

Model Essay

2. Some parents offer their school-age children money for each high grade (mark) they get in school. Do you think this is a good idea?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your idea.

Currently, children may get some money as an award from their parents for the high grade they get at school. **From my perspective, however**, it is not a good idea for parents to do so.

In the first place, awarding children money for good grades at school will have negative effects on children in the long run. As we know, teenagers are immature and their moral values are easily influenced by what they observe and experience. Therefore, if a teenager is awarded with money when he/she gets a high mark in the recent exam, he/she will inevitably associate the high grade with money and may consider the purpose of getting a higher score is to win money as a prize. If so, the genuine meaning of study and education will be overshadowed. Once there will be no money as an award, the passion and enthusiasm will definitely decline. **Take my cousin, Tom, as an example.** When Tom was in the primary school, his parents always gave him some money according to the score he got in the exam: *maybe 5 dollars for 80, 10 dollars for 90 and 20 dollars for the full mark, 100.* **(detailed)** From then on, the only stimulus(刺激, 促进因素) for Tom to study hard is to earn more money in this way. However, when Tom entered middle school, his parents stopped giving him money as prize and he soon found study dull and boring, for the only stimulation had gone. As a result, Tom gradually fell behind his classmates and often got poor academic performance at school. **If Tom had not received money as award when he was young**, he would not have developed such a wrong perspective toward study.

Furthermore, parents should adopt more positive and effective awarding methods. For most teenagers, money is not a necessity in their daily life, for parents almost provide all they need for them. Thus, if teenagers get a good academic performance, parents may offer more meaningful awards, among which traveling is a good choice. By traveling, children can not only get relaxed after a long time stressful study, but also broaden their horizons. What's more, traveling may further inspire children's interest for study. **For example, I got straight A in my final exam years ago, and as an award, I got the chance to travel in the United States. In Pennsylvania, I learned a lot about the**

American history and in New York city, I witnessed the prosperity(n. 繁荣, 成功) of American today. I felt excited because all these are not accessible in my history books. Besides, the visit to several universities like Harvard and Yale buried a seed of pursuing my further study there in my mind. After back to my hometown, I even studied harder in order to be enrolled in my dream school in the US. For me, the traveling to America awarded by my parents is much more valuable than any amount of money they would give me.

In conclusion, it is advisable for parents not to offer their children money as an award **due to** the negative consequence of such method as well as other better approaches.