

Software Name: N/A

Rater: Arman Khaki

Test Title: TOEFL iBT Independent Writing

Date Received: ****

Score Level: 3

Test Taker's E-mail: ****

Submitted Response

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents should give school-age children money as a reward for getting a high mark (grade) in school.

Nowadays supporting children financially, even adult children, is a conventional routine in families. Some people hold the opinion that rewarding children with money for their good grades by their parents is a good idea / is a bad idea? because they think that it will encourage them to thrive in their education, on the contrary, some others maintain the opposite perspective for the reason best known to themselves. However, if I were asked to concur with one of the two points of view, I would stand behind the former. To make a clear picture of my position, I illustrate two primary reasons in the following paragraphs.

First, giving money to children as a reward for getting a good grade, makes children's education conditional to getting money and disrupt their goal and will of study. Children should understand that their efforts in education, not only enhance their understanding and abilities but also empower them to have a bright future. In the case which If / when children get money for good grades, they may not think about the quality of studying and they just care about their grades not to lose money and as a result, this attitude may affect their education in the way that they may recede instead of progress.

Second, when children gain-earn money in results-offor good grades, as they can't succeed in getting it means that if they don't get good grades they will not have any money, but they may need money in these circumstances. In such situations, parents will pay them money albeit they couldn't attain good marks, consequently this cause an erratic payment which is not good for their future, because children will not learn how to manage themselves economically. When I was a child my father gave me a consistent amount of money routinely each month and based on that income, I managed my money. It was a good idea that days-and prepared-taught me how to manage myself-economically my finances / money, furthermore, my parents rewarded me something else for other things but not for my grades.

To sum up, in my idea, it is better to give children money regularly instead of rewarding them money for good grades. Parents can encourage their children to get the good marks in order to have progress in their life, in addition, they can reward them for big goals and not made-make them succeed to get money.

Rater's Comments

Other Remarks:

Hi ****,

This essay is much better than the previous one; nevertheless, it has weaknesses in several important areas.

- (1) The introduction paragraph is "wordy" and vague. It doesn't add value to the essay and confuses the reader. For example, in this part you've forgotten to mention that giving money to children is a good idea or a bad idea: "Some people hold the opinion that rewarding children with money for their good grades by their parents is a good idea / is a bad idea? because they think that it will encourage them to thrive in their education". This is a key point and as the reader, I had to struggle to understand that in this statement what you had in mind was that some people think giving money to children as a reward for achievements in school is a bad thing." Also you introduce the concept of "adult children" here. Such a thing, even if it exists as some sort of psychological concept, is neither acceptable in this essay, nor relevant. In your introduction paragraph you need to take a stance and very briefly outline your reasons. Look at this sample introduction:

"Encouraging children to be high achievers in school and get good grades is certainly a good thing; however, in my opinion, using money as a reward for such things can do more harm than good. First, by receiving money as reward for high grades children might focus on the money rather than the education itself. Second, to earn more money, the child might resort to dishonest means such as cheating to secure good grades; which is obviously an undesirable outcome. Finally, being carefree is an important part of childhood and "no good grades means no money" might lead to unnecessary anxiety and stress for the child."

Each of the three body paragraphs will then discuss each of the points mentioned in the introduction in more detail, providing explanation, logic and relevant examples. Using statements like "To make a clear picture of my position, I illustrate two primary reasons in the following paragraphs." is just a waste of time and space, as it is exactly your job to do so! Don't tell the reader what you are going to do directly, just do it. Also saying things like "for the reason best known to themselves" doesn't help at all. One of the best strategies is to actually mention the opposite point of view and then refute it using strong logic and examples. If you don't know what some people think why you even bother to mention it?

- (2) The second paragraph does not develop the idea effectively. It just repeats one idea over and over again: "makes children's education conditional to getting money and disrupt their goal and will of study". The question you are supposed to answer here, is how or why giving money to the children might be bad. Do you answer this question in this paragraph? Also, you put forth the idea that "this attitude may affect their education in a way that they may recede instead of progress" but you don't explain or provide examples. Are we supposed to take this for granted?
- (3) In the third paragraph you are mixing up "pocket money" with "money as a reward for good grades" and keep telling us how your experience as a child helped you manage your money well when you grew up. How is this related to the topic? Does this paragraph answer the question posed in the topic?
- (4) The question is this: "Is it good or bad to give children money when they get good grades?" Your answer is clearly "No!", but throughout the essay you have not effectively argued your point. You haven't explained why you hold this opinion.

An essay at this level is marked by one or more of the following:

- addresses the topic and task using somewhat developed explanations, exemplifications, and/or details
- displays unity, progression, and coherence, though connection of ideas may be occasionally obscured
- may demonstrate inconsistent facility in sentence formation and word choice that may result in lack of clarity and occasionally obscure meaning
- may display accurate but limited range of syntactic structures and vocabulary

Software Name: N/A

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Submitted Response

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? In 20 years from now, students will not use printed books any more.

In 20 years from now ~~on~~, the technology ~~will be improved~~ ~~will have been improved~~ significantly. I anticipate that technology will be ~~increasingly promote~~ ~~advanced~~. This improvement of technology will ~~have effect on~~ ~~affect~~ every ~~parts-part~~ of ~~the~~ society. One of these parts is the process of reading and educational system. In the future, technology can help the educational system also it can have an important impact on the way of reading. Therefore it can boost the speed of reading and learning.

Technology in the future will be converted to a vital instrument in the people's life. Although it can be very useful and beneficial, people have to care about their security and their private information. One of these ~~beneficial promotion in~~ ~~benefits of~~ technology is its influence on reading and learning. In next years, in schools, students can use technology in a way which can help them boost their learning process. I ~~ponder~~ ~~believe~~ in the future, books will be more likely to nowadays real books in addition it'll be convey to users the feeling of real books.

I like to read real books instead of reading books in laptops or tablets. However I think in the future people will like to read real books instead of PDF books and there will be books which are very similar to real books but they are based on technology. In addition these books can help the reader to surf and probe in the internet while they're reading this real books.

Entirely In conclusion, I agree ~~with~~ that students will not use printed books, but there will be some books like real books and they will be mixed up with technology also they will be more useful than real books and printed books. In a conclusion I can say that In the next 20 years technology will be improved increasingly, ~~therefor~~ ~~therefore~~ future books will be more useful than nowadays printed books.

Rater's Comments

Other Remarks:

The most important part of responding to an Independent Writing Task of the TOEFL is to analyze the topic carefully and plan and write your response accordingly. This response is largely off-topic. No significant ideas are mentioned in response to the topic and the ideas that are mentioned in connection to the topic are neither supported nor developed.

Let's take a look at your thesis in the first paragraph:

"I anticipate that technology will be advanced. This improvement of technology will affect every part of the society. One of these parts is the process of reading and educational system. In the future, technology can help the educational system also it can have an important impact on the way of reading. Therefore it can boost the speed of reading and learning."

The topic wants you to explain whether you agree or disagree with the idea that *in 20 years students will not use printed books anymore*.

Basically your response is: "Technological improvements will improve the educational system and the speed of learning" which is not what the topic wants you to talk about.

Also, in your introductory paragraph, you do NOT provide an outline of the ideas that you are going to discuss in your body paragraph. First of all, you should think of ideas **that are related to the topic** and make a brief outline. Here is a sample that I came up with:

- Cost of conventional books and environmental impact
 - Printed books → expensive e.g. a student text book \$250+
 - Environmental concerns → paper (recycled/from trees), shipping (causes pollution), ink (chemical/toxic)
- Interactive features and updates
 - Video/audio embedded within e-books
 - Interactive Tests
 - Direct link to online resources
 - Students receive latest updates to their textbooks instantly → conventional book: have to wait for next edition
- Convenient access and storage
 - Available instantly (as downloadable/online access) after purchase → no waiting for weeks for the mail
 - Hundreds of books can be stored easily on a portable device (e.g. laptop/tablet) or accessed online → no need to carry heavy textbooks around

Each of the three ideas that I mentioned above along with their supporting ideas can be developed effectively in 3 body paragraphs.

The parts that I've highlighted in yellow indicate ineffective logic, vague language or redundant material. For example:

- "Technology in the future will be converted to a vital instrument in the people's life." What does this mean? Do you mean technology is NOT a vital part of human life now? How is this related to the topic?
- "People have to care about their security and their private information" Do people NOT care about their privacy now? How can using e-books be considered a breach of privacy? How is this related to the topic?
- "books will be more likely to nowadays real books in addition it'll be convey to users the feeling of real books" This is simply too unclear. I can't understand what you mean at all. Too many vocabulary and grammar mistakes.
- "There will be books which are very similar to real books but they are based on technology" We already have these books and use them. They are called "e-books" and the technology that we use to access them is computers; nothing weird, scary or futuristic!
- "In addition these books can help the reader to surf and probe in the internet while they're reading this real books." Do you mean computers?

And finally, the part highlighted in blue indicates your conclusion. The ideas you mentioned here, although somewhat related to the topic, are not at all supported throughout the response.

An essay at this level may reveal one or more of the following weaknesses:

- limited development in response to the topic and task
- inadequate organization or connection of ideas
- inappropriate or insufficient exemplifications, explanations, or details to support or illustrate generalizations in response to the task
- a noticeably inappropriate choice of words or word forms
- an accumulation of errors in sentence structure and/or usage