

Section 1:

#1 "First, by volunteering, students can develop a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of how to care for others. These experiences help them grow both personally and professionally. If volunteering were a requirement, students would be encouraged to explore various social issues, broaden their perspectives, and develop a lasting commitment to helping others."

Strengths: Your introduction of the responsibility concept is clear. You've made a logical connection between volunteering and personal growth.

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped premise → Your argument assumes all students would benefit equally from mandatory volunteering without acknowledging potential challenges. You've written "If volunteering were a requirement, students would be encouraged to explore various social issues," but you haven't explained how this requirement would be structured or enforced to ensure meaningful engagement rather than reluctant participation.

Perhaps a structured mandatory volunteering programme could require students to complete 20 hours per term across different community organisations, encouraging them to explore various social issues whilst developing practical skills they can apply to future careers.

#2 "Furthermore, volunteering at a young age provides students with experiences that shape their character and outlook on life. It helps them develop key skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, while also nurturing empathy and a sense of social responsibility."

Strengths: Your identification of specific skills gained through volunteering is effective. You've connected volunteering to broader character development.

Weaknesses: Lack of concrete examples → You've listed several beneficial skills but haven't provided specific scenarios where these skills might be developed. When you write about "teamwork, communication, and problem-solving," your readers would benefit from understanding exactly how volunteering cultivates these abilities in real-world settings.

For instance, when students volunteer at a local food bank, they must communicate effectively with diverse community members, solve logistical problems with limited resources, and work as a team to serve as many people as possible—all valuable experiences that classroom learning alone cannot provide.

#3 "In conclusion, making volunteering mandatory for students can help them develop vital life skills, such as responsibility and empathy, while encouraging them to become more compassionate and caring towards others."

Strengths: Your conclusion effectively summarises your main argument. You've maintained focus on key benefits like empathy and responsibility.

Weaknesses: Limited scope → Your conclusion restates previous points without addressing potential counterarguments or implementation challenges. When writing "making volunteering mandatory," you haven't acknowledged concerns about forcing altruism or practical issues like time constraints for students with other responsibilities.

In conclusion, whilst there may be challenges in implementation, the benefits of a well-designed mandatory volunteering scheme far outweigh the drawbacks, as students develop crucial employability skills and emotional intelligence that will serve them throughout their lives and create a more compassionate society.

■ Your persuasive piece makes some good points about the benefits of volunteering, but it needs more depth to be truly convincing. You could strengthen your argument by including specific examples of successful school volunteering programmes. Also, you should address potential objections to your position—many people believe that forcing students to volunteer defeats the purpose of genuine altruism. Try expanding your second paragraph to explain exactly how volunteering develops the skills you've mentioned. Additionally, consider the practical aspects of implementing mandatory volunteering—how many hours would be required? What types of opportunities would count? Would there be exceptions for certain students? Your piece would be more persuasive if you acknowledged these questions and provided thoughtful answers.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Should Volunteering Be Mandatory for Students?

I believe that volunteering should be mandatory for students, and here's why. Volunteering not only benefits the community but also gives students valuable life experiences and skills.

#1 First, by volunteering, students can develop a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of how to care for others. These experiences help them grow both personally and professionally. ~~If volunteering were a requirement, students would be encouraged to~~ [By making volunteering a requirement, students would be encouraged to] explore various social issues, broaden their perspectives, and develop a lasting commitment to helping others.

#2 Furthermore, volunteering at a young age provides students with experiences that shape their character and outlook on life. It helps them develop key skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, while also nurturing empathy and a sense of social responsibility. Volunteering allows students to better understand the challenges others face, improving their emotional intelligence.

#3 In conclusion, making volunteering mandatory for students can help them develop vital life skills, such as responsibility and empathy, while encouraging them to become more compassionate and caring towards others.