

Key

- Red = mistake
- Green = fixed
- Yellow = could be better
- Blue = a better option
- Purple = spelling



Some people say that school children should be given individual class work. Others think that working in small groups is better for their development. Discuss both views and give your own opinion

Original	Rewrite
Whether students should be working individually or in group is a controversial issue. – I don't think that it is controversial. While one part of the society claim that they reap more benefits when working alone, I side with those who argue for team work.	Educators continually try to update the school curriculum to make it most effective. While some claim that they reap more benefits when working alone, I side with those who argue for teamwork.



- You state your opinion clearly – that is good as we need to see it throughout the essay for you to get a high score for Task Response.
- You have a good contrast sentence.



- You have made three very common errors in the introduction that I think make you look like a weak student (which you aren't!).
 - **Please NEVER use “a controversial subject”** because IELTS topics are never controversial and only weak students use this fixed expression.
 - Also, if you are going to present both views in the second sentence (which you should) then you do not want to mention them in the first as this makes your introduction repetitive. **Just introduce the general topic** (which here is about how children learn).
 - **There is no “part of society” who have this view.** Again, when I was an examiner, this phrase was usually only ever used by weak students. Why are you trying to paraphrase “some people”? There is no paraphrase for this and so there is no need to look for one! Just use “some” and put your energy into writing a better opening sentence.

Original	Rewrite
<p>One - !!! the one hand, individual class work is said to promote individuality. This is primarily due to the free space given to youngsters during individual work to express their own identity and unique traits. Some studies, for instance, have shown that Japanese students who were assigned to work alone in a science project revealed more creative and unexpected performance – what does this mean? than those of their counterparts who work in groups. – why? Accordingly, if children had the chance to work by their own, - too many here words that really add nothing to your argument they are less likely to be restricted by the opinion or pace of the other members of the group. This is probably why this opinion has garnered support.</p>	<p>On the one hand, working alone is said to promote individuality. This is primarily due to the freedom given to youngsters when they work on their own to express their own identity and unique traits. Solo-work allows students to be more creative as their imagination is allowed to flow without any interruptions. In other words, they are less likely to be restricted by the opinion or pace of the other members of the group. This is particularly true for students who are introverted and tend to not contribute when they are forced to work with others for fear that their ideas will be rejected or, worse, ridiculed.</p>



- You have relatively few language errors here – well done!
- You have attempted a topic sentence
- You have clear cohesion between your sentences



- **Paraphrasing** – You have a couple of issues here that could be improved:
 - You have used the word “individual” three times in the first two sentences. Could you have paraphrased here? For example, maybe you would have used:
 - work on their own
 - solo work
 - We do not use the term, “ free space”, to mean “freedom” (you can actually use just the word “space” i.e. “there is some free space in my wardrobe for my new coat”).
- **Poor examples** – We have some real issues in your essay with examples, so let’s take a step back. What is the purpose of an example? It is to reference something in the real world that will help to EXTEND your idea or make your argument clearer. Tell me, what does this sentence “add” to your argument?
 - *Some studies, for instance, have shown that Japanese students who were assigned to work alone in a science project revealed more creative and unexpected performance than those of their counterparts who work in groups.*

Honestly, I think that it adds nothing. **In fact, I don't think that is qualifies as an example.**

1. **It is an invented study that just repeats word for word what you told me in the previous sentence.** How does the sentence make your argument clearer? Does it explain WHY working alone made people's science experiments more creative? No. Therefore, as an example it has failed as it does not accurately JUSTIFY your claim.
2. **Worse, it takes up half of your paragraph, so your paragraph now has ZERO progression as you haven't told me anything new since the second sentence.** The only new / relevant thing in this whole sentence is the word "creative".

Instead of inventing a fake example, you should have spent more time EXPLAINING and JUSTIFYING why working alone can help people be more creative.

Please stop relying on fake examples that do nothing more than repeat your previous sentence with the words "Some research" in front of it – they are killing your score. You are a good writer - you could have easily written the sentence I replaced your example with. Can you see how much better this is? Focus on JUSTIFYING – not every paragraph needs or suits an example.

- **Weak final sentence:** In the same way, what does your final sentence ADD to your argument? Again, I don't think it adds anything. It is a generic sentence that you have learned to add to the end of every Discuss Both Sides essay, and so is totally worthless in my eyes as an examiner. If your paragraph had been fully-developed, then it may be OK to have this final sentence. However, if we consider that half of your paragraph was a fake example, and now the final sentence is totally generic, **you have almost no argument.** Look what is left when I delete these sentences:

On the one hand, individual class work is said to promote individuality. This is primarily due to the freedom given to youngsters when they work on their own to express their own identity and unique traits. If children work on their own are less likely to be restricted by the opinion or pace of the other members of the group.

Do you see the problem? You are filling your paragraph with repetitive words rather than genuine argument. We need FOUR or FIVE sentences of proper argument, not two surrounded by sentences that do nothing except restate your idea in different words. I beg you to please stop using fake studies or memorised final sentences. You are a good writer, so you don't need to use these low-level skills!!!! Look at the rewrite below – now every sentence is relevant and adds something new. This is how you achieve a high score:

*On the one hand, individual class work is said to promote individuality. This is primarily due to the freedom given to youngsters when they work on their own to express their own identity and unique traits. **Solo-work allows students to be more creative as their imagination is allowed to flow without any interruptions. In other words, they are less likely to be restricted by the opinion or pace of the other members of the group. This is particularly true for students who are introverted and tend to not contribute when they are forced to work with others for fear that their ideas will be rejected or, worse, ridiculed.***

Original	Rewrite
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On the other hand, I personally would argue that group class assignments would enhance teamwork skills in young children. Working in groups **has become the trend of the modern world** and, accordingly, **it is highly recommended** – *who “recommends” this?* that juveniles learn how **to be a part of a team** at an early age. Although I concede that **blending in a group tend to be a challenging task**, I still hold the view that **its rewards exceeds its pitfalls**. *why are you balancing here?* Take co-operate learning for example. It has been proved in many educational studies that **it is one of the most productive methods of learning**. – *if you don’t explain why, then this example is, again, meaningless* Therefore, group **class work** at schools can boost the students’ communication and **acceptance qualities more than any other model of learning**. – *really? You haven’t told me anything that makes me believe this!*

On the other hand, I personally would argue that group class assignments would enhance teamwork skills in young children. **Teamwork is more common in the workplace** today, and accordingly, **it is good for young people** to learn how to **do this** at an early age. **Moreover**, group **classwork** in schools can boost the students’ communication skills **as they have to negotiate with other members of the team and learn when to push for their idea to be included and when to accept other people’s**. Also, if the teacher guides the students well, then each member of the class should have a chance to be in charge of the group, which will enhance their leadership skills. All of this is far more valuable than being allowed creative freedom and, if the groups work together successfully, people should still be able to use their imagination here as well.



- **Poor word choice:** Again, you have some unnatural word combinations in this sentence that will prevent you from getting an 8.0 for LR:
 - “Working in teams” not a “trend”
 - the passive phrase “is highly recommended’ is not appropriate here as we don’t know who is recommending
 - “juvenile” is never a good paraphrase for “children” – it is a word used to describe people who are not socially developed and often break the rules. Just use “young people”
 - Working in groups **has become the trend of the modern world** and, accordingly, **it is highly recommended that juveniles** learn how to **be a part of a team** at an early age
 - Working in groups **is common practice today** and, accordingly, **young people would benefit from** learning how to be a part of a team at an early age.
- **Why have you added balance here?** You already have a whole paragraph of “balance” above when you showed the opposite view.
- **Weak argumentation:** – I think that you have done exactly the same thing here as in the first paragraph – you have a lot of words but hardly any of them really move your argument forward. Again, look at how much is left once I remove all of the repetitive over-general sentences:

On the other hand, I personally would argue that group class assignments would enhance teamwork skills in young children. Teamwork is more common in the workplace today, and accordingly, it is good for young people to learn how to do this at an early age. Moreover, group class work at schools can boost the students' communication

This time we have just the topic sentence and one and a half sentences left – that is not enough for a good examiner. The system you are using here is really damaging your potential score:

1. Topic sentence
2. Give argument
3. Repeat first argument in a fake example,
4. Finish paragraph with a generic sentence that “proves” your argument)

PLEASE stop using this method and start engaging with the question. If you focused on presenting your real views and addressing the question, you would do so much better. Look at the paragraph below. See how it actually explains how groupwork can develop skills (rather than just stating that it does).

*On the other hand, I personally would argue that group class assignments would enhance teamwork skills in young children. Teamwork is more common in the workplace today, and accordingly, it is good for young people to learn how to do this at an early age. Moreover, group classwork in schools can boost the students' communication skills **as they have to negotiate with other members of the team and learn when to push for their idea to be included and when to accept other people's. Also, if the teacher guides the students well, for example, by giving each member of the class a chance to be in charge of the group, then this will enhance their leadership skills. All of this is far more valuable than being allowed creative freedom and, if the groups work together successfully, people should still be able to use their imagination here as well.***

This is probably a bit long, but it took me literally 45 seconds to write and shows how you can PROVE the effectiveness of teamwork and include a relevant example relatively easily if you just take the next step to focus on justifying your arguments.

Original	Rewrite
<p>In conclusion, although it is undeniable that fostering independency and individuality could be the reward of working alone, group-work, in my view, empowers the essential skills needed to be in a team, which would prepare students to the real world.</p>	<p>In conclusion, although it is undeniable that fostering independence and individuality could be the reward of working alone, group-work, in my view, empowers the essential skills needed to be in a team, which would prepare students for the real world. Thus, on balance, I agree that group work furthers children's development more.</p>



- Your summary sentence is excellent here



- However, you have to make sure that you 100% address the question by adding a final sentence that refers back to what you were asked.

Band score and comments

Task response	6.0	You have such lovely language skills and such great ideas, but you seem to be totally confused as to how to develop them properly. I will tell you right away that if you stop using “fake research” as the basis of your arguments and focus instead on EXPLAINING and JUSTIFYING then your essay will improve by at least one band here, if not two. Look at the changes that I made – all I did was actually EXPLAIN how working alone or in a group can benefit a child. Your essay had no more than two or three sentences of actual argument per paragraph – I need EVERY sentence to add something to your position.
Coherence & cohesion	6.0	You have clear paragraphing and sentences that are well-joined, <u>but there is almost no progression in your paragraphs for the reasons that I outlined above.</u> You start well, but then you end with over-general sentences that add NOTHING to your argument and, thus, do not progress your argument in any way.
Lexical resource	7.0	You have some nice topic specific lexis and enough to discuss the topic, <u>but there is also some repetition and inaccurate paraphrasing,</u> so be careful of this.
Grammar	7.0	You have a nice range of sentence structures, <u>but not enough range for an 8.0 at this time.</u> If you can focus on extension, you will naturally use more types of complex sentence, which is what we are looking for.
Overall band score	6.5 You are a very good writer, but if you don't actually engage with the question and explain and justify your arguments properly, then you can easily end up with a 6.5 instead of the 7.0 or even 7.5 that you deserve.	