

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph): Strengths:

- Engaging opening with vivid imagery of classroom atmosphere
- Clear thesis statement presenting main arguments

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Hook → Your opening paragraph shifts abruptly from a negative description to positive aspects of homework, creating confusion for readers. The metaphor of "shining beacon" contradicts the gloomy atmosphere established earlier.

As students face the daily challenge of absorbing new information in class, they often find themselves overwhelmed. However, homework serves as a valuable tool that bridges the gap between classroom learning and home practice.

#2 (Second paragraph): Strengths:

- Clear topic sentence linking to main argument
- Good use of supporting evidence

Weaknesses: Limited Elaboration → Your paragraph relies heavily on stating facts without fully explaining how homework reinforces learning. You could expand on specific ways homework helps students remember concepts.

Homework provides students with opportunities to practice new concepts independently, allowing them to identify areas where they need clarification and strengthen their understanding through hands-on application.

#3 (Fourth paragraph): Strengths:

- Personal example effectively supports the argument
- Clear connection to life skills

Weaknesses: Narrow Focus → Your discussion of self-learning centres mainly on research tasks. You could explore other ways homework promotes independent learning, such as problem-solving or creative projects.

Through various homework tasks, from solving complex maths problems to creating original projects, students develop crucial independent learning skills that extend beyond simple research.

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise but needs deeper development of ideas. The introduction would benefit from a smoother transition between the negative classroom description and positive aspects of homework. You could strengthen your second paragraph by adding specific examples of how homework helps reinforce learning. Additionally, your fourth paragraph could explore more diverse examples of self-learning through homework. Your conclusion would be more impactful if you summarised your main points with fresh wording rather than repeating them. Try to maintain a consistent tone throughout your piece and expand your examples beyond personal experiences. Consider adding counterarguments to make your piece more balanced and convincing.

Score: 45/50

Section 2:

Should Homework be banned?

#1 ~~As students struggle in class with their brains already so full, the monotone of the teacher's lessons fade as soon as they enter their mind. They desolately come home as all of the day's lessons float from one ear out the other.~~ [As students struggle to focus in class with their minds already full, they often find that their teachers' lessons fade quickly. They return home feeling overwhelmed, with the day's lessons barely retained.] Everyday, ~~there is~~ [there seems to be] no improvement, only the old and familiar flat voice that drones on and on in the dull classroom, the boredom so palpable that it almost crystallises the air. As soon as they open their backpack, worn with the dull monotone of the school lessons, a shining beacon comes out. Homework. As our next generation grows up, it is crucial that we reinforce ideas and lessons learnt in school. Although sometimes homework can be unengaging and very methodic, engaging homework really makes the difference in connecting the dots between what they learn in school and do at home, and makes concepts they learn really stick onto them. Homework should not be banned, as it can reinforce ideas from school, help students learn time management and also encourages self-learning.

#2 First of all, homework aids students to remember concepts and lessons learnt at school. In a study by Boston University, on both standardised tests and grades, students in classes that were assigned homework outperformed 69% of students who didn't have homework. This clearly exemplifies the crucial importance of homework ~~about~~ [and] how homework can help students learn and perform better through reinforcement of lessons from school. Homework allows students to revise what they have learned at school and reinforces their memory so they can learn

more and better. Hence, homework should not be banned due to its critical importance of reinforcing learning.

In addition, homework helps students learn time management. Homework assignments often have a due date, which can make students learn how to manage their time better. Ever since I entered the Opportunity Class, I was given assignments over the term instead of in weekly sections. This meant it was up to me to finish everything by the due date and be able to manage my time so I would be able to complete my homework. Not only did I learn how to manage my time better, I learnt that procrastination was a big trap when it came to time management, although I was fortunate to not fall into that trap. In conclusion, homework aids students to establish time management skills which is crucial in their later life.

#3 Furthermore, homework encourages self-learning. Assignments can require a certain level of research. Since homework is an independent task, students learn new concepts through research, encouraging them to self-learn, which is an important skill in later life. My homework assignments from school required me to write an information report about Clyde Tombaugh, as an example. Not only did I learn about his discovery of Pluto through the research I did, I learnt about his personal life and his breakthroughs in astronomy. Hence, homework teaches students how to self-learn.

Ultimately, homework should not be banned, as it is crucial to reinforcing lessons, building time management skills and self-learning. Homework is a guiding light to a brighter future for all of us, as it helps us learn life-skills outside of the classroom. Although it is still underappreciated, it is undeniable that homework is crucial and should not be removed from our education system.