

4 In pairs, discuss the questions.

- 1 What is the writer's opinion of halls of residence?
- 2 Would you like to live in this type of student accommodation? Why?/Why not?

5 Complete the WRITING FOCUS with the words and phrases in purple in the essay.

WRITING FOCUS

A 'for and against' essay

Introduction

- Begin with general or factual comments on the topic.
Many young people beginning university choose to live in halls of residence.
- End with a statement that mentions both sides of the issue.
Although there are several potential ¹ _____ to ... , there are also numerous upsides.

Main paragraphs

- Present *arguments for* in one paragraph and *arguments against* in another.
The first/One/A further/Another/² _____ another benefit/drawback of ...
There are numerous/potential/clear/considerable pluses/³ _____ to ...
One of the most ⁴ _____ /most persuasive/strongest arguments for/against ... is ...
- Develop and support some of your arguments with additional comments or examples.
This allows residents to save time and money.
- Make comparisons.
In the same ⁵ _____ , ...
Similarly,/Equally,⁶ _____ , ...

Conclusion

- Make a summarising statement.
All things ⁷ _____ , /All in all,/On balance, there are pros and cons to ...
- End with your personal opinion.
Personally, I think/feel/believe/⁸ _____ ...

6 Choose the correct options.

- 1 One of the most *persuasive* / *potential* arguments for living at home is the amount of money that can be saved.
- 2 There are also several *numerous* / *clear* upsides to living independently while at university.
- 3 The daily commute is one of the drawbacks of / for living a long way from the university campus.
- 4 Living alone, students learn to cook and clean for themselves. *On balance* / *Equally*, they gain experience in managing their money.
- 5 *All in all* / *Personally*, there are pluses and minuses to remaining in the family home while at university.

7 Read the LANGUAGE FOCUS. Then find two sentences in the essay which express concession.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Expressing concession

You can increase the variety in your written English by including sentences that express concession.

- **Although/Even though + clause**

Although halls of residence are not always the cheapest option, many students prefer them.

*Many students prefer halls of residence **even though they are not always the cheapest option**.*

- **In spite of/Despite + noun/-ing**

In spite of the cost, many students prefer halls of residence.

*Many students prefer halls of residence **despite the cost**.*

***Despite living** cheaply, many students still find themselves short of money.*

8 Rewrite the sentences using the words in capitals.

- 1 Although there are numerous arguments for living with your parents while at university, there are also considerable drawbacks. **DESPITE**
Despite the numerous arguments for living with your parents while at university, there are also considerable drawbacks.
- 2 Many students live at home with their parents, even though there are minuses. **SPITE**
- 3 In spite of the cooking facilities in halls of residence, students often survive on fast food only. **ALTHOUGH**
- 4 Although some student accommodation offers good value for money, it is still likely to be cheaper for students to live with their parents. **DESPITE**
- 5 Many teenagers have plenty of freedom despite living with their parents. **THOUGH**

9 Read the writing task and follow the instructions below.

Many young people who enter higher education choose to study in their hometown and continue living with their parents throughout their university years.

Write an essay of 200–250 words, in which you present arguments for and against this arrangement.

- 1 Think about general or factual comments you could make on the topic.
- 2 Write down arguments for and against the statement and choose the ones you want to use. Decide which ones you will develop and support, and how.
- 3 Think about your personal opinion on the topic and where you will include it.
- 4 Choose sentences from Exercises 6 and 8 to adapt for your essay.

10 Complete the writing task in Exercise 9. Use the WRITING FOCUS and the LANGUAGE FOCUS to help you.