

Academic Writing Sample Task 2A

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Children who are brought up in families that do not have large amounts of money are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up by wealthy parents.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Model response

The social and economic differences between families can be vast, and some people believe that if a child is raised in a less financially secure construct, they are better equipped to deal with life later. I agree with this notion based on two reasons. By living with less, this instills a more resilient attitude and therefore, challenges in life can be less overwhelming and better handled. Moreover, it is more likely to ingrain the determination to be successful and surpass the conditions one grew up with.

To begin with, growing up with a scarcity of money despite its obvious challenges, can produce better coping mechanisms when life is challenging. If a child grows up with less, it is logical to think that their attitude towards life would be to make the best with what you have. Whereas a wealthy child may not be as comparatively resilient because they have had a more comfortable upbringing. Not only this, but perhaps by having less, a child appreciates pleasures outside of materialistic value, and is arguably a more rounded, happier person for it. Take for example Oprah Winfrey, who came from extreme poverty and is one of the most powerful, influential philanthropists of our time.

As well as this, children who might experience more difficult circumstances are more likely to develop greater resiliency as a direct result of this; they might possess a greater determination to surpass the conditions of their childhood. By adulthood, the person is better equipped at not only dealing with problems but wanting to create more for themselves than what they experienced in childhood. For instance, the founder of Starbucks, Howard Shultz, who grew up in a housing complex for the poor, sought success despite his arduous beginnings. The lack of financial stability he faced along the way, was an intrinsic reason for his eventual success.

To summarize, I agree with the idea that children who have a financially challenging childhood, are more likely to be better at dealing with inevitable failure and life's struggles, than their wealthy counterparts.