

**Writing Task: The Value of School Trips**

- **Time: 45 minutes**
- **Marks available:** This response will be given a scaled score with a maximum value of 100.

Your headteacher makes the following statement in an assembly:

*'School trips are a poor use of student and teacher time. We should stop organising trips and instead focus on regular lessons in school.'*

**How far do you agree with this statement?**

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

**In agreement with the statement:**

- **Academic Focus:** School trips often take students away from regular lessons. By eliminating trips, schools can ensure that students spend more time in classrooms, focusing on their learning. This could potentially lead to better academic outcomes as there would be less interruption to the learning process.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Organising school trips can be expensive, involving costs for transportation, entry fees, and sometimes accommodation. By using these funds to improve resources within the school, schools can directly benefit all students daily, rather than a select few on occasional trips.

**Against the statement:**

- **Experiential Learning:** School trips provide unique opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom environment. Visiting historical sites, museums, or natural habitats can bring subjects to life and deepen understanding in ways that cannot be achieved through lessons alone.
- **Personal Development:** School trips often encourage teamwork, independence, and social skills among students. They provide opportunities for students to interact with peers and teachers in a less formal setting, fostering relationships and personal growth.

**Now write!**

Write a letter to your headteacher explaining your views on the value of school trips. You can use the ideas here as a starting point and develop them in more detail, or come up with your own reasons.