

Exercise 4

12 Read the article about becoming an astronaut.

Write a summary about the requirements for becoming an astronaut.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 8 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

How to become an astronaut

Becoming an astronaut is a dream that many people have had since childhood. It can be very difficult to meet even the basic requirements, which makes it a hard job to get, but it's also one of the most exciting and rewarding things that anyone can do.

If you decide to apply and happen to be rejected the first time, all is not lost. One astronaut applied fourteen times to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) before he was accepted. The high level of motivation he showed by applying a fifteenth time was one of the key qualities NASA wanted, making him just the kind of person they were looking for!

Many people think that astronaut applicants must come from a military background, for example from the army or the air force. However, many successful applications now come from those with a non-military career. No matter what background applicants may have, they need at least a first degree in a relevant subject, like engineering. Many astronauts have a higher degree in their field of study, such as a master's or a doctorate, but this is not vital. However, space agencies will always look for someone who can demonstrate they have a love of learning.

It takes more than education to be selected as an astronaut, however. NASA, for example, wants at least three years of professional experience in a related field.

Candidates must also pass a series of demanding physical tests. Regular checks will be made on every potential astronaut's blood pressure, so this cannot be too high. Perfect eyesight, either naturally or with corrective lenses such as glasses, is hugely important – your own life, and the lives of other crew members will rely on your vision. Also, given that a lot of the tasks astronauts have to carry out when in space are manual in nature, anyone hoping to become one of the few people who make it into space will need to be very good with their hands.

There are no specific age restrictions and astronauts selected in the past have ranged between the ages of 25 and 46, with the average being in the mid-thirties. What is specified though is that you must be within the minimum and maximum heights, and these differ according to the space agency you wish to apply to.

A typical space mission on the International Space Station these days lasts for around six months. Some astronauts even stay for as long as a year. The ability to work as a team member is therefore of high importance as, during this time, astronauts live in close contact with a crew of up to five other people.

So if you still think you have everything you need to become an astronaut, what are you waiting for? After all, for an astronaut, the sky's the limit!

There are numerous fundamental essentials to pursue an astronaut career. Firstly, one must have a high-level of motivation and the ability to display their love of learning. A minimum of a first degree in a relevant subject and three years of advanced experience in a related field are also ~~ess~~necessary. Moreover, one must get through a series of demanding physical tests and be within the boundaries of a set height. In addition to having an ideal eyesight, one ought to have the ability to work and be part of a team. Finally, one needs to have expertise in hand-based tasks.

Content:

-9 points covered

[103 words]

Language:

-Good use of use own words but more paraphrasing can be done

Exercise 5



- 13 When you were on your way home from school recently, you saw someone who needed some help. You decided to help.

Write an email to a friend about what happened.

In your email, you should:

- explain why the person needed some help
- describe how you helped them
- say what the person did later to thank you.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your email, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

— a friend's car stopped
 * he had an important competition coming up & would be able to participate
 * so might run late & won't be able to participate
 * no workshop no.
 * no internet connection
 * not been able to work by day

— I searched online for a workshop and told them to
 come to location
 — took him with me in my father's car
 * not

— * invited me to celebration of his winning
 * thanked me in front of all people

Dear Ben,

I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your pet cat Bubbles. I know how important she was to you. Anyway, I thought I might drop you a line to cheer you up a bit. Guess what happened today!

A friend of mine approached me pleading for help as I was outside school ^{waiting} for my driver's car. Unfortunately, his car had an unexpected problem and now he might run late for the singing competition that's just after an hour. Surprisingly, he ~~had~~ ^{neither had an} internet connection to find a nearby workshop ~~nor~~ ^{neither} a mechanic's number! It must have been his unlucky day!

In ~~At~~ the blink of an eye, I searched for a workshop online through my cutting-edge phone and called them to come to the current location. Fortunately, my ~~dad~~ driver ~~has~~ ^{had} arrived ^{before the mechanic came} and I ~~took him by~~ offered him a ride to the venue where the competition will be taking place. Everything then went fine. Aren't I a hero?!

You won't believe what happened later! He won the competition and got the first place! I was invited to the celebration party of his winning and he thanked me in front of all the audience. I was over the moon!

Time to hit the sack. See you soon.
Lots of love,

your name

Content:

-Tasks fulfilled and well developed

Language:

-Avoid simple mistakes

-Use more advanced and less common vocabulary

[206 words]

Exercise 6

- 14 Your class has been discussing whether receiving prizes for doing well at school is a good idea.

Here are two comments from your classmates:

Prizes are fair because everyone has the same chance of winning.

There are better ways of getting students to work hard.

Write an article for your teacher, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your article, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

- students work harder
- * stay motivated
- * increases competitiveness
- * ↑ productivity

- improve life of student and act as a motivator

- increase their self-confidence if won
- * make them more goal-oriented
- which sets them up for real life
- makes poor performing students eager to study more.

- make their parents proud

* instills happiness into people

Content:

-A better introduction which addresses the topic more effectively within context could have been written

Language:

-Avoid simple mistakes

-Use more advanced and less common vocabulary

The world we currently live in is rapidly growing into an enormous melting pot. A topic which has opened a whole new can of worms is related to prizes and whether they are effective tools in rewarding students for their exemplary performance. Personally, I believe they are more than just perfect.

Firstly, it pushes students to work harder and ~~it~~ significantly increases the competitiveness among peers, which in turn improves each student's productivity. This will ultimately lead ~~to~~ poor-performing pupils to ^{possibly} study more and stay motivated for a chance to win.

Moreover, when a student wins, they get an instant boost of self-confidence and make their parents proud; this instills happiness and contentment into their hearts. This prize will most probably - later - act as an emotional connection to the school memories, thus making ~~them~~ ^{the memories} more cheerful and enjoyable to remember. students'

Furthermore, prizes shape students' personalities and ~~make~~ by making them have a more goal-oriented approach; hence, it sets them up for the real life. Some opposers may claim that there are better ways of getting students to work hard. What they don't take in mind is that recent researches have already concluded that ^{providing} prizes ~~are~~ ^{is} the best way ~~to~~ motivate students.

All in all, beyond a shadow of a doubt I believe that all schools should adopt such a flawless scheme.

[216 words]