It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behaviour to children?

One of the most important stages in the development of a child's character is the time they learn to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Many people believe that it is necessary to punish children at a young age in order to accomplish this. I totally agree that parents need to discipline children from a young age because only by doing so is the only way that children will learn what unacceptable behaviour is. This essay will outline the type of punishment that can be given to young children to teach them good conduct.

This essay will suggest that ________ is the main reason for punishment being necessary and then submit that the best method of discipline is __________.

Try to incorporate your answers to both questions.

As adults, most of us were have been disciplined for doing something wrong when we were children. When we were punished we associated the punishment with our behaviour and in doing so, we learned what bad behaviour is. For instance, when my young niece hit someone, her parents disciplined her and she has since learned that she should not hit others. Only when she was chastised did she know that hitting other people was wrong.

Using a personal anecdote is never recommended. Perhaps it only works for your niece. You need to explain what happens if we are not punished as children.

It is clear that punishment brings about knowledge of what is right and wrong, but it is important that parents and teachers use an appropriate method of punishment to ensure the child is not hurt. In my opinion, instead of physical punishment the “time out” is an effective way for a child to learn because the child has time to think about what he or she has done wrong and come to apologise for her action. For example, when my niece does something wrong, her parents send her into her room for a period of time so that she can calm down and understand why she is being punished.

Do not use examples from personal knowledge unless they can demonstrate that this point is universal and applies to everyone.

In conclusion, while punishment is necessary for young children to understand the difference between right and wrong, there are appropriate methods for disciplining them.

What are the appropriate methods?
Task Response- Band 6

You address all parts of the task and all of your ideas are relevant, however, your supporting paragraphs have mostly undeveloped ideas.

Undeveloped means that you list ideas but you do not explain what they mean or give examples to support them.

Suggestions-

Make sure you include explanations of the consequences of alternatives to your argument. Use example with facts in them.

In Task 2 you don’t get any extra marks for the number of ideas you think of, but you do get extra marks for developing each of your ideas more fully.

A paragraph should have one main idea. It would be better if you took one good relevant idea and really developed it. You do this by first stating your main idea and then explaining why it answers the questions and then supporting that idea with a specific example. If you want to give another main idea after that, then that’s OK but make sure all your ideas are fully developed, otherwise it just looks like a list of ideas rather than an academic essay.

Try following this structure in all your supporting paragraphs:

Sentence 1- Topic Sentence
Sentence 2-3- Explanation
Sentence 3 (4)- Example

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 6

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

You use a range of cohesive devices (linking words) appropriately although there is some over-use. All linking words are used accurately and effectively, but there tends to be a reliance on them through overuse. This is not a huge problem, but the higher band scores use cohesive devices much less than you currently do.

Your introduction and conclusion are not effective.
Suggestions- Your use of cohesive devices is very good, but you do have a tendency to overuse them. You don’t get more marks for every cohesive device you use and in fact, you will be penalised for overusing them. Only use them when necessary. If you look at my example essays I might only use them once or twice per paragraph.

Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion. Your score would also improve if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don’t try to force big words into your writing.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 7

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:
• Paraphrase the question in the first sentence.
• Give a clear opinion in the introduction.
• Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
• Develop your main ideas with clear explanations.
• Include one specific example in each main body paragraph.
• Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
• Only use cohesive devices when absolutely necessary.