

## Candidate 6

## Task 2 — Study — essay

Write an essay discussing the benefits and drawbacks of exchange programmes\* at school, college or university.

You should cover some or all of the following:

- cultural awareness
- language skills/barriers
- different educational standards/systems
- life skills
- time away from the normal curriculum.

You may also add your own ideas.

\* a programme that provides students with the opportunity to study overseas for a period of time

You should write approximately 250–300 words.

Nowadays, exchange programmes are part of everyday life at school. Children can apply to be sent ~~into~~ to a family from a different country over a ~~the~~ specific period of time, usually between one week and three months. Can the advantages of ~~the~~ such programmes ~~outweigh~~ outweigh the disadvantages?

~~Firstly~~ <sup>On one hand</sup>; statistics say that many children are sent to foreign families at a an early age. About ~~20~~ <sup>40</sup> per cent of the children between eleven and ~~fourteen~~ sixteen call their parents in tears, feeling unwell in the ~~different~~ unusual environment.

~~Furthermore~~ <sup>Secondly</sup>, it is proved that the age of children is very important, ~~because~~ For instance, an eleven years old child will have ~~large~~ <sup>more</sup> difficulties to overcome the language barrier towards ~~their~~ its host family having had only two years of language classes at school, ~~than~~ than a ~~the~~ seventeen years old pupil who has got more experience in talking a different language ~~at school~~ at school.

~~Furthermore~~ <sup>In addition to that</sup>, teachers complained about ~~students~~ <sup>pupils</sup> missing a lot of lessons at school while being abroad and it appears to be very difficult for them to keep up

with the topics studied in class. Of course, the children go to school with their exchange partner but the educational standards and levels are different in some school systems.

on the other hand, participating in exchange programmes has got many benefits as well.

for example, living in a different country over a certain amount of time increases ~~the~~ cultural

awareness among students. ~~They~~ Statistics show

that 80 percent of the pupils sent on exchange programmes become more interested in learning about

different languages and travelling ~~travelling~~ in

general. This benefits ~~to~~ the development of their

character and they learn skills ~~for~~ ~~that~~ that will

be useful in their future that the normal curriculum won't

Moreover, children or university students that already

have achieved a certain level in the language they

learn, will improve <sup>their skills up</sup> ~~them~~ to becoming nearly fluent.

~~In addition to that, exchange programmes do not only~~

~~influence language skills ~~and~~ ~~also~~.~~

\* Learning and improving new languages <sup>abroad</sup> will <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~

particularly useful in a student's CV when applying

for a job in <sup>his or her</sup> ~~their~~ later career.

In addition to that, it is very important to mention that

exchange programmes do not only influence language skills but social competences as well. Living in a different family is very interesting and exciting for students and they get to know people of their age <sup>from</sup> ~~at~~ different cultures. Social contacts abroad can always be useful to improve language skills and make friends.

Finally, I ~~think~~ am persuaded that the advantages of participating in exchange programmes outweigh the disadvantages and I would recommend every pupil or student to try to spend some time abroad during their school time or studies.