

— = Correction

— = Academic/Natural Language

— = Matt's Comments/Suggestions

**Some people think that the teenage years are the happiest times of most people's lives. Others think that adult life brings more happiness, in spite of greater responsibilities.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

342 words... you could again be dramatically reducing the word count with enough discipline! This would give you far more time to finish and check the essay, and to go back and check your Task 1 work too.

Finding happiness is the most a common aim in people's lives (*the most common is too general/certain*). Some reminisce see their school days as the happiest period, while others think that people in general are generally happier in their adulthood, despite having to take on more responsibilities in their lives. In this essay, I will outline the both views and state my own point. Don't just say you will give your own view: actually give it. Refer to this model introduction for an ideal way to begin:

*Happiness is a common aim among almost all people. While there is some disagreement over whether most happiness resides in childhood or adulthood, I believe that happiness depends on the attitude, not the age, of each individual.*

On the one hand, in spite of the high pressure of academic achievement, childhood can be the happiest time of one's life in spite of high pressure on academic achievement since children have less responsibilities in general (*too many clauses between the commas here, that's why we needed to change the sentence order*), thus less to worry about. Unlike adults, students generally feel no pressure on earning to earn a living and looking after other people. Instead, they have more time to enjoy their hobbies for the sake of realising themselves and discovering their own interests (*good sentence*). Therefore, it can reasonably be said that the youth can live their lives offers the opportunity to live more happily. (*The reason I have changed the last sentence (e.g. the youth —> youth) is because the task is asking about the time period (the teenage years), not the actual group of people (teenagers).*)

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On the other hand, adults **may** feel more happiness and satisfaction due to **their** greater autonomy. Compared to children, **adults** (*grownups is very informal*) no longer need to obey parents' and teachers' orders. **Whereas** **In fact**, they are more **have more** freedom to do whatever they want to do and become whoever they want to be (*the use of whereas here is confusing, mostly because we are not contrasting here but emphasising (which is why we use In fact)*). For example, **whereas** drinking alcohol and going on a spending spree**s** are not even an issue **in adulthood**, **these would not have** been allowed in childhood (*here we can use whereas because we have a clear contrast*). Moreover, **adults** can harness this freedom as a fuel to transform themselves into something they have **dreamt of from a dreamer** (*what do you mean here? dreamt of I understand, but from a dreamer?*). Hence, more happiness can be **experienced** in adulthood with **enough** spontaneity.

In conclusion, **although** life responsibilities **lie less on** **are fewer for** children, adult life, however, **offers** greater independence. I strongly believe that the happiest time in life is the time you think you are happy, no matter how old you are. If you **are** constantly concerned about **an** unpredictable future or adhere to the pessimistic views of the past, you will not be able to **never be** happy in the moment you are living.

*Decent conclusion, but again, refer to this model for a shorter (and thus ideal) closer:*

*In conclusion, although adolescence comes with few responsibilities, adulthood presents the opportunity for greater independence. While both may influence happiness, I believe that the key to happiness does not concern generation, but instead one's attitude to life.*

**COMMENTS ON NEXT PAGE**

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**Comments:** This essay feels like a slight step backwards from your previous essay. The word count is rather high, almost 100 words over the minimum, and I felt that the focus was lost somewhat in how you presented the language. There were a number of vocabulary and grammar-related errors, and your usual strong suit - Coherence and Cohesion - was not as competent with the cohesive devices as previously. However, there were clear central topics to the paragraphs, and the actual task itself was well responded to. You made good use of some vocabulary, too, and certain grammatical structures were well employed. I think you need to start thinking about how you can be more concise with your ideas, in order to give you time to go back and check your work.

### Task Response

**Good:** Addresses all parts of the task to a good degree / presents a clear position in the conclusion (though this is not early enough - needs to come in the intro) / presents relevant main ideas and develops these well with supporting statements and appropriate examples / some evidence of avoiding generalisations

**Work on:** You need to introduce your opinion in the introduction to a Discussion / Opinion essay, as Band 7 requires you to 'present a clear position throughout the response' / at times you seemed to be discussing the people more than the times / a few generalisations did creep in (in particular at the beginning of Para 3)

### Coherence and Cohesion

**Good:** Logically organises information and ideas, and there is a clear progression from introduction to conclusion / uses a range of cohesive devices and a good number of these are accurate and help the reader / presents a clear central topic within each paragraph

**Work on:** The cohesive device choices were not as strong as usual, with *Whereas* sticking out as particularly confusing / some linking devices also suffered from placement/choice issues (e.g. *however* in the conclusion; *in spite of* in Para 2) / referencing could have been stronger at times

### Lexical Resource

**Good:** Uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow for some flexibility and precision / uses less common vocabulary with some success, at times showing an awareness of style and collocation / no major issues with spelling and few with word formation / few instances of compromised communication (just the one major issue)

**Work on:** As mentioned, one area where communication was lost somewhat (*dreamt of from a dreamer*) / vocabulary choices were at times inappropriate, inaccurate, or informal / missed the opportunity at times to use more academic vocabulary

### Grammatical Range and Accuracy

**Good:** Attempts to use a variety of complex structures with a fairly high degree of success / demonstrates a generally strong command of punctuation / makes some errors in grammar, but, for the most, part, these do not impede communication

**Work on:** A number of errors are scattered throughout the response, most of them minor but a couple major / in particular, be careful regarding articles, word formation (*-ing* after *despite*), preposition and tense usage and plural/singular forms

## **BAND DESCRIPTOR SCORES ON NEXT PAGE**

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**Band descriptor scores**

**TR: 6**

**C&C: 6**

**LR: 7**

**GR&A: 7**

**Final band score: = 6.5**