

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having older people living in the family home?

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

In many traditional cultures, members of the same family will live together from childhood to old age. In many cases, older family members living at home is a trend which has both positive and negative aspects.

A significant point **in favour of** this is that it provides a good support network for parents, both of whom may work outside of the home. Having grandparents on hand to look after the children can potentially provide a more stable environment as the child will have a familiar face at home until the parents have finished working. The influence of the grandparents **extends** beyond simple **babysitting**, however. They are able to provide a source of advice and knowledge that can greatly benefit all members of the family on a range of subjects, especially for when there are new born babies in the home as this can be a stressful time for new parents.

There are, of course, also disadvantages in having older people at home. There is the issue of space, as the family home may not be big enough to **accommodate** everyone comfortably. There is also the issue of deciding which members of the family should live together, as both the husband and wife may both have living parents.

To conclude, there are clear positives and negatives to having older members of the family living in the same house. Although at times there may be typical **frictions** when people live together, this is arguably outweighed by the advantages of the support and knowledge older people are able to offer.

(256 words)



Các cụm từ cần nhớ

• in favour of: ủng hộ cho

• extend(v): kéo dài, trải dài

• babysitting: trông trẻ

• accommodate(v): chứa

• friction(n): ran nút

Families who send their children to private schools should not be required to pay taxes that support the state education system.

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

Some people believe that parents of children who attend private schools should not need to contribute to state schools through taxes. Personally, I completely disagree with this view.

For a variety of reasons, it would be wrong to reduce taxes for families who pay for private education. Firstly, it would be difficult to calculate the correct amount of **tax reduction** for these families, and staff would be required to manage this complex process. Secondly, we all pay a certain amount of tax for public services that we may not use. For example, most people are fortunate enough not to have to call the police or fire brigade at any time in their lives, but they would not expect a tax reduction for this. Finally, if wealthy families were given a **tax discount** for sending their children to private schools, we might have a situation where poorer people pay higher taxes than the rich.

In my opinion, we should all be happy to **pay our share of the money that supports public schools**. It is beneficial for all members of society to have a high quality education system with equal opportunities for all young people. This will result in a well-educated workforce, and in turn a more productive and prosperous nation. Parents of children in



private schools may also see the advantages of this in their own lives. For example, a company owner will need well qualified and competent staff, and a well-funded education system can provide such employees. In conclusion, I do not believe that any financial concessions should be made for people who choose private education.

(269 words)

Các cụm từ cần nhớ

• tax reduction: việc giảm thuế

• tax discount: khấu trừ thuế

 pay the share of the money that supports public schools: trả phần tiền xây dựng các trường học công lập