**A FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY**

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of single-sex schools?**

Most people agree that girls and boys are different. For example, boys are often more competitive than girls, and girls are often more hard-working than boys. Some people think that because boys and girls are different, they should be taught separately. However, there are also disadvantages to single-sex schools.

One advantage of single-sex schools is that boys and girls do not distract each other. For this reason, pupils can concentrate more on their studies. What’s more, teachers in single-sex schools can change their teaching style to suit their students. Boys and girls learn differently!

On the other hand, women and men have to learn to live together in the outside world. Single-sex schools prevent boys and girls from learning to work together. Moreover, single-sex schools could make boys and girls uncomfortable with each other.

On balance, I feel that mixed schools are better than single-sex schools because both sexes learn how to co-operate, which is important when students leave school and enter the real world.

1. Read the essay and answer these questions:

1- Which paragraph introduces the topic?

2- Which paragraphs give arguments for and against the topic?

3- Which paragraph expresses the conclusion and the writer’s opinion on the topic?

**LANGUAGE:** CONTRAST CONNECTORS

2. Which two connectors in the text express contrast?

3. Contrast connectors are used to oppose ideas and they include:

*although, though, despite, in spite of, but, however, nevertheless, whereas, on the one hand … on the other, …*

“He’s old, whereas Paul is young”.

“It’s cheap. However, I don’t like it”.

“Although I asked her, she didn’t come”.

“In spite of the rain, we went out”.

We use most of these connectors with a subject and a verb, but *“despite”* and *“in spite of”* are used with a noun phrase or an –ING form.

“Despite having a computer, she didn’t use the Internet”.

4. Match the sentences 1-5 with the sets of linkers a-d:

1- The police found the jewels, \_\_\_\_\_\_ they couldn’t catch the robbers.

2- \_\_\_\_\_ finding the jewels, the police couldn’t catch the robbers.

3- \_\_\_\_\_ the police found the jewels, they couldn’t catch the robbers.

4- The police found the jewels. \_\_\_\_\_\_, they couldn’t catch the robbers.

5- \_\_\_\_\_ the evidence, the police couldn’t catch the robbers.

1. despite / in spite of
2. however / nevertheless
3. but / although / though
4. although / though

5. Join the sentences using the connectors in brackets:

1. The traffic was heavy. We got to the airport in time. (however)
2. My little brother can’t write yet. He can read a little bit. (although)
3. He didn’t study for his exams. He passed them all. (nevertheless)
4. We had bad weather. We had a lovely holiday. (in spite of)

5- I missed the beginning of the film. I had a great evening. (despite)

6. Writing task: Writing a “for and against” essay on the following topic: “What are the arguments for and against computer games?”

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| When you write a for and against essay (discussion essay):  \* Brainstorm ideas. It is important to give a balanced argument. Try to include an equal number of arguments for and against the topic.  \* The first paragraph is a general statement to introduce the topic. Explain that there are arguments for and against this topic.  \* Use one paragraph for your arguments for and one paragraph for your arguments against. Present the arguments as objectively as possible.  \* Use your conclusion paragraph to sum up your arguments and state your personal opinion. |

**USEFUL LANGUAGE**

Many people say / think that … There are many reasons for …

We must look at both sides of the question … Firstly, … Secondly, …

On the one hand … on the other … In contrast, …

Finally, … In conclusion, … To sum up, …

On balance, …