendously and school life will become more stress free and happy.

I miss you terribly. Hurry up and complete your Master's Degree and come back here.

With love,

Yours,

5. Last month you entered a competition and won the first prize, which was a visit to a city of your choice for a weekend.

You have now returned, and decide to write a letter to a friend about the visit.

In your letter you should explain:

- **which city you chose and why;**
- **the best event of the weekend;**
- **how you felt about the visit.**

Dear Aliya,

I've just returned after spending a weekend at Chicago. It was totally different from the sunny, sandy beaches that I am used to. It was a completely unforgettable experience.

You might wonder how I got the chance to go there! Well, I won the 1st prize in the National Archery competition and the trip was included in the prize.

I've always wanted to go to Chicago and have been collecting artefacts and several articles concerning it. The trip was a golden opportunity. I chose Chicago because going there was first on my wish list.

I visited so many places in Chicago. I tasted an actual Chicago burger and was lucky to see the Sears Tower lit for Christmas. But the best event was seeing a real Chicago Cubs games. Since I am such a softball freak I totally loved it.

The weekend in Chicago was the best weekend of my entire life. I'd give anything to go there again!

Yours lovingly,

6. You recently lost something quite small but very important.

Write a letter to your friend about the incident.

In your letter you should:

- **describe where you were and what you lost;**
- **describe how you felt as a result of this loss;**
- **explain how you dealt with the problem.**

Dear Leonard,

How are you? How's Felicia? Guess what? I have got green contact lenses just like your eyes! It costs a fortune but was worth it.

Remember the diamond ring I got from my cousin which I wore all the time? Well, I have lost it.

I was doing my morning jog at that time I lost it. Only when I returned home did I notice that it was missing.

That ring is one of my dearest possessions. After all it was a gift from my favourite cousin and it was really expensive.

I felt really sad and shut myself in my room and cried. I did not even eat a single bite at lunch.

Later my mother noticed that I was really upset and asked me about it. I told her what happened from the beginning to the end. My mother consoled me and told me that after I came back from school we could go and search for it together. So when we arrived from school we went to the park to search for it. We searched really hard but in vain.

I was heartbroken when I came home. Today I am going to keep posters and flyers over my town about my missing ring.

I have got to dash now.

Yours lovingly,

7. You have just finished four weeks of paid work during your last school holiday.

Write a letter to a friend in which you describe the job and say what you did.

In your letter you should:

- **give details of where you worked and what you did;**
- **explain who gave you the job and why;**
- **describe what you learnt from the experience.**

Dear Stefan,

How was your weekend in Vegas? Did you enjoy it?

Guess what? I just finished working as an assistant in a psychiatric clinic. It was a golden opportunity as I have always aspired to be a psychiatrist.

I worked at the Cherish Clinic, in the wing specialised for patients with depression. The clinic itself is a white modern building decorated with calming paintings, artefacts and soothing colours.

I mostly handled the documents regarding the unstable patients and gave treats to the patients waiting in the reception. Occasionally, I would have to bring loads of tissues to the therapist's room.

I got the job through the manager of the clinic, Dr Mayo, who is a friend of my mom. He noticed my interest in psychology and gave me an opportunity to see what it is all about in real life.

Before I worked there I foolishly thought that depression occurs to a person who is weak. But actually even the strongest of people can have depression as it is caused by a chemical imbalance. Another valuable thing I learned there was that even the smallest act of kindness should be appreciated and that a single smile can make your day!

Have to hurry now. Bye.

Yours lovingly,

8. A friend is coming to your country for the first time and will be arriving just before a national celebration.

Write a letter to you friend.

In your letter you should:

- **describe what the celebration is;**
- **outline what you and your family do on the day of the celebration;**
- **explain what your friend may find particularly interesting.**

Dear Lampi,

How are you? I hope you are doing well. How is Tanzania?

I'm impatiently counting the days to your visit. I hope that you are excited too.

Your arrival coincides with Al-Ha Eid. It is a celebration by Muslims after Hajj. Eid is celebrated by Muslims all over the colourfully.

On the day of the celebration we prepare 'gaboli bokibaa' first thing in the morning. It is a sweet dessert made from the flesh of tender coconuts. Then we all go to pray the Al-Ha Eid prayer. After that we return to our home and have breakfast. Then begins the fun part! We all play 'fenkulhi' which is quite like Holy, the festival of colours played by neighbouring Indians.

There is also a concert held at night, which you may find very interesting. The performers play a side range of traditional music and do traditional dances. I know how eager you are about learning new cultures and all and I bet this will be a hands-on experience for you!

Got to run, Bye.

Yours lovingly,

9. You recently enjoyed a holiday by the sea and were lucky enough at times to see some interesting sea life. Write a letter to a friend describing your holiday.

Don't forget to include:

- **where you went on holiday**
- **what you enjoyed about the holiday**
- **details of the sea life you observed**
- **why your friend might enjoy a holiday like this too.**

Dear Sarah,

I'm sorry I haven't written to you for ages, but I've been busy preparing for my exam.

Anyway, I thought I would drop you a line to tell you about my last holiday by the ocean.

As you know, I'm a big fan of "One and Only Reethi Rah Resort" here in the Maldives. So I begged my dad to take me there until he finally gave in.

The holiday was a total bliss as I got to try many water sports including Scuba Diving! I also had the fortune of discovering a hidden skill of mine – marine life photography. I had taken some breathtakingly exquisite pictures to give you!

During a snorkelling expedition I saw shoals of neon coloured fishes and the famous endangered black coral. My little sister saw a baby shark up close which scarred the living day lights out of her.

I think that you will enjoy a holiday like this as you are very fond of water sports and a lover of sea life. You will also get the opportunity to do the two things you love at the same time- sunbath and read a novel.

See you soon

With love,

10. You recently visited a local zoo and were sorry to see large animals appearing restless and unhappy. Write a letter to the zoo manager describing your visit and suggesting some ways the zoo could improve the care of the animals.

Don't forget to include:

- **details of when you made the visit**
- **examples of distress in the animals**
- **examples of ways some of the visitors were disturbing the animals**
- **your suggestions for ways the care of the animals could be improved.**

Dear Sir,

In the afternoon of last Friday I visited your zoo near the town hall and observed some very unhappy and abnormal behaviour from your animals.

The animals seemed to be very much distressed. They spent an unnatural amount of time grooming themselves and were pacing back and forth restlessly. I also noticed that the zoo cats were very vigilant and on alert which is unusual behaviour from natural felines.

Many of the visitors behaved inappropriately towards the animals. They provoked the animals by waving and calling to them. One of them even threw a rock at a sleeping tiger!

I think that the care of the animals could be improved by redesigning their enclosures. This will give the animals more space to roam around and have better use of ponds and trees which will put them more at ease. Another method is displaying notices on how to behave near the animals and interference by zoo attendants whenever a visitor fails to do so.

It is true that zoos play an important role in conserving wildlife. I hope to see many new improvements at your zoo in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

11. There are plans to build a large recycling plant near where you live, to recycle glass, tins and paper. Write a letter to your local newspaper saying whether or not you think this is a good idea.

Dear Sir,

Recently, I have heard about plans to construct a recycling plant near our neighbourhood. I think that this is a marvellous idea which would benefit us enormously.

First of all, the opening of such a plant would bring many job opportunities for locals. As they say, 'the devil makes work for idle hands' [*An idle man's brain is a devil's workshop*] so these new jobs will also decrease the crime rate. Furthermore, as unemployment decreases it will surely boost the country's economy.

Besides, as more income is generated by locals their standard of living also increases. This leads to happier and prosperous lives among locals.

Another reason, I support this idea is that, one glance to overfilled garbage site convinces me of how much we need a recycling plant. In order to minimise the harm we are already doing to the environment we need a recycling plant dearly. The effect that this will have on tourism should be overlooked as environment is more important than tourism ever will be.

I believe that the noise pollution caused by the recycling plant could be controlled by the installation of latest technologies.

I hope to see the recycling plant built in the very near future.

Yours faithfully,

12. Some time ago, you entered a competition and won a safari holiday at a game reserve in Southern Africa. Write a letter to a friend describing your holiday.

Don't forget to include:

- ***what the game reserve you went to was like***
- ***how you travelled around the reserve and who accompanied you***
- ***details of the wild animals you observed***
- ***a special memory of the holiday***
- ***whether you would recommend a safari holiday to other people.***

Dear Shayb,

I'm sorry that I haven't written to you since we last met. I have been very busy rehearsing for my school play.

Remember the poetry competition that I entered? I just came back from the safari holiday, in South Africa, which I won.

The game reserve that I went to was very spacious with lots of endangered animals and their babies moving around. I travelled to the reserve with my Dad by a small train.

I saw many amazing wild life including your favourite, the lion! There also was a very grouchy looking grizzly bear sleeping and a herd of zebras near an artificial waterfall. The lion I saw came so close that I could have touched it.

I still remember how it felt like to touch a real tiger. You know how mad I am about tigers, so when our tour guide gave me the chance to pet one I did not hesitate at all. I have bought a stuffed tiger so I could give it to you!

I would certainly recommend a safari holiday to others as it is an educational and innovating experience!

Got to dash!

With love

**13. You recently read a surprising news item.
Write a letter to a friend about the news item.
In your letter you should:**

- **describe what the news item was about;**
- **explain what made you decide to read it;**
- **say why you want to tell your friend about it.**

Dear Cecelia,

I am very sorry that I haven't written to you for two weeks. I have been busy practising for my school play.

I have got news Lia. I was just scrolling through Haveeru news website when that particular news article attracted my attention. It bore a picture of our favourite celebrity Taylor Swift. You do know about her tour, "World", right? It seems that she is going to visit Maldives too in that tour. The article stated that she would be staying at Vela Island Resort and Spa and she will perform on 10th October.

I know that you are wondering why I even bothered to read an internet article when I absolutely detest doing so because of my eye problem. I just couldn't resist when I saw the headline 'Taylor Swift in Maldives'!

I know that you are a big fan of her too, so better make the trip from Mangolia to here. You can stay at my house. I hope that we could go and see her perform together! Yoy!

With love,

Yours

14. You have just visited the new sports and leisure centre in your town for the first time.

After the visit, you decide to write a letter to your pen friend describing the experience.

In your letter you should:

- **say who you went with;**
- **describe what activity you took part in;**
- **give your opinion of the new sports and leisure centre.**

Dear Raechel,

How are things on your side of the world? My life has been pretty mediocre and dull but in the last few days it has taken a turn for the better. Guess what is the cause of this dramatic change? A new sports and leisure centre in our town.

It has opened very recently and the owners are a super rich couple who has moved here. They are very open and down to earth.

I never planned on going there, as I have spent most of the money on a CD player and the activities have to be paid for. My troublesome five year old cousin stood in front of the building and insisted on going in. Since I knew that he would have a tantrum if I did not obey his rude commands, I went in readily.

We struck lucky and became the 159th customer who gets three activities for free. My cousin was over joyed and I have to admit that I also felt excited. We tried swimming, ice skating and the spent the rest of our free money to have lunch in the Mexican restaurant in the lounge wing of the sports complex.

I would say that the centre was not what I expected and was really fun and relaxing. The whole experience is worth repeating. I'll be going next week to play caroms with my friends.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Yours lovingly,

15.

Dear Pearl,

Are you well? Are mom and dad fine? Well, I miss you all.

As you are already aware, I am currently in Male'. Did you see the Best All Round/ top ten ceremony last night on TV? I was exhilarated. Never in my entire life have I felt so happy.

I've got even better news. I won a scholarship to a university of my choice. I had to admit that the thought of not going crossed my mind. But I instantly heard my mother's strict and formidable voice saying, "Seize the moment or in other words go for it." So I quickly changed my mind.

I have chosen Yale University mostly because it is an Ivy League University and it would be great to experience Connecticut by myself.

I'm looking forward to studying there since I will be able to see famous landmarks in Connecticut like the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for exploration, which is one of the nation's leading aquariums and according to my cousin the aquarium also contains a big Beluga whale and several sea lions.

With certainty I will be getting many advantages. For one, when I come back here I will be more open minded and with luck be able to serve my nation dutifully. I would also get an opportunity to experience a whole new culture and meet thousands of interesting and different people.

So, sister, give my regards to my beloved family members and friends and wish me luck.

With lots of love

Yours

16. Irresponsible behaviour of youngsters

Dear Sir,

I have recently observed some irresponsible and unacceptable behaviour by a rowdy crowd of youngsters.

They were riding bicycles violently unmindful of the vehicles and the pedestrians. The whole road was almost blocked and unusable because of them. This has gone on for the past few months mostly on weekends. They commonly gather in front of the Mito shop and usually leave in the evening. They litter the ground carelessly despite the numerous dustbins around the block and the garbage becomes an eyesore for everyone.

Last month, I was invited to a buffet. I had a horrendous experience because of the young people present there. They were rudely shoving people aside, cutting lines and talking loudly using slang and bad language.

Previously, I have read a fellow reader's experience in the "Letter to the Editor" column. The writer had also faced similar situations. I agree that in the past the teenagers were better behaved and respectful to elders.

I hope that the teenagers would find some useful leisure activities to engage in and use their free time constructively. It would be helpful if the concerned authorities and schools start taking actions to stop their morally degrading and discouraging behaviours. I really hope the youngsters will change hopefully for the better.

Yours faithfully,

17.

Dear Nova,

I'm sorry that I haven't written to you since we last met. I have been busy cramming for my final exams. Anyway, I thought I would drop you a line to tell you about my last part-time job.

You remember the water sports centre in our island? Well, they advertised for a life guard and I applied partly out of boredom and also because I am crazy about fun tubing and other water sports.

At the Dhiffushi Water Sports Centre, I mostly had to look after their clients and make sure that they don't drown or die. I mostly worked on the adjoining beach but I also got the chance to go to sandbanks and scuba diving!

The management at the Dhiffushi Water sports Centre was very friendly and supportive. The clients were also very understanding. The part-time job wasn't that hard as most of our clients were good swimmers and they all took our safety instructions seriously. I only had to rescue three swimmers!

I liked the job very much and am thinking about becoming a professional water sports instructor!

Bye!

With love,

Yours,

Student 2

1. You have noticed people in your area being very careless in the way what that they use water. You are concerned about this and decide to write a letter to your local newspaper outlining your views. In your letter, you may wish to include such things as:

- **why water is so important**
- **examples of people wasting water**
- **problems the lack of clean water can cause**
- **how we could teach people, especially children, to respect water.**

Dear Sir,

Careless use of water is now becoming quite common in our area. I would like to share my ideas regarding the issue.

First of all, water must be treated carefully because it is an essential element for human being to survive. We cannot live without water.

Moreover, wastage of water is so unacceptable. Unfortunately wasting water is now a normal and an easy habit for us to do in our everyday life. For instance, leaving the water tap on a letting a huge volume of water be wasted while brushing teeth.

In addition, lack of clean water can cause water born diseases and infections as the vast presence of pathogenic bacteria in contaminated water.

Furthermore, we can raise awareness among the local people about the importance of water. Most effectively, we can demonstrate the best way to treat water in front of children as they will copy the act at once and easily.

To conclude, I firmly believe that water must be respected properly. We should avoid inappropriate methods of using water as it is vital for our survival.

Yours faithfully,

2. There are plans to build a large recycling plant near where you live, to recycle glass, tins and paper. Write a letter to your local newspaper saying whether or not you think this is a good idea.

Dear Sir,

We all know that there are plans to build a large recycling plant near our town. As far as I am concerned I would like to share my ideas about this.

Firstly, the recycling plant will provide us many jobs which is essential as it will generate good income to help develop the local citizen's living standard.

Moreover, the recycling plant is able to recycle waste. This will tremendously minimise the desperate habit of throwing waste on to the beaches and the roads. Consequently, it will create a spotless environment.

On the other side of the coin, a recycling plant will make loud noise creating a huge disturbance to the neighbourhood. Harmful gases released from the plant will pollute the air. It will also spoil the beautiful and natural landscapes of our town.

All in all, regardless of the downsides of the idea, I think that we should seek the bright side of it. A recycling plant may not be a great idea but it will hopefully help the problem of waste pollution of the town.

Yours faithfully,

3. Some time ago, you entered a competition and won a safari holiday at a game reserve in Southern Africa. Write a letter to a friend describing your holiday.

Don't forget to include:

- **what the game reserve you went to was like**
- **how you travelled around the reserve and who accompanied you**
- **details of the wild animals you observed**
- **a special memory of the holiday**
- **whether you would recommend a safari holiday to other people.**

Dear Lydia,

I entered a competition last month and won a safari holiday at a game reserve in South Africa!

The game reserve was quite amazing. I was impressed by the flora and fauna of the reserve. It was like a huge rainforest.

I travelled in a sightseeing safari van with an African girl I met who immediately offered to become my friend and guide. I was bewildered as I saw the wild animals. I observed an iguana with pointed scales camouflaged with its surrounding!

I also saw an elephant with two gigantic pointed tusks. Flamingos were cute and pink in colour. A herd of ostriches with long thin legs with flappy wings were chasing a cub. I saw a flock of colourful birds over the horizon.

Most remarkably, I received a souvenir of the game reserve as a very special memory of the holiday. I would like to recommend a safari holiday to you as well, Lydia.

Nothing more to pen and I hope you'll give a reply soon. Bye.

With love

Yours,

Article Writing

Student 1

1. There are plans to ban cigarette advertising in newspapers and magazines that are aimed at young people. Write an article for your local newspaper giving your views on the issue.

Nowadays, many people are getting more concerned about health and leaving behind bad habits such as smoking. Recently, there have been plans to ban cigarette advertisements aimed at adolescents. I am very much in favour of this prohibition.

Firstly, it would result in a dramatic decrease in the number of young smokers as smoking is usually publicised as a glamorous and cool habit whereas in real life it is just a filthy and unfashionable practice.

Another reason for banning smoking advertisements seems like a good choice is that smoking is a dangerous habit which can easily lead to addiction. There are also many health problems associated with smoking. The main disease include lung cancer which is a perilous illness.

Finally, with this ban the next generation would be healthier and there will also a reduction in life style diseases which will make the world a healthier place to live in.

To sum up, cigarette advertisements are not worth the effort and it is high time for banning it. It would be a good idea if more and more awareness programmes are held keeping young people in mind.

2. Is a 'gap year' between school and university a good idea, or is it a waste of time? Write an article for the school magazine expressing your views on a gap year.

For many years, students have started their education from Pre School and ended in university, which is still the case. It has been observed that a large number of students have been taking a 'gap year' as a break between school and university.

In my opinion, a 'gap year' could help a student to grow and mature before entering a university. Travelling which is considered as one of the most famous activities done in these breaks, exposes us to lots of different things and open our eyes to the outside world. Hence, enabling us to think 'outside the box'.

A 'gap year' can also be considered as a break from studying and a chance to try our hand at different things. During this break we could help the community and do some charity work which will shape us to be better citizens of tomorrow. We could also spend the 'gap year' earning extra money for university or getting work experience.

To sum up, I believe that taking a 'gap year' is a very good idea and important in shaping up students and helping them to better themselves, as they say, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. Certainly there is more to life than just studying.

3. You have seen the following headline in a local newspaper:

“Your family and relatives are more important than your friends.”

The editor is inviting readers of the newspaper to express their views. Write an article for the newspaper giving your views.

The debate about whether family or friends are more important have been going on since humans existed. Since we are social animals we tend to feel better about ourselves when we have more friends and acquaintances. Family on the other hand is a gift given by God.

I am in complete favour of your article stating that family and relatives are more important.

Family provides me with care and support more than friends ever could. They also give unconditional love. They have been looking after me since day one and shielding me harm’s way. They have provided me with a home, food shelter and clothing for more than 15 years. My friends have never provided me with any such facilities.

As I said before my family has been with me for as long as I remember and my friends come and go. I have learned that outing your entire trust in friends rather than family have dire consequences. My family has been with me through thick and thin and they would be here for my entire life.

I have recently lost a handful of friends due to no reason at all. On the other hand even if I and a family member fight we always make up sooner or later because the love between us is stronger than anything else. After all, ‘Blood is thicker than water’.

To put it simply, family is far more precious than friends.

4. Your school needs to buy expensive new equipment for the science laboratories. The Principal proposes to sell the school sports fields to raise the money for this.

Write an article for your school magazine giving your views about the issue.

The hottest topic for discussion in our school right now is the plans made by the principal to buy more science equipment by selling the sports fields in school.

The issue itself is very sensitive as the entire school has chosen sides on whether to or not to proceed with the plan.

A sports field is needed in a school to refresh our minds and for the health of our body and mind. After hours of tedious studying, watching or participating in a sport helps us to loosen up and relax. People tend to judge schools based on its exam results and its sport teams. Our school is also criticised in this way so we need the sports fields to remain unsold.

On the other hand good science equipment is more important than sports fields. After all the equipment will help us to learn more and broaden our knowledge on science subjects thereby improving students’ grades and contributing to brighter futures. The sports field is also not so important as there are local sports clubs that students can join if they wish.

In a nut shell, I support the principal’s decision to sell the sports field. After all, there are ways to relax our stressed out minds apart from sports.

5. Your school magazine is inviting students to write an article about whether they think that television and newspapers spend too much time reporting on famous people.

Write an article for your school magazine giving your views.

Media, like television and newspapers, is seen in every household. They play an important role in our lives by informing us and keeping us up to date on happenings domestic and worldwide.

Now a days, we can see lots of programmes and articles wholly concentrated on famous people. We know every little thing they do and even their darkest secrets.

In those articles and television programmes they hardly include the truth. Moreover, made up stories are featured to rouse the interest of the public. In my opinion, everyone is entitled to keep the skeletons in their closets. It should not be common knowledge among others. Nevertheless, televisions and newspapers are desperate to dig for more secrets about celebrities.

In contrast knowing more about famous people can be beneficial. They must have a winning personality and a special skill to make it to the top and stay there. Since they can be regarded as role models we should be aware of their lives. Moreover, it is fun to read about them.

In a nut shell, I do believe that television and newspapers spend too much time reporting on famous people. All those wasted hours would have been better used on informing us about important world events.

6. Your Principal has suggested that all books should be removed from the school library and replaced by a larger suite of computers. He has asked for students' opinions to be published in the school magazine.

Write an article for your school magazine stating your views.

Do you ever debate with yourself whether to read an e-book or a printed version of it? As you all know, our principal has suggested removing all the books from our library and replacing them with computers.

Some students are very much in favour of the computers. It is said that books are boring and that surfing the internet is easier and more fun and interactive. The internet also provides varied information while book is restricted to just one subject.

Others do not think highly of this idea to remove all books from our library. Reading a book is considered to be more rewarding and enjoyable. Moreover, spending too much time staring at a computer screen can lead to a number of eye problems.

In short, I believe that it is not a very good idea to replace all the books in our library with computers as there is no substitute for holding a book in your hands and turning the pages as you read.

7. Your principal wants to install a drinks and snacks machine in your school.

Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views on this proposal.

Do you enjoy eating a packet of potato chips than eating an apple? If so you will rejoice when you hear that the principal intends to install a drink and snacks machine in our school.

Supporters of this idea claim that this is a very beneficial prospect. The money earned from sales will be very helpful to the school in improving existing facilities and to build a new music building. God knows we need the money! A drinks and snacks machine would also enable us to buy food whenever we get hungry at school so it will be very important to staff and students.

However, critics do not think so highly of this new idea. The drinks and snacks sold from the machine would be mostly unhealthy junk food. If we install one at school we are certainly damaging our fellow students' health. Moreover a machine of this sort would encourage students to spend money unnecessarily to buy junk food.

In my opinion, a drinks and snacks machine does not have to be installed in our school as it contributes to health and financial problems. Moreover, the machine could be broken to obtain the products inside and this would result in a great loss to our school. I hope that the principal would decide not to go ahead with the drinks and snacks machine.

8. ESL Course Book Questions

Recently our island has received a considerable sum of money. It has been recommended by the donor (Japanese government) that it should be used in a project in managing waste efficiently or to help in the safe disposal of waste materials.

A look at our sandy beaches confirm that it is in dire need of cleaning. Then there is the garbage site which is technically overflowing with every form of waste imaginable except household rubbish which is solely found on the beach side.

Before spending the money we should consider the options available to us, hence the saying, 'Act in haste, regret at leisure'. Due to the aforementioned reasons I think that it should be used for the purpose recommended by the Japanese government.

We could spend the money on buying waste disposal units and dumpsters can be placed at various popular places and socially busy points in the island. This might encourage the islanders to actually put rubbish in the dustbins and not on the road or beach.

The island council can also hire or buy trucks or lorries which can go to houses to collect humongous amounts of rubbish and large items such as furniture, computer systems etc.

The money could also be helpful in hosting seminars and sessions educating school children and youngsters on how to recycle and the benefits of it.

The garbage site also needs to be improved, its facilities modernised, more sign posts and ways in which we can safely and effectively dispose rubbish should be established.

Our islands are getting hideous and is slowly changing to a dumping zone itself. In order to halt it drastic measures should be taken.

9. Ban chewing gums in school

Chewing gum has become popular among students of all ages. Nowadays, we see children chewing gum in classes, at various seminars and even at special assemblies. They seem to have forgotten the pollution, health hazards and also the attitude chewing gum conveys.

Disposed chewing gum, littering the streets and pavements of busy town centres create an eyesore. Moreover, the expenses involved in dislodgement and removal of discarded chewing gums are huge.

Many health issues and problems also arise by consuming vast amount of chewing gum. This includes the ubiquitous problem of tonsil swelling.

One of the most disconcerting and highly disrupting issue is the attitude of chewing gum. When you chew gum in assemblies, seminars and gatherings it shows that you are not paying attention. Chewing gum when talking to teachers and other elderly people is utterly disparaging. The impression given out is one of lack of respect and ignorant behaviour.

I admit that chewing gum can be addictive but this morally degrading behaviour has to be stopped even if it means resorting to banning chewing gum. So I hope that the habit of chewing gum will be stopped and not repeated.

10. Television – chewing gum for the eyes.

Television since its invention has been used to educate, entertain and inform people about various issues. But nowadays, television is mostly seen as a device for entertaining.

Television has been described as ‘chewing gum for the eyes’. I fully agree with this as television is addictive just like chewing gum.

Mostly these days, you can find most people spending their time glued to the televisions rather than doing something doing something constructive. Others watch certain television programmes in order to fit in with the popular crowd.

Due to the increased amount of time spent in front of the television many problems are surfacing. Childhood obesity has increased recently and people have become lazier because of television. Moreover, many eye problems occur by watching too much television.

The art of conversation has also disappeared as families spend more and more time in front of the television. Arguments on which programmes to watch is frequent and increasing in its severity.

The addiction of television is bad for our mental and physical health. It removes you from society making you a recluse and anti-social. This addiction has to be cured before its effects become long term.

11. Visit to Bespoke Shoe Company

Last week I was fortunate enough to visit London's famous Bespoke shoe company, 'Bespoke'. For those who do not know bespoke shoes, they are shoes made to fit only your feet and not no one else's.

When I first stepped into the threshold of the company building it was like travelling through time to 19th or 20th century.

The walls were lined with cabinets, filled floor to ceiling with tools unknown to me and looked fragile and antique. Rolls of leather were stacked against bare walls. The distinctive smell of leather was overwhelming.

I met with the head designer, Thomas Bird, who gave me priceless information regarding bespoke shoes. I saw many shoes in the making and measurements being taken of a client's feet. The most important fact I learned was that the process of making bespoke shoes is painstakingly lengthy.

My strong opinion is that bespoke shoes are a huge part of tradition that is still thriving. The clients firmly hold on to their roots which must be difficult in a sceptical and judgemental world as this. I believe that bespoke shoes are highly fashionable in their own way.

12. Some young people consider it better to start full-time work immediately after finishing school, rather than to continue their studies.

Write an article for your school magazine giving your views.

Nowadays we see young people who have barely finished studying, starting work in various countries. This is an issue worth considering due to its large scale effects and all.

Starting work may be a good thing as we need to earn as much money as we can. Moreover wealth is also connected in many ways to happiness. Starting work immediately after finishing school, results in a cosy nest of money sitting in our bank accounts, so we would not have to worry about financial matters when we have reached the ripe old age of seventy.

On the other hand, continuing our studies is also tremendously profitable. Studying is an interesting process where we learn something new every day. If we spend our young age studying it will also reward us with a successful and a prosperous career.

In my view, everyone should study from the cradle to the grave and it should not be a process which merely stops when we finish school, as true wealth is considered to be knowledge.

Student 2

1. Challenges of being a teenager

I am a fifteen year old girl who is currently going through various situations. Some teenagers often believe that this is the age to have the time of their lives. While others have their own disbelief about being a teenager is quite sophisticated.

First of all, it is a truth that this age is pretty complicated because you are neither a child nor an adult. You are not ready to accept the roles of adults yet.

Besides, it is just not simple as many teenagers think it is. It is the age that you are encountered with unusual challenges. The onset of puberty creates mood swings and hormone surges and developing interests in the opposite gender.

Additionally, while you are facing physical and emotional changes like divorce of parents and changes of friendships create an extra burden in these challenging years.

On the other hand, teenage years are supposed to be really fun and enjoyable. I personally think that we should price every millisecond of these years. I don't want to go back to the past but want to stay young and lovely in these precious years.

Above all, I believe that teenage years are pretty complex despite the challenges that are to be faced. But is also charming if you are open minded enough to face the reality.

2. Lots of young people now spend a year overseas as part of their studies. If you hope to do this, Cool Kids would be interested in hearing which country you would like to go to and what you hope to get out of it. Write an article expressing your views.

Apparently, a lot of young people manage to spend a year overseas as part of their studies. I would also like to study abroad for certain reasons.

Firstly, I am very curious to experience many different things since I am very open minded. The culture and life style of other countries are totally different from us. Studying in a different country is a tremendous opportunity to make progress in my educational career.

I would love to study in Australia because of the country's tranquil atmosphere and hospitable citizens. Most importantly the challenges have to be faced thoughtfully and for anything beforehand. Following the rules and regulations is also essential when you are studying abroad.

I intend to prepare for my year abroad by learning more about the country I am going to. Getting familiar with the names of particular things and places of the country. I hopefully want to do my personal best and show my maximum while studying abroad. I also want to achieve a good reputation from what I am studying and become a professional person as well.

Conclusively, I think that studying abroad is an excellent springboard for me to expose my abilities while making progress.

3. Is a 'gap year' between school and university a good idea, or is it a waste of time?

Write an article for the school magazine expressing your views on a gap year.

Some students prefer to go for higher studies after school while others manage to travel in a gap year. Well, I would like to share my opinions about the idea.

First of all, a gap year is a great opportunity for you to grow up and become more mature. It will give you time to think about which path you would want to choose to study at a university or a college. It will give you enough time to talk to people before you make a decision for your future.

Another advantage of the idea is that you can do something different, like taking tuition classes for school students. As a result, you are able to recall what you studied in the previous years. Apart from recalling lessons, you will get paid!

Moreover, travelling in a gap year is a good idea. You can save money to help with your studies while working in a full time job. The idea of a gap year is an excellent way to experience different things and learn more about the perspectives of life.

To conclude, it is my viewpoint that travelling in a gap year is a wonderful chance to learn more about things as we are able to make a big difference in ourselves within a year!

4. Your principal wants to install a drinks and snacks machine in your school.

Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views on this proposal.

Have you heard about vending machines? I'm sure you have. The reason of the talk of a vending machine is that our principal wants to install such a machine. I would like to share my ideas about the issue.

Well, first of all, what is a vending machine? Vending machines are special machines that you can obtain snacks and drinks by inserting the correct sum of money into the machine. You press a button and the goods come out!

A vending machine will bring us many benefits. If you have a vending machine around, there is no need of a cafeteria or a lunch room. A cafeteria will definitely take up more space. Vending machines can be more convenient and can be placed at any corner.

In addition, there is no need of operating a shop which will again take up space. Students need not go to a shop to a shop to get their breakfast and lunch. Students can get snacks and drinks any time they want.

Moreover, the prices will be cheaper and the school will be benefited by the vending machine as the money can be used for something really effective. Buying new library books, for instance.

All in all, I firmly believe that the idea is incredibly essential as vending machine will bring ease and easy access at any time we want! (226)

ARTICLES AND LETTERS

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