

— = Correction — = Academic/Natural Language — = Matt's Comments/Suggestions

Student Name: [REDACTED]

Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at **primary school** rather than secondary school.

Do the advantages of **this** outweigh the disadvantages? - *Discussion/Opinion Question*

It is no doubt true that young students benefit from studying a foreign language in school. Some experts believe that they should start **this foreign language education** from junior school rather than from secondary school. In my view, (you cannot say *In my view with I agree/disagree...*) I completely agree with this argument and **believe that** the merits of this **view** outweigh the drawbacks. In this essay, I will support my belief with examples.

There are several reasons for children to begin ~~approaching~~ **learning** another language from primary school ~~but not until~~ **instead of** secondary school. One of the reasons is that, **by the time they reach secondary school**, it is **may be** too late for young people to ~~take~~ **benefit from taking** courses of a foreign language (you can *take a course at any age!*). Some researches have ~~has~~ shown that the earlier ~~the students to~~ **begin to** learn foreign languages, the easier **it is** for them to pick it up. Another issue is that there is a tendency for pupils to be ~~more~~ **much** busier in secondary school. **This is because** they have to attend more lessons on different subjects and **are** usually ~~required~~ to do a lot of homeworks (*homework, like research, is uncountable*). The workload might be too heavy if students need to take additional courses on foreign languages (*great conditional and vocabulary*).

On the other hand **In contrast***, a variety of advantages can be given students if they start to learn a foreign language from primary school, **students can benefit from a variety of advantages** (*avoid beginning your clause with a variety of advantages - it's more natural in the middle or at the end of a sentence*). Firstly, some experts believe that younger children have **a higher stronger** ability to learn languages than ~~children a few years older~~ they get older. Secondly, children **teachers** in primary school tend to encourage them **their students** to study and have fun, but not **to** focus on too **much** academic **work**. **As a result**, they would have more time to learn another language, without **and do not have to deal with the** pressures from some academic subjects in secondary

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school. Finally, **there is some evidence that** people **could might** find it more difficult to learn new things when they get older, especially **for the foreign languages**.

In conclusion, although there might **have be** some drawbacks to **starting to study** studying another language from primary school, in my opinion, the advantages **for of this** **exceed outweigh** the disadvantages. **It would have been better if you summarised the key points here.**

Comments: For vocabulary, communication and content, this is a strong essay, displaying your reasonable command of the English language. It was a good length, with smartly ordered paragraphs, and a direct, clearly positioned response to the question. To improve this essay, you need to use some more challenging vocabulary, improve the general accuracy of the grammar, and develop your ideas further instead of trying to fit lots of ideas into one paragraph. You should also try to include a summary of your ideas in the conclusion (rather than just 'pros and cons') and try to use a few more cohesive devices to link sentences together.

Task Response

Good: Direct and clear response to the question with a position maintained throughout / ideas presented are relevant and they are developed in a logical way (**though not developed enough**) / most of the task addressed (**though you should have included some disadvantages of primary school learning**) / on the whole, very few instances of generalising

Work on: Developing a single idea/two ideas instead of including many undeveloped ones (e.g. in paragraph 3) / the question asked for the advantages *and* disadvantages of primary school learning, so it was important for you to discuss the disadvantages too (not just of secondary school, but primary school) / improve the quality of the conclusion with a summary of main points

Coherence and Cohesion

Good: Information was arranged coherently and there was a clear overall progression / cohesive devices were used appropriately and often effectively (**but there is room for improvement here**) / referencing was usually solid and helped to avoid repetition / each paragraph contained a central topic, discussing either cons of secondary school or pros of primary schools

Work on: Some cohesive devices used inappropriately, or were missing when their use would have been beneficial (* **On the other hand** is used when we are talking about the other side of *one topic* (e.g. the advantages and disadvantages of secondary school *only*. As you moved onto a different topic (*primary school*), you should have used *In contrast to contrast*) / some sentences suffered from an unnatural word order which impacted on coherence

Lexical Resource

Good: Adequate range of vocabulary for the task / attempts to use less common vocabulary with a varying degree of accuracy / few instances of informal language / spelling was very good, and word formation strong / some evidence of style/collocation

Work on: Language in places was quite repetitive, and sometimes fairly basic - check a thesaurus for synonyms of words / some language was inappropriate (e.g. *take* rather than *benefit from taking*) / collocation use could be stronger, with some weak/non-existent collocations chosen

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Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Good: A mix of grammatical structures attempted (though a few more complex sentences would have been welcome) / communication via grammar was good, and tense usage was accurate throughout / punctuation was used well (though not perfect)

Work on: A number of grammatical errors affected your score, and there were not enough error-free sentences / as mentioned, punctuation wasn't perfect: you should have ended sentences in some places with a full-stop / range of grammar could be improved with some more subordinate/relative clauses and conditionals (I appreciated the use of the comparative "*the earlier students begin to learn foreign languages, the easier...*" even if it wasn't perfectly executed)

Band descriptor scores:

TR: 6.5

C&C: 7

LR: 6.5

GR&A: 6

Band score: 6.5