

Year 5 English Assessment: The Art of Discussion

Learning objective: To evaluate a balanced discussion text and demonstrate the ability to construct persuasive, objective arguments using formal language.

Read the provided text carefully. Answer all questions using full sentences where required. Ensure your arguments are balanced and your vocabulary is formal.

Should the local park be converted into a community vegetable garden? This is a topic that has sparked significant debate among the residents of Oakwood. Proponents argue that a community garden would provide fresh, organic produce for families, whilst also serving as an outdoor classroom for local schools to learn about biology. Furthermore, it would encourage physical activity and foster a sense of community spirit as neighbours work together. Conversely, those who oppose the project express concerns regarding the loss of the open recreational space. They argue that children need the current grass area for sports and informal play. Additionally, some residents worry about the maintenance required, suggesting that a neglected garden could become an eyesore rather than a benefit. Ultimately, the town council must weigh the nutritional and educational advantages against the need for accessible leisure spaces.

Word bank: alternatively · furthermore · conversely · in contrast · subsequently · perspectives · impartial · nevertheless · consequently

1. Identify two reasons given in the text in favour of building a community vegetable garden. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author uses the word 'conversely' in the second paragraph. What purpose does this serve in a discussion text? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one example of formal language from the text that signals a new point is being added. (1 mark) (1 mark)

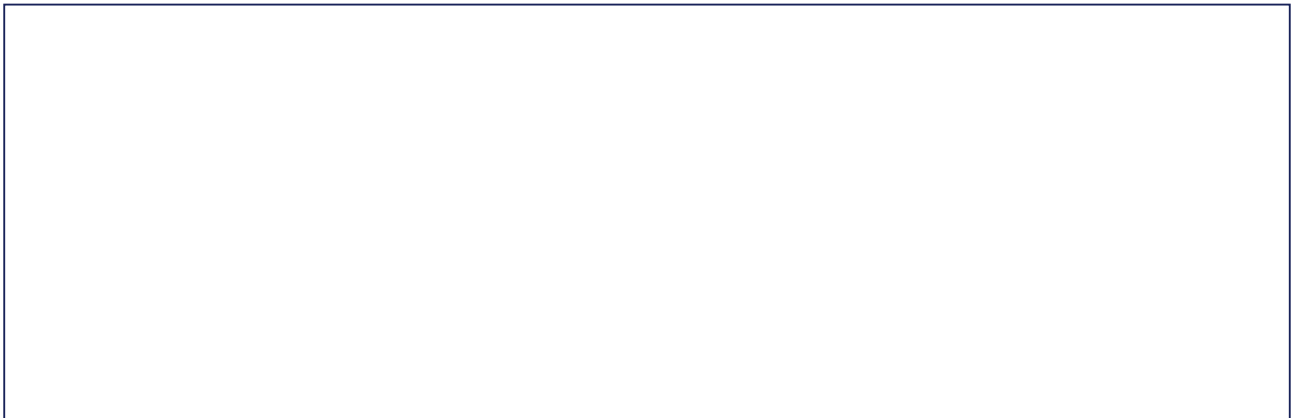
4. Compare and contrast the two opposing viewpoints presented in the text. Which argument do you find more compelling and why? Justify your answer. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Explain why it is important for a discussion text to remain impartial rather than focusing on only one side of the argument. (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. What might happen if the town council decided to create a split-use space? Suggest one way the park could accommodate both a garden and a play area. (3 marks) (3 marks)

7. Write a concluding paragraph for this discussion (50-75 words). Your paragraph must summarise the main debate and offer a balanced summary statement without showing bias. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing how a park could be divided to include both a play area for sports and a community vegetable garden, labelling the different zones.



Extension challenge: Imagine a new debate: 'Should all children in Year 5 be required to learn a musical instrument?' Write a short, balanced paragraph for each side of the argument, using at least three words from the word bank. Total: /25