O-LEVEL ENGLISH ESSAYS provides a wide range of essays on various topics to enable students to learn how skilful writers develop ideas and present them logically and fluently. This 3-volume set of a collection of essays prompts discussion of contemporary issues and explains topic-specific terms.

The book features:

- 50 expository essays with additional questions that stimulate students’ thinking and writing skills;
- language building in the form of Language Help boxes that expand on the difficult terms to teach varied vocabulary usage;
- a glossary of difficult words with contextual example sentences.

This book offers guidance to students on how essays should be organised and structured.

Other titles in this series:

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Is school uniform a good thing?

Whether you think school uniform is a good thing or not may depend on your age. Most parents and teachers are likely to support the wearing of school uniform. On the other hand, some students, particularly teenage students, may be against it.

Many parents think that the wearing of school uniform reduces the stress involved in getting their sons and daughters out to school on time in the morning. Choosing what they want to wear is far more time-consuming for students than simply getting into their school uniform. Also, if children wear their own choice of clothes, as opposed to school uniform, it can lead to family arguments about whether these clothes are appropriate for school wear.

Then there is the question of cost. Students nowadays become interested in fashion at an early age and fashionable clothes tend to be more expensive than school uniforms. Parents already have to face the cost of fashionable leisure clothes after school and at the weekend. It would be a lot more expensive if these were also worn to school.

A spirit of competitiveness often arises among young people when it comes to the wearing of fashionable clothes. Most parents have been asked by their children to pay exorbitant prices for items of clothing or footwear, such as trainers, just because one of their peers has it. School uniform does away with this peer pressure, at least during school hours when all students have to wear the same.
Many teachers, too, are on the side of school uniform, partly because it does away with clothes competitiveness. Not only do some students aim to wear the most fashionable clothes, they also aim to wear the most expensive designer clothes. Often students from poorer families are bullied because they can only afford low-budget clothes of poor quality. This bullying can lead to violence, which has a bad effect on the school.

A lot of people think that allowing students to choose their own outfits for school is an unnecessary distraction from their studies. They feel that, if school uniform is worn, students will have more time to concentrate on their school work, rather than on their wardrobe, and so will perform better academically.

It is thought by many teachers and others that wearing school uniform gives the students at a school a sense of community. They have the feeling of being part of a team rather than a group of individuals. This can be a valuable lesson for later life because many business firms place a great deal of emphasis on an employee’s ability to be what they call a team player.

The advantages of school uniform seem overwhelming. The main disadvantage, as seen by some students and others, is that having to wear the same as everyone else deprives students of their sense of individuality and restricts their right to express their personality. However, as much of a student’s time is spent out of school, they have ample time and opportunity to express their individuality through their clothes then.
designer clothes noun (plural) clothes created by a well-known designer and usually expensive: She used to wear designer clothes to the office, but she can’t afford them since she gave up her job to look after her child. Designer clothes have a label, known as a designer label, attached to them showing the name of the designer.

exorbitant adjective of a price or cost, much higher than it should be or seems reasonable: The price of property in this area is exorbitant.

individuality noun the quality of being obviously different from other people: She expressed her individuality by pursuing interests different from those of her older sister. individual adjective different from most other people’s and often fairly unusual: She has a very individual way of dressing. individual noun a person considered as separate from a group or society in general: We must consider the rights of each individual as well as the rights of the group as a whole.

outfit noun clothes that are worn together as a set: The bride’s mother is going to buy her outfit for the wedding today. Her daughter’s trousseau includes several outfits with matching accessories.

overwhelming adjective so many in number that they are almost impossible to deal with: We had an overwhelming number of replies to our advertisement. overwhelming can also mean affecting you very strongly: She had an overwhelming desire to show that she could excel at sport.

peer noun your peers are people who are about the same age as you are and are in a similar situation: His parents brought him up very strictly and he envied his peers their freedom. peer pressure noun occurs when you are made to feel that you have to be like your peers and have what they have: There is a great deal of peer pressure to have an upmarket mobile phone.

stress noun a feeling of worry or anxiety caused by a difficult situation: She is experiencing a great deal of stress at work because they do not have enough staff. stressful adjective causing or involving stress: He has a very stressful job. It was a stressful period of their lives.

team player noun a person who performs well when working as part of a team of people, especially at work: The job advert stressed that the firm was looking for a well-qualified person who was a team player.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you agree with your school’s policy on school uniform?
2. Is school uniform more appropriate for students of a particular age?
3. Should school uniform be plain or distinctive?
4. Why do children often disagree with their parents about clothes?
5. What kinds of clothes are unsuitable for school wear?
6. What can schools do to prevent bullying?
7. Why do employers place such importance on teamwork?
8. How might students in uniform express their individuality at school?