Should We Have More School Trips?

Learning objective: To identify the features of a balanced discussion text and retrieve information from a persuasive argument.

Read the text below carefully. Consider how the writer presents both sides of the argument before answering the questions.

In recent months, the question of whether our school should increase the number of educational trips has become a popular topic of debate. Some argue that learning outside the classroom is essential. Supporters believe that visiting museums, forests, or historical sites brings the curriculum to life. For example, visiting a local castle helps students understand history in a way that textbooks simply cannot match. Furthermore, these experiences build confidence and teamwork skills among pupils.

Conversely, others suggest that additional trips could be problematic. Critics point out that these excursions are often expensive, with some costing over £25 per student, which might place a financial burden on some families. Additionally, there is the concern that time spent traveling could be better used for focused math and literacy lessons in the classroom. Some argue that the disruption to the school timetable outweighs the benefits of a day out.

In conclusion, while educational trips offer unique and exciting learning opportunities, schools must carefully consider the costs and the impact on core learning time. A balanced approach, perhaps limited to one high-quality trip per term, may be the most sensible solution for everyone.

Word bank: balanced · perspective · argument · concluding · viewpoint · evidence

1. According to the text, what is one benefit of visiting a local castle? (1 mark)

2. How much might an expensive school trip cost according to the passage? (1 mark)

3. Why might some parents feel concerned about the suggestion to increase the number of school trips? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the disruption to the school timetable' suggest about the writer's view on classroom learning? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with the writer’s final suggestion that one trip per term is a 'sensible solution'? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Nova the owl leading a class trip to a forest, with students sketching plants and trees.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph adding a new point to the discussion. You could write about the environmental impact of traveling by coach, or the joy of visiting a new place.