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班级
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座号
No. 15

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科目
Subject

日期
Date

Q4. What are the best and worst aspects of being a teenager?

The word 'teenager' first appeared in the 1920s and 1930s. It refers to thirteen- to eighteen-year-olds, increasingly conceptualised as a distinct cohort in media, popular literature and ^{advertisements}.

The best aspect of being a teenager is enjoying more freedom and being able to make important decisions independently. Dealing with increased workload in schools and parental expectations are some of the worst. Furthermore, teenagers are easily misunderstood by adults.

Teenagers definitely enjoy more freedom at this point in their lives. They are more mature and developed to be able to make practical decisions. As they are more mature, their parents are less anxious about their safety because they have learnt to take care of themselves. Parents also tend to trust teenagers more, thus giving them more freedom to explore the world around them. Some examples are being able to go out with friends and getting the keys to the house. The curfew is usually more relaxed and teenagers are permitted to do things without as much supervision as when they were in primary school. Most teenagers take advantage of the opportunity offered by the schools to travel without their parents. Thus, once a child becomes a teenager, he enjoys more freedom and decides what he wants to do with his life. He is much more knowledgeable and his peers guide him more than his parents now.

As a teenager, we get the option to make decisions which will affect our future. We make more informed choices and decisions in our life. We make other choices like the co-curricular activities we want to participate in and the programmes we want to attend to enrich ourselves. In Singapore, ^{Usually we tap into opportunities...} there are many options for teenagers to tap into. There are more leisure activities teenagers can take part in and it is indeed a very exciting stage of their lives. ^{Is this a complete sentence?} Organisations are SCAPE is -centre dedicated to youths. Many seminars are organised for youths to explore issues and give their opinions like JC Symposium and dialogues with a minister. Also, at 13, there are many opportunities offered in terms of education in Singapore. Teenagers can choose to pursue their interests and develop their talents. Thus, speciality schools like SOTA ^{are} is set up. Some have the chance to enter an Integrated Programme too. This is one of the best aspects of being a teenager.

On the flip side of the coin, there is an increase in the number of subjects as compared to primary schools, ^{which means an increased workload.} causing the work to increase too. We have to cope with our school work, co-curricular activities and other programmes. This tires out the teenagers and they often suffer from a lack of sleep. They have to manage their time and priorities. It is a challenging time for them and some do better than others, but usually, all will prevail. At the same time, their parents!

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expectations of them also increased as they are older. All parents hope their children will excel and therefore, expect them to be more focused in their studies and play less. Fulfilling parental expectations is one of the worst aspects. as teenagers are now more aware of their responsibilities. They have more freedom to make their decisions but are more aware of the onus on them to do well for themselves and their parents. Therein lies the stress.

gd-point..
good paragraph, with good development of your point

Teenagers unfortunately, get easily misunderstood. Their hormones are raging and changing constantly. They tend to be more open to ideas and thoughts, and feel the need to express themselves. Parents might not be used to their change in behaviour and might perceive them as being rebellious. Teenagers welcome different ways of dressing and speaking, which may cause misunderstandings too. In the early 1940s, the Bobby Soxer stereotype dominated, which negatively portrayed teenage girls as mindless worshippers of celebrities and adolescents' idols. This shows how teenagers can be misunderstood by adults, which is one of the worst aspects. The mass media gives undue attention to teenagers who are involved in crimes, and thus, making the public think that teenagers are delinquents. The rebellious teenagers are the minority. The majority are good to begin with.

OR: ...giving the public the impression that...

How "productive" your teenage years are depends on how you...

Teenagehood is depending on how you make use of it. Most teenagers find this period of their lives challenging and make full use of it to find themselves.

gd effort, Kay Xin.

You've expressed your ideas clearly and provided many relevant examples.

Keep up the great work!

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What are the best and worst aspects of being a teenager?

Adolescence is the transition period between a child and an adult. During this transitional stage of physical and mental human development, teenagers gain more independence, and are capable of going out and having fun on their own without a chaperone. At the same time, however, they are expected to behave responsibly for their actions. ✓

✓ Before they reach the stage of being a teenager, many children yearn to reach the stage of adolescence, thinking that being a teenager allows them to enjoy more exciting activities in life. Indeed, a teenager is given more freedom to go out with their friends, perhaps to movies and concerts. They are young and vibrant, full of energy and enthusiasm. They can try many new things, without the restraint of time, because they would not tire out easily. They can proceed to watch movies of ratings PG13, NC16 or even M18. Once a teenager reaches the age of 18, he or she has reached the legal age for consuming alcoholic drinks and learning driving.

g.d. point. ✓ Not many teenagers have to bear a lot of responsibilities at this point of their lives yet. As young adults, they are still unable to convince adults that they are able to make the right decisions for themselves. Hence, with the adults guiding them as they go along in life, much of their supposed burden is reduced in many aspects. Teenagers can try new things and gain new experiences, without the fear of making mistakes, for they are young and still have a long way to go. ✓

However, even without the full load of responsibilities of being an adult, teenagers have their own kind of stress. In Singapore, school work increases disproportionately as teenagers enter the next stage of their education, transiting from primary school to secondary school. From taking four subjects at PSLE to as many as the usual nine subjects at Secondary One, not only is there a significant increase in the amount of homework, but quizzes, tests and exams are so frequent. All these add up to the pressure that makes it hard for a teenager to cope. With high expectations from parents and teachers, teenagers feel the need to achieve commendable results to be in the good books of teachers and to not let down their parents. ✓ g.d. paragraph.

Peer pressure is also a universal worry. Being conscious of how they look and the need to fit in disturbs them all the time. Are they always accepted in a group? Are their talents recognized? ✓ What do they wear in order to look like part of the clique? These are just some questions that run through a typical teenager's mind frequently. (The need to achieve) Individualism bugs teenagers, as they struggle in search of self-identity in the society. If one were to behave eccentric or appear weird, there would be an invisible wall that isolates him/her from the rest. As a teenager's self-esteem is partly dependent on the opinion and acceptance of his or her friends, being left out would result in a low self-esteem, which could have a negative effect on a teenager's self-concept. ✓

In conclusion, my opinion is that the best aspects of being a teenager ^{are} having the time and stamina to achieve astonishing accomplishments (might be a desire for all). However, the tremendous stress that teenagers undergo, is not one could imagine without going through that stage.)

Sounds a bit awkward...

Yap Xuan Wei (25)

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suggestion: "... is the price that must be paid."
Any other ideas?

Well done, Xuan Wei!

You've raised good points,
and expressed yourself well ✓

tdk