SAMPEL PERCUMA

Cara Tulis Esei MUET Writing Task 2

Set penuh: MUET 2026

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Writing Task 2 - Set 1/5

THE TASK

Some people believe that secondary schools should stop giving homework at weekends so that students can rest and spend time with their families. Others argue that regular weekend homework is necessary if students are to keep up. Discuss both views and state your own position. Write an essay of at least 250 words. You should spend about 50 minutes on this task.

Plan it first (5 minutes)

- Position: weekends should be free of routine homework, but not of all learning.
- Argument 1: rest protects the quality of weekday learning; tired students learn slowly.
- Argument 2: family and community time teaches things school cannot.
- Argument 3: most weekend homework is repetition, not new learning.
- Counter-argument: exam years need practice - answer with quality over quantity.
- Conclusion: ban routine worksheets, allow short optional revision.

Model Essay

Every Friday afternoon, thousands of Malaysian students walk out of school carrying a bag that will not be opened until Sunday night, and then opened in a panic. This is why the proposal to end weekend homework deserves serious attention. In my view, schools should stop setting routine weekend homework, although a small amount of optional revision should remain available.

The strongest argument for free weekends is that rest is not the opposite of learning but a condition for it. A student who spends Saturday and Sunday finishing five worksheets returns to school on Monday already tired, and a tired brain absorbs new material slowly. Teachers often complain that a Monday lesson has to be taught again on Tuesday. Removing weekend homework would therefore protect the quality of the many hours of teaching that already take place during the week.

Weekends also teach what no worksheet can. A teenager who helps at a family stall in the morning market learns arithmetic, patience and how to speak to strangers, and a student who visits grandparents in the kampung keeps a language and a relationship alive. These experiences build the confidence that interviews and university life later demand, and they cannot be recovered once adolescence has passed.

Supporters of weekend homework reply that examination years leave no room for such luxuries. This concern is reasonable, but it confuses quantity with quality. Twenty repetitive questions on Sunday do less for a candidate than one carefully marked essay written on a weekday evening, and constant work without recovery is precisely what produces burnout in Form Five.

Rest is not a reward for work already done; it is part of the work itself.

In conclusion, schools should abolish compulsory weekend homework while offering short, optional practice for students who genuinely want it, and teachers should be given time during the week to mark that practice properly. Learning should be measured by what students understand, not by how many hours they spend at a desk.

Writing Task 2 - Set 1/5

Why this essay scores well — our commentary

- The thesis is stated in the first paragraph and it is qualified rather than absolute - stop routine homework, keep optional revision - which gives the essay something specific to defend.
- Every body paragraph opens with a topic sentence that carries an idea, not a label. The reader knows the point before the example arrives.
- Development is concrete: the morning market stall, the Monday lesson repeated on Tuesday, the Form Five candidate. General claims are always followed by a particular case.
- The counter-argument is stated fairly and then answered on its own ground - quantity versus quality - instead of being dismissed.
- Grammar range is genuine: a fronted time phrase, a relative clause, a cleft-like construction (what produces burnout), and a mix of long and very short sentences for emphasis.

Useful academic phrases

- deserves serious attention
- the strongest argument for this view is that ...
- this concern is reasonable, but it confuses ... with ...
- far from solving the problem, it ...
- what matters is not ... but ...
- in conclusion, the sensible course is to ...

> Now go back to your own essay and find the one paragraph that is thinnest. Rewrite only that paragraph using Point, Explain, Example, Link. One rewritten paragraph teaches more than a whole new essay written the same old way.

Writing Task 2 - Set 3/5

THE TASK

It is becoming more common for school leavers to take a gap year before entering university, working, volunteering or travelling instead of studying. Do the advantages of a gap year outweigh the disadvantages? Write an essay of at least 250 words.

Plan it first (5 minutes)

- Position: advantages outweigh disadvantages, but only if the year has a plan.
- Argument 1: better course choice - fewer wasted degrees and wasted fees.
- Argument 2: work experience changes how a student studies afterwards.
- Argument 3: maturity and money - part-time earnings reduce loan pressure.
- Counter-argument: losing study habits and falling behind peers.
- Conclusion: worth it when structured; risky when it is simply drifting.

Model Essay

Not long ago, a Malaysian student who did not enter university straight after Form Six was assumed to have failed at something. That assumption is fading, and rightly so. In my view, the advantages of a gap year clearly outweigh the disadvantages, provided the year is planned rather than simply allowed to happen.

The most valuable benefit is a better course choice. Eighteen-year-olds are asked to commit four years and a substantial loan to a field they have only read about, and many discover in their second semester that they dislike it. A student who spends eight months assisting in a clinic learns quickly whether the reality of healthcare suits her, and that knowledge is far cheaper to acquire before enrolment than after.

A gap year also changes how a person studies later. Someone who has stood behind a counter for a year, dealt with difficult customers and watched money arrive slowly does not treat a lecture as a free period. Universities in Britain and Australia have long reported that students who defer entry tend to be more focused, and many Malaysian students who work before matriculation describe the same change in themselves. Earnings from that year can also reduce the loan a family must carry.

The main objection is that study habits decay. This risk is genuine: a school leaver who spends twelve months scrolling on a phone will find academic writing painful in September. The risk, however, comes from an empty year rather than from the gap year itself, and it disappears once the time is filled with work, volunteering or a short course.

A student who agrees in advance on what the year will contain, and who tells her family and her intended university about it, has already removed most of the danger.

In conclusion, a structured gap year is an investment rather than a delay, and universities should recognise it as such when they assess applicants. The danger lies not in pausing, but in pausing without a purpose.

Writing Task 2 - Set 3/5

Why this essay scores well — our commentary

- The thesis answers the actual question asked (do advantages outweigh disadvantages) and adds a condition, which keeps the essay from becoming a list of pros and cons.
- Each body paragraph develops one idea fully - choice, attitude to study, money - rather than mentioning four ideas shallowly.
- The counter-argument is conceded honestly before being contained: the risk is real but belongs to an empty year, not to the gap year as such. That distinction is what earns top marks.
- Cohesive devices are varied and light (also, however, in conclusion) and the paragraphs are linked by ideas that follow on naturally.
- The final line uses parallel structure for a memorable close without slipping into slogan or cliche.

Useful academic phrases

- the advantages clearly outweigh the disadvantages, provided that ...
- the most valuable benefit is ...
- far cheaper to acquire before ... than after
- the main objection is that ...
- this risk is genuine, but it comes from ... rather than from ...
- an investment rather than a delay

> Now go back to your own essay and find the one paragraph that is thinnest. Rewrite only that paragraph using Point, Explain, Example, Link. One rewritten paragraph teaches more than a whole new essay written the same old way.

Writing Task 2 - Set 4/5

THE TASK

Malaysia is moving quickly towards a cashless society, with QR payments and e-wallets accepted almost everywhere. Some people welcome this change, while others worry about its effects. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. Write an essay of at least 250 words.

Plan it first (5 minutes)

- Position: cashless is broadly positive but cash must be protected as an option.
- Argument 1: convenience, speed and record keeping for small traders.
- Argument 2: safety and traceability - less theft, harder to hide dirty money.
- Argument 3: the excluded - elderly, rural areas, people without smartphones or bank accounts.
- Counter-argument: overspending and system outages.
- Conclusion: expand digital payment, keep cash legally accepted.

Model Essay

A decade ago, a bowl of noodles at a roadside stall could only be paid for in cash. Today the same stall displays a QR code beside the chilli sauce. This change has brought clear benefits, but it also carries costs that are easy to overlook. My position is that the move towards cashless payment should continue, while cash must remain a protected option.

The advantages for ordinary trade are substantial. A QR payment takes seconds, removes the daily hunt for small change, and leaves an automatic record. For a hawker who once tracked takings on the back of an old calendar, that record is the first step towards a bank loan, because a lender can finally see how much the stall actually earns. Digital payment also reduces the amount of cash sitting in a till overnight, and money that is not there cannot be stolen.

There is, however, a group for whom this convenience is a barrier. An elderly pensioner without a smartphone, a plantation worker in an area with weak coverage, and a student too young for a bank account all rely on notes and coins. If shops begin refusing cash, these people are not merely inconvenienced; they are quietly pushed out of everyday commerce.

Critics add that tapping a phone makes spending feel unreal and encourages debt, and that a single system outage can paralyse a shopping mall. Both points are fair, though the first is best answered by teaching budgeting in schools and the second by keeping an offline alternative available.

Neither objection is a reason to reverse the trend; both are reasons to manage it carefully.

In conclusion, Malaysia should keep expanding digital payment while requiring that cash continue to be accepted in shops, clinics and government offices. Progress that leaves part of the population behind is not progress at all.

Writing Task 2 - Set 4/5

Why this essay scores well — our commentary

- The opening image is concrete and local, and it earns its place by setting up the exact contrast the essay will argue about.
- The position is clear but two-sided, so the essay can discuss both views honestly without losing direction.
- The hawker-and-loan example develops one step further than most candidates manage: record keeping leads to credit access, which is a genuine consequence rather than a restatement.
- The paragraph on excluded groups names three specific people rather than saying some people cannot use it, which is the difference between a vague generalisation and evidence.
- Two objections are handled efficiently in one paragraph, each with a one-line answer, showing the writer can control the argument as well as extend it.

Useful academic phrases

- the advantages for ordinary trade are substantial
- there is, however, a group for whom ...
- are not merely inconvenienced; they are quietly pushed out of ...
- both points are fair, though the first is best answered by ...
- the first step towards ...
- progress that leaves part of the population behind is not progress at all

> Now go back to your own essay and find the one paragraph that is thinnest. Rewrite only that paragraph using Point, Explain, Example, Link. One rewritten paragraph teaches more than a whole new essay written the same old way.

From a Weak Answer to a Strong One

THE WEAK VERSION

Nowadays gap year is very popular among students and everybody know it is good thing. Many student choose to take a gap year because they want to rest, they are tired after Form Six and they need a break so they take one year off. In my opinion gap year is very very good because student can get many experience and knowledge, also they can become more matured person. Some people said gap year is waste of time but I think this is not true at all, because all students who take gap year will become successful in the future. Besides that, working also can teach a lot of thing to us. So basically, I strongly agree that all student should take a gap year before entering university, it is really the best choice.

What is wrong, line by line

WHAT WAS WRITTEN	WHY IT COSTS MARKS	THE FIX
Nowadays gap year is very popular	Countable noun with no article, and a tired opener that says nothing.	The gap year has become increasingly common among Malaysian school leavers.
everybody know it is good thing	Subject-verb agreement error, and a missing article before good thing.	few people now regard it as a wasted year
Many student choose	Plural meaning with a singular noun.	Many students choose
they want to rest, they are tired after Form Six and they need a break so they take one year off	Run-on sentence: three clauses joined by commas with no proper linking.	They want to rest after Form Six, and a year away from examinations gives them that recovery.
very very good	Informal repetition used instead of a precise word.	genuinely valuable
get many experience and knowledge	Uncountable nouns used as if countable, and a vague verb.	gain practical experience and a clearer sense of direction
become more matured person	Wrong form of the adjective, missing article.	become a more mature person
all students who take gap year will become successful in the future	Sweeping generalisation with no evidence, and it cannot be defended.	students who spend the year working or volunteering often return with sharper focus
Some people said gap year is waste of time but I think this is not true at all	Tense slip (said for say) and the counter-argument is dismissed instead of answered.	Critics argue that a gap year interrupts study habits, and this risk is real for students who plan nothing.
Besides that, working also can teach a lot of thing	Weak linker, wrong word order with also, and a vague noun phrase with no example.	Employment also teaches lessons that no classroom offers: punctuality, teamwork and the value of a wage.
So basically	Spoken filler that does not belong in an academic essay.	In conclusion
I strongly agree that all student should take a gap year	Absolute claim, plus the singular noun error again.	a well-planned gap year benefits most students

From a Weak Answer to a Strong One

THE STRONG VERSION — SAME IDEA, PROPERLY DEVELOPED

The gap year has become increasingly common among Malaysian school leavers, and few people now regard it as a wasted year. In my view, a well-planned gap year benefits most students, although its value depends entirely on how the time is used. The clearest advantage is direction. Eighteen-year-olds are asked to choose a degree they have only read about, and a student who spends several months assisting in a clinic learns quickly whether healthcare truly suits her. Employment also teaches lessons that no classroom offers: punctuality, teamwork and the value of a wage earned slowly. Critics argue that a gap year interrupts study habits, and this risk is real for students who plan nothing at all. That danger, however, belongs to an empty year rather than to the gap year itself. In conclusion, pausing before university is an investment, provided the pause has a purpose.

What changed

- Accuracy first: articles, plurals and subject-verb agreement were fixed, and the run-on sentences were split or properly joined. These are the errors that pull a script down fastest.
- Every vague claim was replaced by something specific and defensible. All students will become successful became a limited claim about students who work or volunteer, and one concrete example (the clinic) now carries the paragraph.
- The counter-argument is now answered rather than waved away, and informal fillers such as very very and so basically were replaced with academic register.

> Do this with your own writing. Take one paragraph you have already written for a Task 2 set, hunt for these same fault types line by line, and rewrite only that paragraph. Rewriting one paragraph properly teaches more than writing three new essays badly.

TAMAT SAMPEL

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