

Read the response and mark in the right hand column where you can identify: AO5 communication and organisation, tone and register, and effective structure; AO6 spelling, punctuation and grammar

Homework has no value and should be abolished' write an article for a broadsheet newspaper stating your opinion on this statement.

AO5

- Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.
- Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.

AO6

- Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

What Miss? Homework?

Consolidation, concentration, congratulations: three reasons why you should remember your homework

"Without the commitment to my studies both at home and at school, I would not have been able to achieve these grades," smiled Aaron Kingston, the proud owner of 10 Grade Nine GCSEs. This is someone who knows about homework- young Aaron set up a work station in his living room when he was just seven years old; it begun with a pile of reading books and times table squares, and progressed to stacks of history books, calculus text books and periodic tables. Aaron attributes his success to these habits of excellence that he formed back in primary school. Homework, he insists, made all the difference.

So what is the difference between work completed at home, compared to the work rushed in school? Independence, firstly. In a classroom you have a teacher at your disposal, unsure of anything and you stick your hand in the air and wave it around, and your teacher is there to prompt you; at home there are no such prompts, forcing a more independent problem solving attitude. Solitude, secondly. The peace and quiet of your home in stark contrast to your busy school full of bustle and noise. Homework allows a quietness that encourages a restful peace for all that knowledge to percolate in teenage brains. Finally, repetition. Repetition, repetition, repetition. The absorption of knowledge and the acquirement of new skills necessitates the frequent and regular repetition of the same activity. Clearly, there is not the time in schools to facilitate this- therefore making homework absolutely crucial for students at both ends of the ability scale.

Whether it is excellence or the basics that you are mastering, homework is the cornerstone of your success. It's a chance to think outside of the rigid confines of the curriculum: read a book by an author you won't be tested on; hone your artistic talents in a different medium incompatible with the classroom; research a historical figure of your choosing, who later turns into your hero and role model...and the subject of your university thesis.

Projects, reading diaries, costumes: we've all seen homework that made our stomachs sink. Three words- the class bear. Yet, we cannot let these negative associations with homework discolour our overall opinion of homework. To abolish homework on the basis of some tedious tasks wouldn't just be throwing the baby out with the bath water, it would be blowing up the entire bathroom.

Aaron Kingston is due a huge congratulations- and that is the final part of homework. We celebrate our knowledge, we smile happily as we recall the rule for multiplying out the brackets (although, for me knowing the rules didn't always help!) and we can thank homework for that smile. Therefore, do your homework, and be grateful it is set at all. Mrs Butler would be proud.