

Family and Community Ties Practice Questions

Below is a list of practice essay questions on the theme. They have been provided by teachers in the European school system and can be used in preparation for your exams.

Don't forget that there are also questions on the pre-Bac and from previous s6 papers that are useful to look at too.

1. Sometimes it is easier to build a close bond with your community than your family. Discuss.
2. Having caused problems for their families or communities, how do individual characters attempt to atone for their deeds?
3. 'Blood is thicker than water' is a very well-known saying which suggests that family ties are stronger than anything else. In the texts that you have read on the theme of 'Family and Community ties', is this saying borne out? Please refer to 2 set texts and 1 other in your answer.
4. Tension between internal family values and those of the wider community provides writers with a rich source of literary ideas. Discuss this statement with reference to
5. How do writers in the texts you have read on the theme of 'Family and Community ties' create a strong sense of community?
6. 'No matter where you live, brothers are brothers and sisters are sisters. The bonds that keep family close are the same no matter where you are.'

Takayuki Ikkaku, Arisa Hosaka and Toshihiro Kawabata, *Animal Crossing: Wild World*, 2005

Examine the bonds between sisters and brothers in the texts you have studied this year.

7. Explore the idea of heritage and family traditions in the texts you have studied.
8. How have relationships individuals have with their communities changed or developed in the texts you have read?
9. "Blood is thicker than water, but family isn't just about blood. Family is about faith, and loyalty, and who you love. If you don't have those things, I don't care what the blood says. You're not family."

Midnight Blue-Light Special, Seanan McGuire, published 2013

How true do you find this statement?

10. 'No man is an island entire of itself' John Donne

Is it true that all humans are connected to other humans? Discuss with reference to at least two of the texts you have studied.

11. Philip Larkin wrote that parents 'fill you with the faults they had / And add some extra, just for you.' (This be the Verse).

Is this true? Discuss with reference to at least two of the texts you have studied.

12. In literature we see a wide variety of parent and child bonds reflected. With reference to at least two texts you have studied, examine whether the bond between a parent and child can be irrevocably broken, or whether it is something that remains through struggle.

13. "There is no such thing as a "broken family." Family is family, and is not determined by marriage certificates, divorce papers, and adoption documents. Families are made in the heart. The only time family becomes null is when those ties in the heart are cut. If you cut those ties, those people are not your family. If you make those ties, those people are your family. And if you hate those ties, those people will still be your family because whatever you hate will always be with you."

C. JoyBell C. ([goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/C_JoyBell_C))

Discuss the above statement. To what extent is this reflected in the texts you have studied. (Refer to at least two texts).

14. "Everyone needs to argue now and then just to prove that the relationship is strong enough to survive. Long term relationships, the ones that matter, are all about weathering the peaks and the valleys" - Nicholas Sparks

Examine the idea that conflict is essential to determine the strength of relationships.

15. "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences" Audre Lorde

Discuss.

16. "Then I discovered that being related is no guarantee of love!"

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Stieg Larsson

With reference to at least two works you have studied, write an essay in response to Larsson's comment.

17. "There is no such thing as fun for the whole family." (Jerry Seinfeld)

Discuss how the texts you have studied approach the problem of reconciling the needs of individuals within close families, groups or societies.

18. Discuss how the texts you have studied deal with the pressures of belonging to a close-knit family group or society.

19. It is a widely said belief that 'to understand the adult one should better understand the child'.

Do you agree? Discuss how the writers you have studied explore the theme of childhood and its lasting impact.

20. With reference to the texts you have studied what have you learnt about the role of women within families either as mothers, sisters or daughters?

21. 'No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.' - John Donne

How have ideas of isolation and community shaped the relationships individuals have with those around them?