

Many teenagers have their own smart phone.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this and give your own opinion?

Most teenagers, especially those in big cities, own a smartphone. This brings benefits and drawbacks to themselves and to their families.

You have paraphrased the question appropriately, but you could improve your introduction by briefly outlining both of your main ideas to be developed in their respective paragraphs. Instead of an outline, you have just written a general statement about the topic. See the sample essay below for reference.

To begin with, one problem is that using smartphones affects teenagers' grades at school. For example, some teenagers spend hours ~~on every day~~ playing games ~~with on their smartphone on a daily basis~~, or some of them even spend the whole day with a smartphone ~~on looking at~~ social media such as Instagram and Snap Chat. This ~~could result results~~ in lower grades at school since teenagers would not be able to focus on studying as long as they keep using smartphones ~~s~~ for unproductive activities. Another issue is that some teenagers spend less time with their families since they are obsessed with smartphones. For instance, some teenagers avoid participating in family activities such as playing sports or going ~~for to~~ a picnic because they prefer spending time alone with smartphones.

This is a good attempt at developing your main idea. However, the structure of your development needs to be more precise. First thing is you need to do is limit the amount of ideas in your essay to one main idea (i.e. the idea after "Another issues" is not necessary). You should then state your main idea in the topic sentence (the first sentence). Then use the rest of the paragraph to develop it with clear explanations (one or two sentences following the topic sentence) and a relevant specific example (one sentence following the explanation sentences). Lastly, you can have a concluding statement that either agrees or disagrees the main idea of the paragraph. This structure will help the reader to follow your argument.

However, the use of smartphones ~~s~~ is advantageous to many teenagers. First~~ly~~, smartphones enable teenagers to review lessons on their own and make it easy for school students to contact their teachers when they need academic assistance. These young students can also watch educational online videos by using a smartphone during their free time, which helps them progress at a faster pace than ~~those in the~~ earlier generations when people had to travel to ~~library-libraries~~ to access academic resources. Second~~ly~~, smartphones help family members stay connected. For example, parents can use a text messaging application via smartphones ~~s~~ to chat with their children while they are not at the same location. This helps strengthen the relationships ~~s~~ between parents

and ~~teenager~~ teenage children since teenagers are likely to spend most of their time with friends. Therefore, smartphones could act like a bridge among family members.

Once again, this is a good attempt and your accuracy of language is very good, but remember to be more precise with your development. See feedback for the last paragraph for reference to precision and development.

In conclusion, although it is thought by some that letting teenagers use smartphones could be problematic, I believe that if teenagers are taught how to use smartphones in the right way, this type of electronic device can lead to satisfaction both at school and at home.

Very good accuracy with your language choices and you have a clear opinion here, but you have not clearly and completely summarised your main ideas. It is important that you take the main ideas from the main body paragraphs and summarise them both in the conclusion.

Task Response - Band 7

You have answered the question well and there is good development in each paragraph throughout the response. You have fully addressed the requirements of the question.

To get a band 8, you need to ensure that every sentence you write has a purpose and that it is fulfilling that purpose.

Although your precision is not bad, you still need to try to get to the point directly and not in a roundabout way while also limiting each paragraph to one main idea. Try to get your essay under 300 words.

Suggestions - when you're writing the plan for your essay, check that each paragraph has one main idea that is clearly developed with explanations and an example that is relevant to the point you're making in the supporting paragraphs. Everything you say must be completely relevant to get a band 8.

Try to keep your essay under 300 words. Managing your word count will not only help you manage your time but also force you to think about precision.

Check your plan for any repetition of ideas within paragraphs and remove or alter anything that has already been said. Also, make sure each main body paragraph only has one main idea.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 6

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

Your introduction and conclusion are not effective.

Suggestions- Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion. Your score would also improve if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas.

Vocabulary- Band 7

You have a very good range of vocabulary and your accuracy is quite good. You can easily explain your ideas and you use some words that are specific to the topic.

To move up to a band 8 in vocabulary, you are expected to use more topic-specific vocabulary and also do it with accuracy.

Suggestions- A word of advice is to continue to focus on using vocabulary with the same accuracy as you've done in this essay. It is very common for students to attempt to 'impress' the examiner with their range of vocabulary, rather than trying to use words that they're sure of and this inevitably results in a score lower than they could get.

It is good to keep yourself motivated and make a record of how many new words you're learning each week. The problem with improving your overall level of vocabulary at your level is that it feels like you're not improving but the reality is very different. Imagine when you started learning English vocabulary, it was like adding drops of water into a glass and the progress could easily be seen. Now, however, it's like you're adding drops of water into a swimming pool and even though you're progressing at the same rate, it's harder to see the effects.

You should also consider getting a collocations book and focus on words and phrases that fit naturally together. Collocations are a big part of what makes someone write or speak like a native English speaker.

Grammar- Band 7

This essay shows that you have a good ability to use a range of grammatical structures and that you can use them with a reasonable level of accuracy. Around half of your sentences contain no grammatical errors and this is exactly what you need to do to get this score in the test.

Suggestions- Now that you know what it takes to write an essay with a band 7 for grammar, you should make a note about your approach. You obviously pushed yourself to use a range of structures but you didn't let inaccuracies drag you down to a band 6.

Also, you should make a note of the types of mistakes that you did make as it is crucial that you are aware of your weaknesses so that you can find these when you're checking for errors after finishing your essay. This will help to maintain this band score in future essays.

Overall- Band 7

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Clearly paraphrase the question in the first sentence.
- Give a clear opinion in the introduction.
- Reduce the number of main ideas in your main body paragraphs.
- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
- Proofread your whole essay at the end.
- Plan your answers for 5-10 minutes before writing.
- Reduce the number of words in your essay to between 260-290 words.

Sample Answer

Many adolescents own a smart device. The main advantage of this is being able to stay in contact with their parents, which is very important, and the main disadvantage is a lack of face to face communication, which has many detrimental effects.

The biggest benefit of teenagers having mobiles is the fact that their parents can call them and even check on their location. This is because smart phones have GPS and many apps allow parents to accurately determine where their child is. For example, messaging apps like Viber have a location setting, so that parents can ask where the child is in a message and then check on Google Maps when their loved one responds. In my opinion, this is very useful because it prevents children in their teens from getting into trouble because their parents can keep tabs on them.

However, some believe that the drawback is that teens will spend too much time on their phones and this will reduce the amount of time they spend talking face to face. Face to face communication allows children to develop their social skills and grow as human beings and they may become anti-social adults in the future if they are staring at a screen all day. For instance, it is very common to go to a coffee shop in my local area and see large groups of young people sitting around and not talking for several minutes because there are so engrossed in their smart phones. I agree that this will stunt their development and that usage of phones should be limited.

In conclusion, the primary value of teenagers having smart phones is the fact that they will be safer because their parents can locate them easily and the downside is a possible lack of social development.