

# 3

## Taking a break DSE

### GAP YEAR

Level:  Level 3



#### Let's think!

1. What is a gap year?
2. Would you consider taking a gap year? Why or why not?

#### PLAYLIST



#### READ ALONG



?

**1** Lucas is a high school graduate from Chicago. He has embarked on an adventure to see the world before finding his place in it. While taking a year off is less common among US students, Lucas decided to take the time off. What motivated Lucas to make this decision?

5

**2** A gap year refers to the time between finishing secondary school and beginning tertiary education. During this period, students typically travel, volunteer, participate in an internship or work abroad.

**3** 'At first, the idea of a gap year didn't seem to be on the cards,' explained Lucas.



'However, engaging in remote learning for an extended period of time became exhausting. I found myself wanting to enrich my life by gaining different experiences and acquiring new skills. Most importantly, I wanted to find the right career path.'

10

**4** Lucas and some famous people see eye to eye on the choice. British actress Emma Watson used her gap year to shape herself into the women's rights activist we see today. Prince William also took a gap year, during which he joined the British Army, worked on local farms and provided volunteer services in Africa. The prince gained various experiences and learnt a new language—Swahili. According to career expert Victoria Martin, a gap year has enabled these individuals to explore opportunities and utilise their skills. This has set them apart from others.

15

**5** However, a poorly planned gap year could be disadvantageous. For example, without proper planning and organisation, a gap year abroad may take a huge financial toll on you. 'I've kept an emergency fund. It allows me to have greater financial flexibility in unpredictable situations,' added Lucas.

20

25



# UNIVERSITY



6 Lucas has an interest in photography. He has been pondering whether he can transform his passion into a lifelong career. He is now volunteering for a charitable organisation as an event photographer. He is responsible for snapping high-quality images.

7 Although uncertainties may arise during a gap year, it also provides young adults like Lucas with incredible experiences! 30

## Comments:



**Tech Rider** 11 Oct 20XX 22:49

Though a gap year can cost you an arm and a leg, it is well worth it.

50 Replies 150 Likes

35



**Dancing Queen** 12 Oct 20XX 13:56

Just go for it! The skills you learn will come in handy.

32 Replies 120 Likes



**Princess Aqua** 12 Oct 20XX 14:00

Let's try something out of the ordinary.

20 Replies 168 Likes

40

~380 words



## Looking into Grammar

**No articles is used if the countable plural or uncountable nouns are being used in a non-specific way.**

✗ However, engaging in the remote learning (✓ **remote learning**) for an extended period of time became exhausting ...

✓ Lucas has an interest in **photography**.

? Circle THREE countable plural nouns which are used in a non-specific way in paragraph 7.

Read the text and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (26 marks)

1. According to paragraph 1, what is Lucas’s nationality?

1 Which country does Lucas come from?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the ‘decision’ (line 5) in paragraph 1 refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is a ‘gap year’?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Complete the list by filling in each blank with ONE word taken from paragraph 2.

**Things to do in your gap year**

- ✧ (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the world
- ✧ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ for charity
- ✧ Do an (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ locally or (iv) \_\_\_\_\_

5. In paragraph 3, what does ‘didn’t seem to be on the cards’ (line 9) mean?

- A. The idea of a gap year was possible.
- B. Taking a gap year was unlikely to happen.
- C. It was tiring to set off for an adventure after high school.
- D. It was wise to take a break from formal education.

A    B    C    D  
        

6. Give THREE benefits of having a gap year according to paragraph 3.

Taking a gap year helps students \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who does ‘them’ (line 20) in paragraph 4 refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Fill in each blank with a word taken from paragraph 5.

Taking a gap year abroad may involve (i) \_\_\_\_\_ expenses. Therefore, Lucas has built up some (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ savings.

9. Find a word in paragraph 6 that means ‘thinking carefully and seriously’.

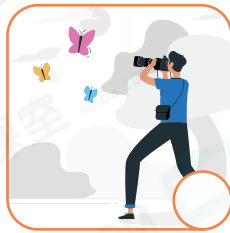
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Match the pictures below with paragraphs in the text. Write the paragraph numbers in the circles. (4 marks)

(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



11. Which paragraph does each of the following statements refer to? Write the correct paragraph numbers in the boxes.

Statement	Paragraph
(i) Young people should try turning their interest into a profession.	
(ii) Always have extra money around in case something happens.	
(iii) Some celebrities have gap year experiences.	

12. What is the tone of the writer towards taking a gap year?

12 Pay attention to the last paragraph.

- A. confused
- B. supportive

- C. doubtful
- D. disapproving

- A    B    C    D
- 

13. Use the information in the text to match the people (A–D) with the following comments. Write the correct letters on the lines.

A. Dancing Queen

B. Tech Rider

C. Princess Aqua

D. Lucas

Take a step forward and you'll see a change of scene.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

After the gap year, I'm a step closer to my dream.

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

To be honest, a gap year can be costly.

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

The skills will prove to be useful in unexpected ways.

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Which of the following best replaces ' \_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ ' in the title?

- A. How to survive a gap year?
- B. Avoiding mistakes during a gap year
- C. Gap year: a hurdle or an opportunity?
- D. Making a breakthrough with a gap year

- A    B    C    D
-

# Vocabulary

## GLOSSARY



A. Complete the guide below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

**Adjective:** lifelong tertiary unpredictable

**Adverb:** abroad

**Idiom:** be on the cards see eye to see

**Noun:** uncertainty

**Phrasal verb:** embark on

**Verb:** ponder utilise

## A guide to choosing the right university

If you (1) \_\_\_\_\_ whether to study at a local university or (2) \_\_\_\_\_, this guide can offer you some tips and advice. Read on to learn more!



### Studying overseas

You should factor in the higher tuition fees for international students, as well as your living expenses. Be well-prepared for a lot of (3) \_\_\_\_\_: a new environment, new friends, a new language, and so on. While things may be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and may not go as planned, try not to be too anxious. It might take some time, but eventually, you will get used to it. By that time, you will find studying abroad a rewarding experience!

### Choosing degree subjects

Unlike secondary schools, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ education institutions offer many more courses. The choices they offer can confuse students who do not know what they want to study. Therefore, you should figure out your interests and goals before you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ your educational journey.



### Seeking advice

Try to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the support provided by your school. The careers guidance team can offer helpful suggestions. Talk to your parents about your plan to see if they (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with you about it, as they have more experience. If you listen to advice from the right people, a wonderful university life (9) \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember that studying is a / an (10) \_\_\_\_\_ journey, and you can gain valuable experiences that will benefit you for a long time to come.

B. Complete the diagram with the given phrases.

### Things to do during your gap year

Acquire new skills

Find new interests

Get hired

Go travelling

Participate in internships

Serve the community

Set goals

Take a break

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Build a skill set that may prove useful in your future career.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Go on a journey for fun and adventure.

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Think about what you want to achieve in the future.

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Use your spare time to help those in need.

What can you do during your gap year?



5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gain exposure in a specific industry.

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work in a paid job, be it part-time or full-time.

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Think about what you may love to do, like painting.

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Get some rest to focus on your friends and family.

## Writing

**My views on taking a gap year**

What are the pros and cons of taking a gap year? Write an article to share your thoughts in about 150 words.