

Task 2a Justifications - Leaving Home (essay)

This 370-word essay exceeds the required 300 words by 23%. All 3 content points are covered, examples and supporting arguments are provided and the test taker also gives a suitable title as instructed. Therefore the task requirements are fulfilled.

In terms of organization the test taker seems unaware of the usual paragraphing conventions and this makes the essay more difficult to read. However, s/he links sentences into clear coherent text using a variety of cohesive devices such as **and, not only...but also, most importantly, so** and **unless**.

The test taker demonstrates a wide range of vocabulary which is generally appropriate for the task. For example, in line 4 s/he chooses the more sophisticated **come up with** over **thought of**, in line 5 s/he uses **exposed to**, in line 10 s/he talks about **the shift (of) trends**, and in line 23 **adjacent to** is selected rather than the more widely known **next to**. The only slip in register / appropriateness occurs in the final paragraph which begins, **“Let’s take a look at ...”**. This structure is generally used in spoken or in informal written communications. There is evidence that the test taker is able to collocate words appropriately. Examples include: **concerned parents** in lines 2 and 3, **luxurious condominiums** in line 11, **hurried lifestyles** in line 13 and, near the end of the essay, **strongly influence** in lines 31 and 32.

In addition, the test taker shows good control of basic grammatical structures such as the present, past and future tenses, third person “s”, singular and plural agreements. There is also evidence that the test taker is able to use some longer and more complex sentence structures accurately as shown in the examples below.

“In this modern era, young people are exposed to higher education and advanced technologies that make them more independent than ever before.” (Line 4)

“For young people to be able to move out from their parents’ house and live alone, they must be capable of taking care of themselves, both physically and financially.” (line 18)

To sum up, although the essay would have benefited from clear paragraphing, the test taker still performs quite well across the four assessment criteria; task fulfillment, organization, coherence and cohesion and both grammatical and lexical range and accuracy. For this reason they are awarded a B2+.