

**OGCIS**  
**ENTRANCE EXAM READING**  
**BOOKLET**

# Part One: Infographic

## Friendship

*"A man's friendships are one of the best measures of his worth" - Charles Darwin*

### Benefits

- #1** Having some friends can help you cope with loneliness and avoid isolation.
- #2** You can get some emotional support from your bestfriend who cares and wants to help.
- #3** Having friends can increase your sense of belonging and purpose.
- #4** Knowing your friends are there to support you, can help you to feel safer and more secure.
- #5** Friends can give you new ideas and teach you things you did not know.

### Stages of Friendship

Most people have 7-9 close friends in their lives.

- Acquaintances**: Occasional contact with basic knowledge of each other.
- Casual Friends**: Have common interests, and often meet to discuss these interests. No serious emotional attachment.
- Close Friends**: Similar interests and life goals. Often work to support each other to reach these goals. Share similar worldviews, values and ideals.
- Intimate Friends**: Committed to the development of each others character. Requires the friendship to be vulnerable, and be able to correct each other. Open, honest, and committed.

### Changes over time

Self-reported percent of American adults who have close friends in 1990 and 2021

Number of Friends	1990 (%)	2021 (%)
None	~5	~12
1-4	~32	~48
5-9	~30	~28
10+	~33	~13

Teens favorite way of communicating, 2012 vs. 2018.

Way of Communicating	2012 (%)	2018 (%)
IN PERSON	49%	35%
TEXTING	33%	32%
SOCIAL MEDIA	7%	16%
VIDEO-CHATTING	2%	10%

18% of girls in the United Kingdom say they have friends they only talk to online.

## **Part Two: Non-fiction Reading**

### ***"The Value of Friendship"***

Friendship is one of the most important parts of life. For high school aged students, as you grow and go through school, friendships help shape who you are, how you feel about yourself, and how you treat others. Friends are people who care about you, support you, and share your experiences. This essay will explore what makes friendship valuable, how friends help us grow, and the different ways we can be good friends.

#### **What is Friendship?**

At its simplest, friendship is the bond between two people who care about each other. A friend is someone you trust, enjoy spending time with, and can rely on. A good friend listens to you, encourages you when you're feeling down, and celebrates your successes. Friends can come from anywhere—school, sports teams, clubs, or even your neighborhood.

Friendship is built on trust, respect, and kindness. Without these qualities, it's hard for a friendship to last. You want to be around people who make you feel good about yourself, who help you when you're struggling, and who make life more fun. In the same way, you also need to be that kind of friend to others.

#### **Why is Friendship Important?**

Friendship helps make life better in many ways. First, friends help you feel less lonely. Even if you have a big family or lots of people around you, there's something special about a friendship that can make you feel connected and understood.

Friends also help you manage stress and challenges. If you've ever had a bad day, talking to a friend can make everything feel a little better. Friends give you advice, listen to your problems, and sometimes just offer a distraction when things are tough.

Moreover, friends help you discover who you are. When you spend time with different people, you learn more about your likes and dislikes, your strengths and weaknesses, and even the things you need to work on. Friends challenge you to grow by sharing different ideas, hobbies, and ways of seeing the world.

Lastly, friendship teaches you important life skills. Learning how to communicate, solve conflicts, and show empathy are all parts of being a good friend. These skills are not only helpful for friendships but for many other relationships you'll have throughout your life.

## **How Friends Make Us Better**

One of the greatest things about friendship is how it helps us grow as people. When we have good friends, we are encouraged to be our best selves. They inspire us to work harder, to be kinder, and to never give up on our goals.

Friends also give us confidence. When you know someone believes in you, you start to believe in yourself too. Friends cheer for your successes and remind you of your worth when you forget it. They see the good in you, even when you don't see it in yourself.

Sometimes, friends help us grow by challenging us. Maybe a friend disagrees with you about something, and you both have to talk it out. While it might seem uncomfortable at first, learning to handle disagreements respectfully helps you understand other points of view and strengthens your bond with others.

Friends can also introduce you to new experiences. Maybe your friend loves a hobby you've never tried, or they have a different way of seeing the world that teaches you something new. By sharing these experiences, you grow as a person and open your mind to new possibilities.

## **How to Be a Good Friend**

Being a good friend means more than just having fun together. It's about being there when it matters. One important part of friendship is listening. Sometimes your friend might just need someone to talk to, and being a good listener shows that you care about their feelings.

Another key part of friendship is trust. Good friends keep their promises, respect each other's secrets, and are honest with each other. Trust is like the foundation of a strong friendship. If you break someone's trust, it can be hard to repair the relationship.

Kindness is also essential. Everyone has tough days, and being kind, even when things aren't going well, shows your friends that you care. Small acts of kindness—like helping a friend with homework or sending them a kind message—can make a big difference.

Forgiveness is another important part of friendship. No one is perfect, and sometimes friends make mistakes. If a friend hurts your feelings, it's okay to feel upset, but it's also important to talk about it and try to forgive them. Holding onto anger can hurt a friendship, but forgiveness can help it grow stronger.

## **The Impact of Friendship**

Good friendships can last a lifetime and have a lasting impact on your happiness and health. Studies show that people with strong friendships are often happier and more confident. Having friends can help reduce stress and even improve your health, both mentally and physically. People with good friends feel supported, loved, and understood, which can make life more fulfilling.

Additionally, friends can help you become a better person by teaching you how to be patient, understanding, and caring. Learning to work through problems, celebrate each other's victories, and support each other through tough times are all important lessons that carry into adulthood.

## **Conclusion**

Friendship is one of the most valuable relationships you can have. It helps you feel supported, teaches you important life skills, and makes life more enjoyable. Being a good friend takes effort, but it's worth it because of the joy and growth that friendship brings. By being kind, trustworthy, and understanding, you can build friendships that last a lifetime. Remember, the best friendships are built on mutual respect and care for each other. So, always be the kind of friend you would want to have.

## Part Three: Fiction Reading

### ***"Jasmine Girl" by Jey Manokaran***

Shanti wanted the wooden doll in Ramu's toy shop. "The one with the red dress," she told her best friend, Jodi.

"How will you afford it?" Jodi asked.

Shanti smiled. "I asked my mom if I could make jasmine **garlands** and sell them at my aunt's market stall. Want to do that, too?"

"Good idea!" said Jodi.

Early the next morning, the girls met at the jasmine bushes outside of Shanti's house. Delicate white flowers surrounded them with a fresh scent. They **nipped** the blossoms with their fingers and dropped them into a basket. Then the girls sat under a mango tree and knotted the flowers into garlands. Shanti could already see herself hugging that beautiful doll.

"If we sell enough garlands, we can each get a doll," said Shanti.

Jodi shook her head. "My family is low on money this week. I'll use my money to pay for Kiran's medicine." Kiran was Jodi's little brother.

"Is he sick?" Shanti asked.

"He is. But when he gets his medicine, he'll be fine." Jodi picked up her garlands. "My mother is expecting me. I'll meet you at the market."

Shanti spent the afternoon selling garlands at her aunt's market stall. But where was Jodi? By early evening, Shanti had sold all her flowers.

Shanti was on her way home when she saw Jodi heading to the market with her garlands. "Why are you so late?" Shanti asked.

"I had to watch Kiran while my mother ran an **errand**," Jodi said.

"Why didn't you take him with you?" Shanti said.

Jodi shook her head. "He's too sick to go out. He coughs and coughs."

Shanti knew Jodi wouldn't make enough money for the medicine now. The market would be closing soon.

Shanti looked at the money pouch **clutched** in her hand. It was supposed to be for the beautiful doll she'd been dreaming of for so long. Then she looked at her friend's tired face. "Here. Keep this for the medicine." Shanti put her money into Jodi's hands.

That night, Shanti cried, thinking about the doll. What if someone bought it before she'd saved up enough again?

The next week, while Shanti and Jodi gathered blossoms, Kiran came, too. The medicine had cured his cough, and he ran about laughing and throwing flowers into the air.

Jodi said, "Now you're Kiran's best friend. Your money made him well."

The three of them sold garlands at the market that afternoon. After Shanti helped her aunt pack up the stall, she ran to Ramu's shop. She burst in and spilled her money across the counter. "My doll!" she cried. "The one in the red dress!"

Ramu said, "I'm sorry, Shanti. Someone bought it."

Shanti gasped. She gathered up her money and ran out the door before Ramu could see her tears.

"What's wrong, sweetheart?" her mother asked when she ran inside.

"My doll is gone!" Shanti sobbed.

Her mother hugged her, then handed her a bumpy package wrapped in paper. "Jodi dropped this off for you."

On the front of the package was a note: For our best friend, Shanti. From Jodi and Kiran. With shaking hands, Shanti unwrapped it.

Her doll! Jodi had bought the doll for Shanti! The dress glowed a rich red, and the hair was braided with tiny white flowers.

Shanti hugged the doll. "I'll call her Jasmine," she said.