

Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development
Section VI Opinion Question 1

60

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Opinion
Topic Development
Code 60

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities in high school have greater advantages than those who do not, which is why participation in these activities is significant. Extracurricular activities such as sports, photography groups or book clubs are few of the many groups that can enhance a student's academic performance. It is important that a high school student joins an extracurricular activity to develop co-operation skills, organizational skills and to increase chances of receiving academic rewards.

Students who take part in book clubs or sports develop skills that allow them to work well with others. They learn skills that may not be taught at home or in the classroom. For instance a person who plays volleyball is able to negotiate, co-operate, compromise, share and socialize more confidently than one who is not used to stepping outside of their comfort zone. Extracurricular activities provide a way for young teens to get to know each other and improve their socializing skills to ultimately enhance their secondary school experience.

Not only do teens develop skills in interaction but they also improve their organizational skills. A student who is able to finish their homework and make practice on time is a student who can prioritize, set goals and manage their time. These qualities are highly beneficial to the student's future when it comes to finding their career path which is why mastering these attributes in high school is important. Extracurricular activities teach a student how to excel in that particular activity and how to

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use those skills in the classroom. If these tasks are practised well they will become good habits that can increase their chances of acceptance into a college or university of their choice.

Students who have experience in extracurricular activities have more options when it comes down to applying for college, university and for scholarships. For example a student who gets good grades and is able to juggle a sport or club is more likely to possess the qualities needed in obtaining a scholarship that specializes in that sport or club in comparison to a student who did not have the same experience. Ultimately universities want to see that you put effort into maintaining good grades but also that you went the extra mile to do your best.

As a result students who enhance their skills in communication and organization are more likely to receive a greater benefit such as getting accepted into an elite university or saving money by receiving a scholarship. Even after university and college the skills achieved from joining these activities will benefit in the long run because after all the more effort and hard work you put into something, the greater the award.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (*expand their social groups, develop positive personality traits*).

Reasons are developed with examples and explanations (*more understanding occurs, teamwork, determination, optimism*).

The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The third body paragraph is linked to the first body paragraph (*Because teenagers use cellphones to contact friends in the first place*).

The conclusion returns to the question of need emphasized in the introduction and threaded throughout the response.

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Long Writing
Conventions
Code 40

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Participating in extracurricular activities is not an important part of secondary school life. Students do not have time, they might not have the interest and it would completely over work them.

Firstly, secondary school students do not have time for extracurricular activities. After school activities would take away from the little time students have to spend with friends. To be apart of extracurriculars and having time with friends would be impossible. Also, students need at least a couple of hours everyday to complete their homework. Homework is something that must be done everyday so students do not fall behind in classes. Finally, the parents of the students also have work for them. There are daily chores to be done which takes up even more of a student's time. Therefore, after everything needed to be done is completed, there is no extra time for extracurricular activities.

Secondly, for a lot of students there is a problem with lack of interest. All of the non-athletic students would not be happy doing sport related extracurriculars. They would feel

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bored with playing with people of higher skill. In addition, students would rather be doing things they have chosen. Extracurriculars are run by adults who may not chose what interests that one student. Lastly, a lot of students are more independent and dislike working with others. Some students would rather be at home alone than around a lot of other students because they are shy. It would not be enjoyable for them to be there.

Thirdly, it would over work the students too much. Students are at school most of the day, they also have part time jobs and volunteer hours to get. This is too much for them to handle alone, adding extracurriculars to that list would be over the top. Also, students would come home overly tired at night. This could cause them to be ^{stressed} or moody at times from lack of sleep. Moreover, it could be bad for their health. They would be losing sleep and possibly not have time to eat regularly. Therefore, extracurricular activities could over work the students.

In conclusion, extracurricular activities are not important in a secondary school life because of little spare time, lack of interest and for the fear of over working students.

Annotation:

Control of conventions is evident. Complex and compound sentences are correctly punctuated. Correct use of hyphens ("non-athletic students"). Spelling errors ("to be apart of . . .") do not undermine the overall control of conventions.