

Task for *Mahtab's Story*

Reflective Essay

Your task:

'They talked less of him and more of their life before. They dredged up from their minds the memories of their home and their family, talking about Grandma, aunts and uncles and cousins until the pain of remembering became too great and they begged each other to stop.'
(p. 50)

Family bonds play an important role in *Mahtab's Story* and the hope of reuniting the family is what motivates Mahtab and her family to keep going.

Write a reflective essay in which you discuss the importance of family to you.

In your essay, you should link your ideas to those presented in the novel *Mahtab's Story*, in relation to its protagonist Mahtab.

Use this sheet for drafting and planning, you may need more space than is provided for your completed response.

Introduction

The first paragraph of your essay is the introduction. It introduces what you will discuss in the rest of your essay:

- Start by naming the topic of your essay (1 sentence).
- Summarise what each of your body paragraphs will be about (2–3 sentences).
- End by naming what your opinion or argument is, including your definition of how you have interpreted the topic prompt (1 sentence).
- In a reflective essay, you may use the 1st person (I, me, my), as well as bringing in examples from wider society. For example, *"It is without a doubt that family plays a key role in our lives. Without my family I would not be the person I am today, and it is my parents, siblings and extended family that have had the biggest impact on my life"*

Body paragraphs

Your body paragraphs are the main part of your essay, where you introduce information and arguments. In each body paragraph, you should:

- Name the topic of the paragraph (1 sentence);
- Explain your main point (1–2 sentences);
- Use detailed examples and quotes to prove your main point (2–4 sentences);
- Explain how the facts/quotes you have included prove your main point (1–2 sentences).

Body paragraph 1

Explain the first way in which family has been important to you. In terms of structure, you may choose for example to write one body paragraph about parents, one about siblings and one about extended family. Try to decide on your structuring before you begin to write your paragraphs.

Body paragraph 2

Explain the second way in which family has been important to you.

Body paragraph 3

Explain the second way in which family has been important to you.

Conclusion

The last paragraph of your essay is the conclusion. The conclusion echoes the introduction and summarises the main points from your essay. It should:

Start by explaining your overall opinion (1 sentence);

Summarise what each of your body paragraphs were about (2–3 sentences);

Give advice, make predictions, or draw conclusions which support your opinion (1–2 sentences).
