

Section B: Writing

*You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.
Write in full sentences.*

*You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.
You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.*

- 05** 'Children have so many opportunities today. They have better education, access to technology and live in a society which values children.'

Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you argue for **or** against this statement.

(24 marks for content and organization and
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

PLAN HERE

Q5 - MODEL ANSWER

The snowflake generation. Soft, cosseted and firmly aware of their rights. The opportunities presented to the boys and girls in the 21st century are outrageous examples of how indulgent the world has become. Every kid has a smartphone. Every kid demands top grades. Every kid is the darling of their family.

Or so some people would have you believe.

Underlying all those assumptions is a sort of jealousy. The jealousy of an older generation who have some dewy-eyed notion of the past where life was tough but 'it didn't do me any 'arm!'. Life may have been less exciting or tougher in days gone by, but surely only a sadist longs for the days of chimney sweeps, corporal punishment and withheld love.

Every generation has its romantic sense of the past. It's part of the pattern of life for adults to look back at their supposedly less privileged past and compare it favourably to the experiences of their children. It's the stuff of comedy.

Do children have a better education these days? Certainly, if by better you mean endless testing, grading and the creeping accusation of underperformance. Schools are hotbeds of misery. No longer are they carefree places of inspiration. They're factories where the product is results and the victims are all of those involved. Every one is a customer. The teachers are depressed. The students are depressed.

Technology is a blessing and a curse. It brings people together and it separates them. The current generation are empowered and enslaved by it. At best, it brings truth and knowledge, at worst it's a tool for bullying and low self-esteem. Teenagers are constantly on show and judged. Call that opportunity?

I'm also uncertain as to how society values children these days. Even children don't know. To be honest, I'm not even certain that 'children' exist. They're just mini adults, subjected to adult pressures and forced to grow up and win at life before they've even been introduced to the game. Look at the figures. Child cruelty exists. Teenage suicide exists. Self-harm exists. Something has suggested to them that hiring limos for an end-of-primary-school party or wearing a 'porn star' T-shirt is somehow normal.

Behind all of the societal worries about the supposedly easy life of our youth is a more disturbing idea. It seems to me that debates about children's privilege centres on a certain type of child - the child of the privileged. It's never about the child whose parents have to use foodbanks. For privileged children, life can be a smooth road. Education can be purchased. Technology can be purchased. But what of those without such a ticket to life's feast? How much opportunity comes their way?

Children certainly do have 'better' education and technological access these days. If they live in the right families. Even then, does it bring happiness? I'm not convinced.

TASK B

‘Education is not just about which school you go to, or what qualifications you gain; it is also about what you learn from your experiences outside of school.’

Write a speech for your school or college Leavers’ Day to explain what you think makes a good education.

TASK C

‘All sport should be fun, fair and open to everyone. These days, sport seems to be more about money, corruption and winning at any cost.’

Write an article for a newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

TASK D

‘Snow seems like it is picturesque, exciting and fun but in reality it causes accidents, inconvenience and economic disruption.’

Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this issue.

TASK E

‘Festivals and fairs should be banned. They encourage bad behaviour and are disruptive to local communities.’

Write a letter to your local newspaper in which you argue for or against this statement.