IELTS UP

2020 EDITION

TASK 2 WRITING

The perfect book for a 6-9 score while improving your speaking and vocabulary

ADAM W. CANN

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2020 EDITION

TASK 2 WRITING

The perfect book for a score of 6 or higher while improving your speaking and vocabulary

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ONLINE IELTS MOCK TEST

LISTENING

READING

WRITING

SPEAKING

HIGHER SCORE GUARANTEED

/ieltstarget7

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INTRODUCTION

THE GOAL OF THIS BOOK

The purpose of IELTS UP is writing skills and ideas designed for people who wish to receive a score of 6.0-7.0 or higher for Task 2 of IELTS Academic and General exam. This book strives to reach your desired score by giving you the ideas and vocabulary for current topics. I have many years of experience successfully developing learners for the IELTS exam and many more years as a writing examiner. The layout of this book has been used with countless students with great success. This book can be used in the classroom with a teacher or as a self-study manual.

DESCRIPTION OF WRITING TASK 2

Task 2 is similar to putting a jigsaw puzzle together. The exam question gives a tiny picture of what you must make. The puzzle pieces are in your mind somewhere, but you only have 40 minutes to find them and put them together. If you have ever built a jigsaw puzzle, you know how essential the corner and edge pieces are.

This innovative book, unlike any other, gives you the corner and edge pieces (ideas) that match with all current exam questions. No other book does this! Having good ideas for topics is necessary to achieve 7 or higher on your IELTS writing.

This book will:

- Give 5 to 10 minutes more time to do Task 2.
- Give you added ideas to improve your score by writing more.

- Give you great ideas to make your Task 2 look better.
- Give you more vocabulary and grammar.

CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME FOR WRITING TASK 2

This book dramatically helps candidates with the two most notable complaints about IELTS Writing.

Candidate complaint #1 - *"I do not have enough time to write Task 2 well."*
Solution - This book provides ALL type 2 questions and ideas so you can save time preparing before you start writing.

Candidate complaint #2 - *"the topic is strange or not well known to me, so it is hard to write a good essay."*
Solution - By looking at all the questions, especially the topics less familiar, you can quickly plan a convincing essay to receive a score of 7 to 8 comfortably.
Candidate complaint #3 - It is not easy to use different words to talk about the same topic.
Solution - Each topic in this book has synonyms and idioms to improve your vocabulary score.

This book has all the connecting words and referencing advice you need to receive a 7 to 8. Connecting words like however and there, and knowing how to refer back to previous ideas is necessary for 7 and higher.

Vocabulary - Many books give you lists of words and synonyms. However, then you lose points on your writing test because you have misused words or have the wrong collocation. By looking at how this book uses different words to describe ideas in context, you will have a much better idea when you write your exam.

This book guarantees to have all you need to receive 7 or higher for 3 of the 4 categories: Task Achievement, Coherence + Cohesion, and Lexical Resource(vocabulary).

NOTE FOR TEACHERS

You can format this book from epub to a Word document. There are 47 lessons which you can start with the 'vocabulary questions' included for each topic.

These questions will help learners to activate schemata and personalise lexis to improve writing and speaking.

FOR SELF-STUDY STUDENTS

You can study alone, but more progress will be made if you have a partner or group. You can use the vocabulary questions to improve your understanding of more academic words/collocations that will help you with speaking, listening and reading. The book is not meant to be memorised but rather to give your ideas for you to add your examples. You cannot memorise an essay. You can have more ideas and vocabulary about many different topics so that when it comes time to write, you can do so much more confidently.

ORGANISATION OF BOOK

The book begins with a detailed breakdown of how your writing is scored, allowing you to know which areas you must devote more of your time and energy. The majority of this book focuses on the different types of essay questions, and the popular topics that most often appear.

SCORING

How you are scored and how this book will help you.

To obtain a score of 7, you must receive an average of 7 in four categories (Task Achievement, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy). If you receive a 6 for task achievement and the other three categories are 7 (6,7,7,7), you will receive a 6.5.

1 TASK ACHIEVEMENT

The main aim of this book is to help you with task achievement. You will know some topics better than others. You should be spending more time reviewing the topics you are less familiar with. To obtain a 7,8, or 9 for a particular band, you must meet ALL the requirements.

6

- addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others
- presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive
- presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/ unclear

7

- addresses all parts of the task
- presents a clear position throughout the response
- presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to overgeneralise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus

8

- sufficiently addresses all parts of the task
- presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas

9

- fully addresses all parts of the task
- presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well-supported ideas

Source: www.takeielts.britishcouncil.org

To receive a seven or higher, you must answer all parts of the task and have a clear position throughout. By using your ideas and the ideas in this book, you can easily receive a 7 or higher for Task Achievement.

Using examples or citing research

I have not added many examples in this book. It is much more useful to use examples familiar to you. The reason for using your examples is because they will be more memorable. Many studies have shown that if you use examples that are familiar to you, they will be much easier to recall. It is important to remember that your examples do not have to be true. Examiners do not fact check your points, so you are free to lie.

Some synonyms for presenting examples include:

- For instance ..."
- "To give you an idea ..."
- "As proof ..."
- "Suppose that ..."
- "To illustrate ..."
- "Imagine ..."
- "Pretend that ..."
- "To show you what I mean ..."
- "Let's say ..."
- "Case in point ..."
- "Such as ..."
- "In particular ..."

2 COHERENCE AND COHESION

This band is for how well you connect and display ideas. You will need to have clear paragraphs, linking words and referencing.

6

- arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression
- uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical
- may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately
- uses paragraphing, but not always logically

7

- logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout
- uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use
- presents a clear central topic within each paragraph

8

- sequences information and ideas logically
- manages all aspects of cohesion well
- uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately

9

- uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention
- skilfully manages paragraphing

PARAGRAPHING

Paragraphs must have one main idea with supporting sentences and examples to make the main idea more convincing and clear to the readers. Each bullet point idea in this book would be one separate main idea for a paragraph. I have provided more ideas than you would have to write about in 40 minutes. My goal is that you do not encounter a new idea which you have never thought about and to use the ideas you like most.

PARAPHRASING

You must not use the same words as the question. And you must not use the same expression repeatedly in your writing. For each topic in this book, I have used synonyms and different sentence or word forms. This book will allow you not to write the same expressions repeatedly. Paraphrasing will also raise your Lexical Resource score.

LINKING WORDS FOR COHESION

It is best to use a learner's Dictionary to see examples of how linking words are best used with examples. I have not used many linking words in this book to allow you to use ones you are more comfortable with.

ADDING INFORMATION

- Again, equally, in fact, also, furthermore, moreover, and, in addition (to...), and then, indeed, what is more, besides

COMPARING

- Besides, still, but, nevertheless, whereas, however, while, in contrast, on the contrary, yet, instead, on the other hand

ORDERING INFORMATION

- first(ly), (second(ly)), last, on top of (that), finally, next, to (begin with), in the (first) place, more important, then

CAUSE AND EFFECT

- as a result, for this reason, thus, because the, then, consequently, therefore, thereupon,

REFERENCING

Referencing is connecting to previous or future ideas by not using the same words repeatedly. There are common examples below. This is the most important area to receive a 7 or higher. The bold words below are to show you examples of

where referencing occurs. You can take a magazine or news article and underline examples to make yourself more aware of how to use them.

PRONOMINAL FORMS TO REPLACE NOUN PHRASES

- ***Churchill*** was a great general. ***He*** was also a fantastic administrator.
- Jon purchased ***a new car***. ***It*** cost a lot of money, but it goes a lot better than ***his old one***.
- ***Jon and May*** will go on vacation to France. ***Their*** friends are very envious.
- He decided to take ***some sturdy gloves*** with him. He thought that ***these*** would be necessary if he went climbing.

PRONOMINAL FORMS TO REPLACE ADVERBIALS (NOUN PHRASES OF TIME AND PLACE)

- She left ***the next morning***. She knew ***then*** that she was never going to return.
- We called them ***soon after dinner***. We knew that ***this*** was a good time to chat
- I decided to take my trousers back to ***the store***. When I arrived ***there***, it was closed.

PRONOMINAL FORMS TO REPLACE CLAUSES OR SENTENCES

- ***Some employees work all night just before a deadline***. ***This*** is a huge mistake.
- ***Tom has just quit***. ***It*** was quite a surprise.

DETERMINERS (THE, THIS, THESE, THOSE, THAT, ETC.) TO REFER BACK TO A PREVIOUS NOUN PHRASE

- ***Burglars*** robbed ***a*** watch ***shop*** on High St. last week. ***The burglars*** entered ***the shop*** through a hole in the roof.
- I purchased ***a new smartwatch*** last month. ***That watch*** has been handy.

USE OF SYNONYMS TO AVOID REPETITION

- These phones were first ***produced*** in 1952. When they were first ***completed***, they were not very well-known.
- If you have any ***thoughts*** on the problem; please tell me. I am keen to know your ***ideas***.

SHOW A PART-WHOLE RELATIONSHIP

- You must take some essential ***camping supplies***. You can buy a ***torch***, ***tent***, and ***sleeping bag*** from many department stores. ***Large cars and trucks*** are not allowed on this bridge. These ***vehicles*** take highway 45.

DIFFERENT WORD FORMS

- Sadly, seven people **died** last night. The heatwave caused the **deaths**.
- People should ***take a break*** from work or study every hour. ***Resting*** allows people to focus for longer durations.

3 VOCABULARY/LEXICAL RESOURCE

You must use a range of words and collocations accurately enough to get a 7 or higher for Lexical Range and Accuracy. Each topic in this book has highlighted words and collocations for you to use on your next IELTS test. When you look at the public band descriptors below, please notice that you do not need a lot for band 7.

6

- uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task
- attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy
- makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication

7

- uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision

- uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation
- may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation

8

- uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings
- skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation
- produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation

9

- uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as slips

4 GRAMMAR

This book does not teach grammar directly. There are many fantastic grammar books to do this. I have included many different grammar forms with my examples so that you may learn more naturally. Grammar and vocabulary are much better learnt in a specific context. Much like Lexical Resource, you need to have a good range of grammar and not too many grammatical and punctuation errors.

6

- uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms
- makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication

7

- uses a variety of complex structures
- produces frequent error-free sentences
- has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors

8

- uses a wide range of structures
- the majority of sentences are error-free
- makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies

9

- uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as slips

PUNCTUATION

The number one problem for learners is using commas. Here is a list of how and when to use them:

Use commas to separate items in a series.

- I saw ***a cat***, ***a mouse***, and ***a bird*** when I was walking.

Use a comma after ***introductory adverbs***

- ***Surprisingly,*** I saw a cat when I was walking.

Use a comma before all coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet) which links two ***independent clauses***.

- ***I went walking, and I saw a cat.***

Use a comma after a ***dependent clause*** starts a sentence.

- ***When I was walking***, I saw a cat.

Use commas to offset ***appositives*** from the rest of the sentence.

- While I was walking, I saw a calico, ***a type of cat***.

Use a comma for ***attributing quotes***

- The ***walker said***, "I saw a cat."

Use a comma ***between two adjectives*** that modify the same noun.

- I saw a ***small, cute*** cat when I was walking.

There are more rules for commas, but these rules rarely apply to IELTS task 2.

TYPES OF ESSAYS, INSTRUCTIONS, AND EXAMPLES

OPINION/ ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Do you agree or disagree?

Opinion essays are the most popular types of essays in the IELTS Writing test. At the beginning of the opinion essay question, there is a statement. Your task is to write your own opinion about the statement in the form of an essay.

Where to begin?

1. Read the statement and the question carefully.
2. Take about 5 minutes before you start writing to analyse and think about the statement, the words and the task.

Important tips:

- State your opinion clearly.
- Stay true to your opinion throughout the whole essay. Don't suddenly change your views in the middle.
- Give reasons for your opinion and include your knowledge and experiences to support your views.
- Make sure your answer covers all parts of the task.

Example question:

Most people believe that stricter punishment should be given for traffic offences. To what extent do you agree?

EFFECTS OF FERTILISERS AND MACHINERY

The increase in food production is mostly due to fertilisers and better machinery. Yet, some think that it harms human health and communities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – This will be harder than the average topic to write. Makes sure to focus on how much you think fertilisers and machinery have harmed people's health and the community. It is much easier to mention how they have helped.

How machinery and fertilisers have improved people's health

- The reduced number of people who are starving is an enormous benefit. Fewer people are hungry than ever before, and this is a direct result of fertilisers and large-scale machine farming. Also, the main reason people go hungry is because of inadequate food distribution and greed. It is reported that around 30% of food produced is thrown away.
- Additionally, economists in the early 1900s believed that food production worldwide could only support 2 billion people. Thanks to fertilisers, it is now thought we could feed 10 billion, and this number may increase as technology improves.

How machinery and fertilisers help the community

- We need fewer farmers, and that allows more people to work in other fields. Modern science flourished because farming could be done on a larger scale with fewer people. The need for fewer farmers means more scientists and teachers, which helps our society thrive.
- Farming used to be a dangerous and gruelling job with little benefit to the farmer. Modern farmers can sit down much more than ever. They can spray herbicides and pesticides to make sure their crops grow well. There are milk machines for cows instead of doing it by hand. All these developments have turned farmers into entrepreneurs who do not have to work as hard as their ancestors.

Fertilisers and machinery harm people's health

- Cancer rates have increased dramatically in 50 years. Many doctors and researchers believe that the chemicals used to grow and produce foods is a significant cause. Farmers have even begun suing producers of chemical fertilisers.
- Processed foods that come from factory farms and are massively produced in a manner which puts people at higher risk of disease. Machines can grind food up into attractive shapes that appear delicious but are packed full of chemicals and preservatives to last longer on shelves. People nowadays will gladly pay much more to receive produce and meats that have come from smaller farms.

Fertilisers and machinery harm the community

- When people get cancer and become more obese, this puts a considerable burden on the healthcare system. America spends more than the next five countries combined on health care. A significant reason for health expenses is the eating of processed foods which are cheaper than simple foods. Never in history have we seen the poor so much fatter than the affluent. Machines have made processed foods less expensive than genuine food.
- National productivity will be significantly reduced if people are less healthy as a result of machine-produced food. The life expectancy will lower, people will have less energy at work, and there will be more sick days taken. An eye-opening example is militaries around the world must make physical requirements easier. We seem to be getting weaker as a whole and factory farming may play a significant role in this.

MY CONCLUSION

There is no possibility of removing the benefits received from fertilisers and machinery. However, I do hope that we can rely on them less and less and start making healthy foods that are cheaper and more available. The current market makes too much unhealthy food which is allowing us to eat a lot and is less expensive than ever before. We have achieved great quantity; now we need great quality.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. How much do you know about fertilisers?
2. Have you ever seen large farming machinery?
3. Do you feel that nations inadequately distribute food to poorer nations?
4. Do you ever read articles written by economists?
5. Do you have any ideas to help your country flourish?
6. What is the most gruelling work you have done?
7. How do you feel about the spraying of herbicides and pesticides?
8. Would you like to be an entrepreneur?
9. Where did your ancestors originate from?
10. Is there anything that would dramatically improve your health?
11. Do you think it would help to massively tax the wealthiest people?
12. Do you worry about preservatives?
13. Is obesity becoming a considerable problem?
14. Should the affluent do more to help the poor?
15. What could be done to improve productivity where you work or study?
16. Is life expectancy improving worldwide?

ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN

These days, a considerable amount of advertising is directed at children. Should it be banned because of the adverse effects? To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – You can totally agree or disagree with this question. It is usually a better idea to somewhat agree. However, it may be difficult for you to write about how advertising can have positive effects. If you agree fully that advertising should be banned, you can write two or three body paragraphs on how it is negative.

Why advertising to young children should not be banned

- People believe that companies should have the freedom to advertise the goods they make. It will be challenging for kids to know about a new product if companies are unable to advertise during their favourite TV programme.
- Parents can also benefit from the ads. Many parents do not know what to buy, and these ads can give some useful ideas for birthday presents. Not all advertising is for toys either. Parents could learn about children's vitamins or an educational toy.
- There will be far fewer kids' shows on TV. These shows depend on revenues generated from advertising to pay writers, animators, and actors. Many parents enjoy the respite from their children that TV provides and fewer shows would reduce this free time.

Why advertising to young children should be banned

- Even adults are often guilty of buying something they do not need because of an advert. If commercials can manipulate adults, they have a much higher chance of tricking children. Children do not have money and will continually pester parents to buy the newest toy.
- Advertising creates consumerism from a young age. The need to always purchase new items does not lead to happiness. It gives us a sense of immediate pleasure, but then we soon become disinterested in it. Most people do not wish to foster this sort of behaviour in their children. The practices we learn from a young age are difficult to change as we get older.

- Advertising has been proven to shorten young people's attention spans. A TV show with no ads is much more beneficial. A child can concentrate on a story for ten to twenty minutes. Their minds can focus, concentrate and retain new ideas and information. Once flashy ads appear, they lose their train of thought and become stimulated by something else. Teachers claim it is more challenging than ever for students to focus on a lesson, and this can be linked to advertising.

MY CONCLUSION

While I do not like advertising to children, I realise that it is a necessary evil. We cannot expect studios to produce quality kids' shows for free and government-made shows are often low quality. We could, however, regulate when, how often, and what they contain. Commercials could only appear before and after a show and never interrupt. Regulators could also screen ads to censor false claims or to make them less flashy. Also, parents need to manage their kids' expectations. After all, as they grow up, they will be exposed to numerous ads. Parents can teach them how to manage and avoid them.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you have a considerable amount of work to do these days?
2. What are the adverse effects of advertising?
3. How do you take a short respite from work or study?
4. Has an advert ever manipulated you?
5. Have you ever been pestered by a young child?
6. Do you think consumerism is becoming a problem?
7. Do you think kids now have shortened attention spans?
8. What do you do to help you concentrate?
9. How well can you retain new vocabulary?
10. How stimulated are you by flashy ads?
11. Should the government regulate the internet more?

WEALTH AND HAPPINESS

In nations that have already gained great wealth, any additional economic prosperity would not make people more satisfied. Do you agree or disagree?

Advice - You can fully agree or disagree or partially agree with both. You must make it clear at the beginning and end that you more agree or disagree. Moreover, the question is about 'people', not you.

Any additional economic wealth would make people happier

- Maslow's hierarchy of needs says that we need basic things like food, water, air, and shelter to be more satisfied. It stands to reason that more wealth means being better able to have these basic needs met for more citizens.
- The quality of education will improve, which leads to more people having free time. Free time with family and friends makes society more content.
- Consumerism can grow. People like to look and feel beautiful, and with more discretionary income, they can do this.
- Increased wealth in a state will also create better roads and transport, which saves people time and prevents road fatalities.

Any additional economic wealth would not make people happier

- The wealthiest country in the world, America, is not even close to the most satisfied. America is ranked 30th, while poorer countries like Nigeria rank much higher.
- There are many examples of countries that are incredibly wealthy, although this wealth is not evenly distributed. There is an affluent class and an impoverished one. This wealth gap makes people more depressed. When one sees others living much better, it is very stressful as wealth and happiness is relative to those around us.
- Satisfaction in society has been proven by the UN to be related to the facilities people have access to such as clean water, housing, etc. Therefore it is not how much wealth a country has but how it is distributed.

MY CONCLUSION

It is not easy for people in an emerging economy to be happy. Once they reach a certain measure of wealth, happiness depends on how the money is distributed, not by accumulating more.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What is your definition of prosperity?
2. Do you know about Maslow's hierarchy of needs?
3. Is consumerism a problem?
4. How can one calculate their discretionary income?
5. Is the rate of road fatalities improving in your country?
6. Where do affluent people live in your town/city?
7. What can be done to help impoverished people?
8. Do you think the gap between rich and poor will continue to
9. widen?Are there any emerging technologies that make you excited?
10. What is the best way to accumulate wealth?

FREEDOM FOR CHILDREN

Some believe that children nowadays have too much freedom. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice- You can fully agree, entirely disagree, or partially agree. You should state this in the introduction paragraph using an expression like: I _____/agree/disagree. In the blank, you could use: fully/totally, mostly, somewhat, or partially. Depending on how much you agree means you should write more or less about the other opinion. You cannot say "I somewhat agree that kids have too much freedom" and then only write about kids having too much freedom.

Young people have too much freedom

- Nowadays, kids spend countless hours on their screens. This screentime addiction can be seen on buses, at restaurants, and even at family parties.
- A lot of young students do not have parents that let them do whatever they want. Many psychologists recommend that juveniles have some strict rules about bedtime, eating, and screen time to ensure they become successful and confident adults.
- Some kids have too much freedom to bully other peers either online or at school. This kind of freedom to be cruel leads to trauma for others.

Kids do not have enough freedom.

- Many young people go to school and then have multiple afterschool programs that parents push them to join so that they can go to a good university later. Kids often feel overburdened with their hectic lives.
- Recent research shows that kids are more supervised than they have ever been. Kids 20 years ago would come home after school, just hurry outside to play with their friends with no adults around. Most parents are too scared to let this happen. There is even a new expression known as a helicopter parent. Some parents also have tracking settings on their kid's cell phone so that they know where they are at all times.
- Parents post pictures of their young kids on social networking sites like Facebook without their child's permission. Some believe this takes away their freedom.
- Some parents even check their kid's homework every day, which can also make a young person feel less free.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel that kids substantially lack freedom. Young people need to be away from adults to develop their social skills. Later in life, when they are told to be an adult, they will have difficulty doing so because they have never learnt how to be free and independent.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. How do you manage your screentime?
2. How much do you trust the recommendations made by psychologists?
3. Do juveniles have stricter schedules to follow than their parents did?
4. Did you have good peers when you were growing up?
5. Do you think kids today are more or less cruel than kids 20 years ago?
6. Do you know anyone who has had a traumatic experience?
7. How many afterschool programs should young people have?
8. Are kids feeling overburdened nowadays?
9. When is your day the most hectic?
10. How much were you supervised when you were younger?

ART CLASSES AT HIGH SCHOOL

Some people state that arts courses such as painting or drawing should not be made compulsory for high school students. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Only write about art for high school students and how it benefits them or is not necessary. Some candidates will write too much about how other subjects are better than art and why. Stick to the idea of mandatory art classes for high school students.

Agree that art courses must be mandatory for all high schoolers

- Many successful people from sports, business and teaching, use creativity to stand out from colleagues and get promoted. Almost all successful individuals have studied art and apply it in their field.
- Many surveys show that students feel overworked in high school. They want a break from studying, and their minds need a break with a creative outlet to better study.
- Art has been proven to improve students' concentration. By focusing on a creative idea for an extended period, pupils' minds cam grow, which benefits other subjects.
- Social skills can also be improved by doing group projects. Students can learn how to work with each other's strengths and weaknesses to make something that makes them feel proud.

Disagree that art courses should be necessary

- By this age, most people have already taken art classes, and they know if they enjoy them or not. Art classes should only be made available as a choice for those who want to pursue it.
- Most students are too busy preparing for university entrance exams. In many countries, these exams are critical for determining what kind of career students can have. The level of university and course major will then determine how much income they will receive, thus, they want to devote all of their time.
- If art classes have some students who want to take it and others who are disinterested, then the class atmosphere will be less enjoyable. Undoubtedly, we can all recall a class in which some disruptive students have made it less productive and pleasant for all.

MY CONCLUSION

I am afraid I mostly have to disagree with art classes being made mandatory for students attending high school. They are old enough to know which subjects they prefer and making them take it will most likely not be enjoyable or useful for them.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Which courses do you think should be compulsory/mandatory at high school?
2. When have you felt the most overworked?
3. What is your outlet to relieve stress?
4. How can people improve their concentration?
5. What is a hobby you'd like to pursue if you had more free time and money?
6. Do you like that university entrance exams determine people's future so much?
7. When do you feel the most disinterested?
8. Can you recall any disruptive classmates?
9. At what time of day are you the most productive?

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The best method for a government to fix traffic congestion is by having free public transit all day long, seven days a week. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Keep in mind that the issue here is 'fixing traffic congestion'. It is very easy to get distracted by other consequences of providing free public transport like reduced pollution, or the decreased quality of public transport.

Free public transport will solve traffic jam issues

- By far, the number one cause of traffic congestion is from people driving alone to work or school. Experts estimate that 70% of vehicles are personal cars containing one driver. If it were free for all commuters to take public transport, then this number of cars would surely be reduced. Many people would gladly relinquish their vehicle, especially during rush hour for a much cheaper alternative.
- Free public transportation should mean that the government would need to invest more money into more subway lines, buses and streetcars. These modes of transport are revered for their ability to move a multitude of people with much less congestion.

Free public transport is not the most reliable way to diminish traffic congestion

- Most people who drive to work or school do not do so to save money, but rather to enjoy the freedom of not being stuck in a packed place. Public transport may be hot or a little smelly with many other people. Car drivers claim that they value their privacy to listen to music, sing, make phone calls, all while being guaranteed a comfortable seat.
- Driving for many is seen as a status symbol. People who have spent a massive amount of money on a vehicle will not be tempted to take the bus to save a minor amount of money each day. Already in many places, public transport is much cheaper, and yet people choose to drive.
- The number one solution is not to make the public transport free, but rather to make it high quality. In countries like Japan and South Korea, the metro and buses are extremely clean, fast, and affordable. Smart-looking affluent people can be seen everywhere. In those big cities

with clean, rapid and safe public transport, it is not seen as inadequate to take the subway, but rather a great place to relax on one's way to school or work.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel that that free public transport is not the best way to reduce traffic congestion. Creating a system that people prefer to take each day would be much more beneficial. People are pleased to pay a small fee for getting to work comfortably and quickly. My concern is that if the transport is free, it will be neglected because it costs the taxpayers money. In time, it may have fewer and fewer passengers and not solve traffic congestion.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

1. What is your method for avoiding traffic congestion?
2. Do you think the number of commuters will increase?
3. Would you relinquish all of your belongings at 70 if you could live another 70 years?
4. How do you feel about public transportation where you live?
5. Which mode of public transport is the most popular?
6. Who is the most revered sports star in your country?
7. Do you worry about the diminishing freshwater supply?
8. What do people use as status symbols?
9. Where can one see many smart-looking people where you live?
10. Do you think affluent people have much sympathy for the poor?
11. Is there anything inadequate in your life?

TECHNOLOGY AND LIFE

Some hold the idea that technology is making people's lives too complicated. Therefore we ought to make life easier by not using technology. Do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Remember to only write about technology and its effect on our lives. Do not just write about how people are busier than before; write about how technology is making people's lives more hectic.

Technology making our lives more complex

- Smartphones used often can give people more stress studies propose. When we continuously check our phones, we are distracted from our work or education, and this can cause immense inefficiency. We may wrongfully assume that we are busier than we are because we have not been using our time well.
- Technology, such as social networking sites are designed to get our attention. What grabs most people's attention is controversy. Big tech companies have algorithms that know what makes you angry. They will show you more and more of these posts on Facebook or your Google Newsfeed; thus, it makes our lives more stressful.
- Because we have more access to information than ever before at our fingertips, we may feel obligated to know what is happening all the time, around the world. The president of America has minimal impact on our lives, nor does a volcano thousands of kilometres away. Still, we feel we need to know about these things.

Technology is making our lives more convenient

- We can now communicate face-to-face with people anywhere in the world where there is internet for free on numerous platforms like Skype, Facebook, etc. This communication was not possible only a generation ago when people had to pay much money just to call someone 100km away.
- People can save an abundance of time shopping from their homes. Companies like Amazon and many other big retailers make it extremely easy to purchase almost anything and have it arrive at your door the

next day. This service saves people a lot of time and stress by not having to go to the stores as often.

- Technology also allows us to manage our schedules and to-do lists with ease. A smartphone can remind you what you need to do each day and send you reminders so that you do not forget. Before smartphones, people had to remember everything or write it down in their diary.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel that technology has made our lives more convenient. There are examples of it making our lives more complicated. Still, these can be mitigated with more awareness and teaching of how they negatively affect our lives. When fast food was first created, it was all unhealthy, but very convenient. In time, people became more aware of fast food's negative consequences, and the market has been creating healthier alternatives to meet people's demands. I feel this analogy will also apply to technology in our daily lives.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

- Is your life more or less hectic now?
- Do you ever feel immense pressure?
- Do you think inefficiency is a problem at your work or school?
- Have you ever been wrongfully accused of something?
- Is there a current controversy that is interesting?
- How much do you know about algorithms?
- Do you enjoy having so much information at your fingertips?
- Which platform do you use for online communication?
- Which retailer do you most often buy goods from?
- How can risk be mitigated when saving money?

EDUCATION AND TELEVISION

Some think that kids can learn productively by viewing TV and they ought to be encouraged to view TV both in the home and at school. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Two things are happening in this essay. Is it a good idea to push kids to watch TV at home for education? Is it wise to allow kids to watch TV at school for educational purposes?

A TV can be educational at home

- Young children can watch moral cartoons that they fancy, and from this, they learn how to talk and behave well. Parents and books may be better, but parents need to do chores, and this is an acceptable way for kids to learn.
- There are many documentaries, such as the BBC's Planet Series which could teach kids tons of information about the world, animals, and ecosystems.
- Streaming websites like Netflix also mean that youngsters can watch these educational programmes without distracting and harmful commercials. Many child experts believe that commercials are the most damaging aspect of watching TV because it shortens kids' attention spans.

TV is not suitable for education at home

- It is much better to read books alone or with parents. Books, especially when read aloud by parents, have been proven to stimulate a young mind much more than TV. Researchers suggest that TV is much more passive, and kids' brains are less active than when they are engaged with a book.
- TV is too much of a distraction for kids who should be doing their homework or playing with friends outside. Some psychologists believe that a lot of anti-social behaviour comes from a lack of human interaction which TV makes worse.

TV is an excellent educational tool for teachers in schools

- Teachers could be teaching something in a science class, for example, and there may be a unique YouTube program that shows students in more detail.
- A rural school may be understaffed, and some students might not have a teacher for a class. An educational video with follow up activities would be much better than just telling students to study.
- History class could also be made a lot more exciting and memorable. The chief complaint from students is that they have to retain so many boring dates and details. Adding a video with characters is likely to bring those people and remarkable moments to life in a more meaningful way.

The TV is not a useful educational tool for kids at school

- One major complaint from parents is that their children spend too much time in front of screens. Parents expect their young ones to go to school to interact with the teacher, friends, and information in books. These skills are essential for people to be good workers later in life.
- TV is too passive. It would be natural for students to become bored or not pay attention to the content of the programme. I have been in classrooms where teachers have used TV, and I saw a lot of disinterested sleepy faces. A TV is duller than a regular lesson because in a lesson the teacher can ask questions or have students work together to keep them stimulated.

MY CONCLUSION

The idea that kids should be encouraged to watch TV at home and school seems a bit much. I feel that they should be allowed, only if the TV programme does not contain commercials and can add some educational value. Too much freedom to watch TV is not suitable for kids' development. Still, if it is used responsibly by parents and teachers, it could have some strong merits.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. At what time of day are you the most productive?
2. Do parents push their kids to study too much?
3. Are smartphones too distracting for kids?
4. Are we becoming overstimulated?
5. How much do you trust psychologists?
6. Have you ever seen an anti-social person?
7. Have you ever worked in an understaffed company?
8. Do you have any memorable experiences?
9. How well can you retain new information?
10. Which class were/are you the most disinterested in?
11. Who was the dullest teacher you've had?

TEACHERS

In the past, teachers were the primary source of knowledge. Yet, nowadays, students have a vast source of information, so teachers are no longer necessary in current education. Do you agree or disagree?

Advice – focus on how a teacher is still necessary in today's world, even with how much information is available, or how teachers are not needed.

Teachers are not as crucial because of free information available everywhere

- Free courses on sites like OpenLearn allow people to get vast amounts of information that would be offered by a legitimate, and quite expensive, university. This type of learning may not be as efficient as attending class, but when materials are this great and free, it is an excellent option.
- Online tutorials are abundant nowadays. Whether a person wants to fix something in their residence, learn a new recipe, or have someone explain quantum physics, all of this is available on sites like YouTube.
- Not all classrooms have an entirely competent teacher. Everyone has had a teacher who they wonder how they got their job. This scenario could be a dead-end for students in the past. However, nowadays, pupils can find articles, books and videos that can help them learn more efficiently.

Teachers are still needed even though there is information everywhere

- For most people, human contact is necessary for learning because learning is typically a social event. There are very few people who can learn well wholly alone. Teachers and peers give us social support and feedback that allows people to study more effectively.
- If you ask many experts in their field, they would say they became interested in a subject because of an initial teacher who made the topic interesting. Maybe students would be able to pursue the subject alone, but it was the initial person that sparked their love of an academic area.
- There is no substitute for real-time feedback from a teacher. Ask anyone who has studied a course online, and they will tell you that it takes them longer to complete a project. They miss the natural interaction of having a teacher face-to-face to get immediate feedback from.

MY CONCLUSION

I cannot fully agree that teachers are less critical as most people need a social environment to learn well. However, the reason I do not entirely agree is that so much knowledge is available online. This knowledge at least gives people an option to learn if a teacher is not useful or accessible. We are at the beginning of an age where only time will tell if teachers remain as important in the future.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever used online tutorials?
2. Do you enjoy the abundant amount of information on the internet?
3. Have you ever heard of quantum physics?
4. How competent were most of your teachers?
5. Have you ever been in a problematic scenario? What happened?
6. What goals are you pursuing now?
7. Do you prefer real-time interaction online or face-to-face communication?

CRIME BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Some consider that juveniles who commit severe crimes must be punished the same as adults. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice - This topic is straight forward. Focus on the idea of the punishment being the same as adults for serious crimes. Make points about how you agree/ disagree or both.

It is a good idea to mention what serious crimes are. Serious crimes cause severe emotional and physical harm to a victim such as murder, sexual assault, significant theft, kidnapping, extortion, and drug-trafficking.

Juveniles should receive the same sentence as an adult for severe felonies

- For the victim, it does not matter how old the perpetrator is, as the victim's suffering is the same. If someone killed my father, I am not sure if I would want them to receive less punishment because they are under a certain age.
- Some people feel that by keeping these young offenders locked away for longer, or even receive capital punishment, it would make society safer. When criminals are in jail, they cannot commit further crimes.
- Letting youngsters know that they will receive the same punishment as adults could deter them from committing the crime. Some people believe that gangs give people under the age of 18 a large sum of money to murder someone because they know that they will not spend much time in prison.

Juveniles should not receive the same punishment as adults

- The most persuasive argument for giving a lighter sentence is that society should have sympathy for these young offenders for several reasons. The frontal lobes of the brain where we make a logical decision do not fully develop until 25. Most people make unwise decisions when they are young. Combine this fact with the high probability that the young offender likely grew up in a bad family environment, below the poverty line. Thus, many people feel they deserve some leniency and a second chance.

- If we lock them up in jail for a long time, we are making them criminals for life. The career options available to someone who enters the workforce in their 30s with a criminal record are minimal. If we punish young people the same as adults, the chance of them reoffending is exceptionally high. While in prison, convicts learn how to be more hardened and better criminals.
- If the punishment is for rehabilitating young offenders, then governments need to focus on why they became a criminal in the first place. We should provide them with the training and psychological support to make sure they do not wish to continue a life of crime. On top of this, governments could learn from their hardship and provide alternatives such as afterschool sports and recreation programs to keep kids out of trouble.

MY CONCLUSION

I do not feel there is a one size fits all solution for this issue. There are some cases when young offenders are too much of a danger to society and deserving of adult punishment. I do feel that in the majority of cases, rehabilitation and shorter jail sentences will make the community safer long term. We will be giving these young people a second chance to make up for their mistakes and teach the power of forgiveness.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Did you behave well when you were a juvenile?
2. Have you ever committed a small crime like theft?
3. Do you know an example of extortion?
4. How are felony offenders treated in your country?
5. How do the police find perpetrators?
6. How can we better deter criminals?
7. Should first-time offenders receive a lighter sentence?
8. Do you know where the frontal lobes of the brain are and what they control?
9. What is an unwise decision you have made?
10. Do poor people deserve leniency?
11. Should convicts in prison be treated better or worse?
12. How can someone become a hardened criminal?
13. Do you believe people can be rehabilitated?
14. How do people cope with psychological hardship?

VIOLENCE IN FILMS AND ON TV

The government ought to regulate the amount of violence in films and on television. This control would decrease the level of violent crime in society. Do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Be sure to focus on the government's role in controlling violence. How much would it help? This question also only concentrates on TV and Films, not the internet. The internet could be mentioned later as to why regulation on TV and films would be complicated.

Governments should regulate the amount of violence on TV and in movies

- Authorities cannot monitor everything. However, it is the best start. Alcohol is not to be sold to juveniles. While this does not work flawlessly, it is better than making it readily available.
- Governments can make laws that can be enforced for movie theatres and broadcasters. These laws would stipulate who can buy a ticket for movies. And for TV, at what time of day if at all, violent programs can be seen.
- Regulations are the best start, but as a follow-up, governments could create awareness as to why they want to regulate violence. Many people do not like being told what they can or cannot do, but if it is explained with logic, people are more likely to follow.

Governments are wasting their time regulating violence on TV and in films

- The internet is the biggest challenge for controlling anything we do not want young people to see. People know how to use proxy servers, create fake accounts, and sneak on their parents' computers. It seems hopeless to stop the creation of violent programmes, and they are all over the internet.
- How can the government regulate fictional violence if they do not restrict controlled violence that citizens watch in sports? Sports like boxing, MMA, NFL, Rugby, just to name a few, celebrate violence and the more menacing team, often wins.
- There is also the argument that humans are innately violent, and it is better to watch it in fiction than seek it in real life. Humans thousands of years ago went to gladiator events to watch people die for

entertainment. Now kids simply play games and watch movies with violence and individuals seem less violent overall. Maybe it is better to have a fake outlet for our violent nature.

MY CONCLUSION

The government should try to regulate violence on TV, especially when it comes to young people. The government can only do so much though. There needs to be less glorification of violence in our culture and sports if we ever want to make a change. If people want something, they will find it, and all we can do is regulate and more importantly, educate, to make people less violent.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Is there anything that the government should regulate less?
2. Why are violent movies popular?
3. When is it difficult for you to concentrate?
4. Did/do your parents monitor you a lot?
5. Do you think juveniles behave better now than in the past?
6. Is there such a thing as a flawless person?
7. Are there any laws that need to be enforced more?
8. Have you ever signed a contract with a strange stipulation?
9. Should companies follow-up more with customers?
10. Do you know how to use a proxy server?
11. Do you like fiction?
12. Are there any foods you restrict from your diet?
13. How much do you think our personalities are innate?
14. Do you have any healthy outlet when you feel angry?
15. Do you think there is too much glorification of violence in the media?

HEALTH IN CITIES

Some think residing in large cities is harmful to people's health. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

How cities are bad for people's health

- Air pollution is regularly complained about by city-dwellers. Research shows that people who live in cities have a much higher chance of getting lung cancer than counterparts in the countryside. There are copious amounts of cars and other sources of harmful emissions.
- Water quality, especially in non-first world cities is often much worse. To deliver fresh water to a large city of people takes a lot of money and work. If a country does not prioritise public safety, then water quality often suffers.
- Noise pollution is something many do not think about but gives us enormous stress. Researchers have proven that even if we think we are OK, being in a loud area gives us anxiety. Noise triggers our flight or fight response which raises our blood pressure and stress.
- Violent crime and accidents occur much more often in large cities. Even if people are not victims, stress levels are raised as they need to be en guard.
- Loneliness is often more common in cities. When people feel lonely, they can make poor life choices like doing drugs or meeting people just for pleasure. While these things may be enjoyed temporarily, they do not make people more content. When people have a trusted social group, they are more at ease. Additionally, it has been proven that happier people often need much less hospital care.
- Natural disasters like earthquakes can cause many more casualties in cities because most people live in tall buildings. With a high population density, it is also more difficult to provide aid.

How cities can be beneficial for people's health

- We cannot assume that every city is just concrete and skyscrapers. Cities with adequate green space for people to walk or hike have been proven to be almost as valuable for mental health as living in the country.

- Cities often have better access to health care facilities and wellness clinics. These facilities can be used to not only help people recover faster, but to prevent future diseases.
- People in cities often get around with public transport rather than driving. Driving on roads is the number one killer in many countries.
- Some argue that because a city has so many cultural and activity groups, people are less likely to rely on alcohol for entertainment. Alcohol is often needed in times of boredom, and if someone has an active social life, they will not need to indulge as much.

MY CONCLUSION

I believe that there are some health benefits for living in a city. However, I would mostly agree that municipalities are detrimental to people's health, mainly due to pollution and not enough green space. There may be some examples of cities that are becoming greener and cleaner. Still, the typical city seems to be synonymous with being unhealthy.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Where are you residing nowadays?
2. Are you more of a city-dweller or a country mouse?
3. Do you think your lungs are healthy?
4. Have you ever had copious amounts of work?
5. What do you prioritise most in your life?
6. Do you often feel en-guard?
7. What is the best cure for loneliness?
8. Have there been any natural disasters in your country?
9. Do you think there are fewer casualties of war nowadays?
10. Do you like skyscrapers?
11. Would you ever rely on wellness clinics?
12. When is boredom the worst for you?
13. What do you like about your municipality?
14. What is detrimental to your concentration?
15. Would you like your area to be greener?
16. Do you think cities are synonymous with stress?

UNIVERSITY THEORETICAL COURSES

Theoretical subjects such as math and philosophy are taught in universities. However, students prefer more practical courses, such as accounting and computer programming. Some believe theoretical subjects should be dropped in universities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – This question is long but straight forward. Make sure to only write about why you think theoretical courses should be dropped or not dropped and give reasons.

Reason to get rid of theoretical subjects

- Most employers are looking for people with tangible skills that will help their company.
- Practical courses are often more engaging for university students. Theoretical subjects may seem irrelevant, and therefore it is much easier to lose interest shortly into the curriculum.
- Theoretical subjects could mean courses that are counter-productive to the workforce. Some liberal arts curriculums inform students that men and women are the same, and the sexes are only different because of societal pressure. There might be some truth to societal conditioning. However, psychologists and biologists have been studying this for decades as an empirical science. Men and woman are mostly similar, except at the extremes of either end, they are very different and treating them the same might create problems.
- There are some theoretical subjects at universities that are almost entirely worthless. I have heard of courses on Virtual People and Zombies in Popular Media just to name two. These subjects may be enjoyable but offer virtually no job-seeking advantage.

Reasons to keep theoretical subjects

- Almost all breakthroughs in maths, physics and science started as a theory. Einstein's theory of relativity was not proven until much later. Oxygen was also just a theory in the 1700s. Every new idea that moves humanity forward started as a theory. Another good example would be the theory of flight.

- People should have the right to take whatever classes they desire. There may be tons of evidence that a course may be nearly useless. However, universities have the right to offer, and students have the right to take them. This choice is what a free economy is designed to do.
- Some theoretical subjects are needed, but perhaps there should be fewer. Psychology has long been considered as necessary for many people. The problem is that there are many psychology graduates but not enough job openings.

MY CONCLUSION

We need some theoretical subjects like quantum physics and psychology. Still, some are much less useful for society and should not receive funding from the government. Also, there should be more incentives to push young people into more practical fields that will be better for society and their futures. Theoretical subjects should still be available, but may not deserve as much funding unless deemed a benefit to society.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Did/do you study theoretical or practical subjects? If you could go back in time, would you take the same course?
2. Do you think computer programming would be an ideal job?
3. Do many people spend too much time worrying about irrelevant matters?
4. What is one thing you would like to change about a school curriculum?
5. Can you think of an example when someone did something counter-productive?
6. Is the workforce getting older or younger?
7. Do you think there are too many societal pressures?
8. How necessary are psychologists?
9. What benefits do biologists give?
10. Do you think we should only use empirical evidence?
11. Are there many job-seeking friends in your group?
12. What has been a recent breakthrough in science?
13. Do you have tons of work these days?
14. Do you think incentives make people work harder?

SPECIALISED UNIVERSITY COURSES

Students attending university ought to be specialised in one area rather than a broader range of various subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Make sure you stay on topic and show the benefits of being specialised in one subject or having a more extensive range of subjects. Writing about both would be the best idea and then giving your final opinion on which is better.

Benefits of specialising in one subject

- Students may be able to graduate a year or two earlier. Many majors, such as business require students to take various kinds of courses in their first two years. If someone wanted to be an accountant, they could graduate much faster by only taking related courses.
- These days, companies do not want people who are good in many different areas. Most companies require an expert in one field. Most companies are comprised of experts in various disciplines working together.
- If students graduate faster, they can have a lot more money earlier in life. Instead of paying for university for two years, they could intern for free. The specialised knowledge at university plus the two years of experience would make them much more employable than a person with a broader range of theory courses over the same period.

Benefits of studying a more comprehensive range of different subjects

- Most people are 18 when they begin university. At such a young age, most people are not precisely sure what career they would like to pursue. By taking a range of different subjects, they will learn what intrigues them. Many people around the world have jobs that are different than their majors.
- People with a broader range of knowledge would be better able to communicate with colleagues in various departments. If someone only thinks about accounting, it may be challenging for them to understand how and why the marketing or human resource department operates. By having some knowledge in other areas, it allows coworkers to communicate effectively between departments.

- If someone would like to be a CEO or even a high-level manager, they need to know about how the whole company works collectively. Elon Musk is the perfect example of this. He has some background in business, art, and a lot in physics. If he just focussed on physics, his companies would never have grown at such an exponential rate.

IN CONCLUSION

Rather than saying I agree with one or the other, I feel it better that people be given the option of a 4-year major with a broader range of courses. Or, they can do an intensive course over two years. Both methods have validity with the points that I have mentioned above.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Which field would you like to specialise in?
2. What departments is a standard business comprised of?
3. Which disciplines should a CEO be skilled in?
4. Do you think being an intern is a good idea?
5. How are you trying to be more employable?
6. What was the most comprehensive course you've taken?
7. What goals are you currently pursuing?
8. Does the universe intrigue you?
9. Is meeting colleagues outside of work appropriate?
10. Which resources are most abundant in your country?
11. Do you know how a microwave oven operates?
12. Do you enjoy working collectively?
13. Can you think of any companies with exponential growth?
14. Would you like to have a broader knowledge of English?
15. When did you study most intensively?
16. How can you make your ideas seem more valid?

MODERN COMMUNICATION

Some people benefit from modern communication technology, but some have not been helped at all. Do you agree or disagree?

Advice – modern communication technology would most likely mean things like computers, cell phones and smartphones. A large portion of the world still lives in poverty, so it would be wiser to agree that some people have not benefited.

Everyone has benefited from modern communication

- Many people around the world do not have access to computers or cell phones, but they still receive some benefit. Government workers in the fields of police and medicine would have access to modern communication. Therefore, people who do not have access can still be saved and helped by those who do.
- Individual households in impoverished countries may not have access to modern communication. Still, children will likely have access to donated computers in their schools. This access is not the most convenient, but it always helps and is better than nothing.
- Even in the poorest countries, people have access to some sort of television. There may be few, but still, villagers can gather together to take pride in national sporting events or receive notifications from the government.

Some people have not been helped at all by modern communication

- Some people live in such remote areas, making it impossible for them to receive any correspondence from the outside world. These places are few, but they still exist.
- Even if kids can use a computer in their school, the access and capability will be quite limited. Meanwhile, people in more affluent countries are benefiting more and more from faster and better communication options. This lack of access to rapid information may widen the gap between poor and rich individuals because knowledge is power.
- Some people live in war-torn areas or refugee camps where there is no electricity. Electricity is vital for communication of any kind, so these unfortunate souls have to do without.

MY CONCLUSION

Currently, with the limited reach of modern communication due to financial barriers, it is impossible to say that everyone has benefited. As time goes by, the satandard of living is continuing to improve, and hopefully, everyone will be able to. As of right now, this is not the case.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do households have fewer family members?
2. What can be done to help impoverished people
3. Does donating money and goods help poor people?
4. Do villagers have the same standard of living as city-dwellers?
5. How do you receive most of your correspondence?
6. What is the capability of your computer?
7. Are the number of affluent people increasing?
8. Is the wealth gap widening?
9. What are some war-torn countries these days?
10. Do you know of any refugee situations in the news?
11. What is most vital for health?
12. Are there too many financial barriers for poor people?
13. How do you gather most of your information?
14. What makes you proud of your country?
15. What is the most remote place you have been?

STUDY AND ACTIVITIES

Full-time college and university students ought to spend most of their time studying. However, it is essential to participate in other activities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Most people who write this will not fully agree with either opinion. Therefore, it is a good idea to talk about both views and state which side you agree with more.

Full-time students should spend most of their time studying

- The goal at school, particularly at university, is to obtain the best score possible. Being an honorary student means a lot more to future employers than extracurricular activities.
- Many young people do not know how to balance study and recreation. It is often the case that young adults have too many leisure activities such as partying, playing games, or just sleeping in. It is better to have the goal of hitting the books and avoiding other distractions.
- If students buckles down and studies hard, they may be able to earn extra credits at night or during summer or winter break. They could graduate earlier, get a job and then enjoy their free time even more because now they have their own money, time and freedom.

Students must participate in other activities while at university

- There is an old saying; it is not what you know; it is who you know. People make a lot of social connections at university, and these bonds are developed outside the classroom. Social activities give people a chance to make long-lasting friendships as well.
- Students should study hard and make time for leisure as well because that is what will happen in real life. If young people get into the habit of 'just study', they might continue this habit into 'just work'. They may wake up one day in their mid-40s, rich, but feeling very lonely and realise they may have wasted their youth.
- To be successful in many jobs, people need to have social skills. A professor once told me that 'A' students usually end up working for 'B' students. He was implying that just being smart is not enough. You

need to have charisma and social skills to be prosperous. Social skills can mostly be developed in our socialising time.

MY CONCLUSION

I mostly agree that students must do social activities while they are at university. Some students may not have the self-control to resist socialising too much, but they will be a small minority. For most people, they need to learn how to create a suitable work-life balance so they can learn how to be happy, hard-working adults after graduation.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you think you will end up after you receive the IELTS score you need?
2. Have you ever been an honorary student?
3. Which extracurricular activities did you enjoy at school?
4. Do you have enough recreation time nowadays?
5. Are there any people you are avoiding?
6. What are the worst distractions for you?
7. Have you been buckling down and studying enough these days?
8. How do you make connections?
9. How do you like to bond with friends?
10. Do you have many long-lasting friendships?
11. What do you do in your leisure time?
12. Do you have any bad or good habits?
13. Have you ever wasted a lot of time?
14. Do you usually imply or do you speak directly?
15. Who do you know who has the most charisma?
16. Do you know any prosperous people?
17. How can people improve their self-control?
18. Do you think minorities are treated well?
19. What would be a suitable job for you?
20. Do you have a good work-life balance?

TRAVEL AND CULTURE

People don't need to travel to other countries for learning about culture. One can learn equally well from books, movies, and the internet. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Most writers will somewhat agree that travel is necessary or not. You can fully agree or disagree, but if you somewhat agree, you have more options to write, which improves your answer. Remember to make points about why it is necessary to travel to learn about a new culture, or why it is not needed.

To learn about other cultures, you do not need to travel there

- The internet is full of information and web sites dedicated to introducing countries from around the world. At the click of a button, you can learn about their customs, dress, manners, and the type of food.
- The world has become a giant melting pot. In cities all over the world, you can find people from other countries living in them. They will have a small community where you can try their food and understand how they live. You can create friendships and ask them questions to learn more about their heritage.
- With online forums, Skype, Facebook, etc., it is easy to meet new people from all over the world. You can video chat with someone across the globe in real-time and find out what life is like there.

You must visit a country to learn about its culture well

- To fully appreciate what life is like in another country, you must go there, engaging all senses simultaneously. Reading about a nation via the internet is vastly different from feeling it. When you are in a new country, you can perceive the weather, the smells, the local language, how people interact, and how they dress. All of these things happen at the same time, and it is much more memorable than merely reading about it.
- Trying food in the country where it originates is also a unique experience. For many cuisines, fresh herbs and spices are needed to make the dish fully authentic. The same recipe may taste similar, but it will never taste the same.

- The most memorable things for people are experiences. No book could ever replace what it is like to sit down with someone and talk over a meal. Humans are socially designed to learn best with interaction. This interaction is how we evolved, and it is a powerful force inside.
- Experiencing a countries' architecture is much more satisfying if you visit there. We can only partially appreciate a building in a video. Once you are there, everything becomes scaled to you and your eyes.

MY CONCLUSION

Reading about a country or meeting people online is a great way to learn the basics about it. Just like it is possible to fall in love with someone over the internet and with letters. However, it is the experience of being fully present in a different culture that allows us to understand and appreciate it fully.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any customs you know about that are very different from your country?
2. What are good manners when visiting someone's house?
3. Do you like that the world is becoming more of a melting pot?
4. Do you know much about your family heritage?
5. Do you ever communicate in online public forums?
6. Are you good at doing two things simultaneously?
7. Do you know anyone who is vastly different from when they were young?
8. How do our experiences change how we perceive the world?
9. Where do all humans originate from?
10. What is your favourite cuisine from another country?
11. Do you use a lot of herbs and spices when cooking?
12. Do you always buy authentic brands?
13. Have you had any memorable experiences lately?
14. Do you think humans will evolve much in the future?
15. What do you think of modern architecture?
16. Do you like small scale models of famous places?

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES' DRAWBACKS

Some believe social networking sites have an adverse influence on individuals and society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – Feel free to agree or disagree with this topic. The best strategy is to agree somewhat or disagree. Just be sure to talk about both the merits and demerits of social media sites if you slightly agree or disagree. It is imperative to write about individuals and society.

Social networking sites do not have a significant adverse effect on individuals and society

- Individuals now have the freedom to make friends and contacts from all over the world. The globe feels much smaller. It is easy to find like-minded people far away that could lead to lasting friendships, love, or work opportunities.
- Individuals also have more of a voice to complain about social policies. Some of these complaints may be censored in some oppressive countries, but people still find a way to get information out for social change.
- People can become famous on their merit rather than depending on production companies. Many internet stars might not have been successful without SNSs.
- Society has benefited by having a medium that people more actively engage in. It used to be that people passively watched television. At least with SNSs, they read and think in a more meaningful way.
- The society also benefits by sharing information more quickly. A lot of people get their news from these sites, and even news companies like CNN follow trends online to create their next big news story.

SNSs have had a detrimental effect on individuals and society

- Many people these days care too much about their online persona, and how many likes they receive. Rather than seeking real friendships, they value themselves by online followers. They may even do outrageous or dangerous stunts to gain attention.
- Reports show that the more people use Facebook, the less content they are. People mostly post pictures of vacations, material possessions,

parties they attended, and their successes. Experts insist this type of posting makes many feel inadequate and lowers self-esteem.

- Society may suffer from a lower birth rate partly due to these social networking sites. Young people are lacking the social skills needed to meet members of the opposite sex in a meaningful way and fewer people in their 20s are dating. They require matchmaking SNSs to meet people instead. Even worse, might be apps like Tinder, which mostly attract people looking only for meaningless sexual relationships.
- Elections all over the world have been affected by SNSs in some way. It has been proven that foreign states will make fake accounts to slander the candidate they do not desire. Many believe that Russia is doing this in America at this moment.
- Another threat to society is the lack of free speech. Weibo is the most famous for censorship, but many do not realise that Twitter and Facebook censor a lot of content. Twitter famously blocked a feminist for life because she said that a transwoman could never fully be a woman. Some would argue that this is a biological fact. At the same time, Donald Trump is gloating about killing enemies in the Middle East. Many point out the political bias of censoring on Twitter.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel like social networking sites for the time being have had more of a negative effect. I feel like this is a new evolutionary stage in humanity, and I am optimistic people will adapt. I believe that how people behave online is abnormal to how we evolved. Still, with all change, we will learn to adapt and improve upon how we socialise in this new frontier.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Have you experienced any adverse effects from a medicine?
2. How do you find like-minded people?
3. Do you think phones are lasting longer?
4. Do you think more content should be censored online?
5. Which countries do you think are the most oppressive?
6. Do you think companies only hire people on their merit?
7. Through which source do you get information?
8. Do you engage with strangers online?
9. Do you think watching TV is a passive activity?

10. What is the most detrimental thing for your health?
11. Is your online persona the same as you?
12. What's the most outrageous thing you've seen?
13. Do you like stunts in action movies?
14. What would you speculate life to be like in 50 years?
15. What are of knowledge do you feel the most inadequate?
16. Is matchmaking popular in your group of friends?
17. Has anyone ever slandered you?
18. Do you think men and women are biologically different?
19. Do you like gloating after you win?
20. Do you think you have any biases?
21. Do you think life is evolutionary?
22. Are you optimistic about the future?
23. Do you know any abnormal people?
24. Do you think the frontier of space is fascinating?

OLD VS MODERN BUILDINGS

People believe old buildings ought to be removed and replaced with modern buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – It is easier to write more if you choose to agree with both and give your opinion. What are the advantages of modern and old buildings?

Old buildings should be allowed to remain

- An old building may have cultural and historical value. It could be an ancient type of architecture that creates a sense of pride and makes the city more aesthetic. Tourists also love to visit historical buildings which would generate more wealth.
- The old buildings may still be in use by tenants
- The building could be located in valuable areas, and residents would be significantly inconvenienced if they were forced to move.
- Old buildings could also be a mosque, church or temple which would be very upsetting to the followers if they were destroyed.

Old buildings should be demolished and replaced with newer ones

- Modern building materials help to conserve energy and create fewer emissions. Older buildings do not have proper insulation or could have cracks that cost the tenants and the country a lot more money.
- Modern buildings are often much taller and can house more people. Especially in modern cities, space can be scarce. If people move into modern high-rise apartments, more green spaces and parks could be created. More housing might also reduce housing costs since there would be more supply.
- Modern buildings are often more comfortable for families. A contemporary apartment has a much better design than apartments even 20 years ago. People can come home and cook in a big kitchen or take a bath in a giant bathtub. If people are more relaxed, they can work better and suffer from less stress.

MY CONCLUSION

I do not fully agree that all old buildings should be destroyed and replaced with modern ones. The value of a building does not merely mean money. An old building could have a lot of cultural significance. However, it also cannot be ignored that newer buildings can provide numerous advantages to individuals and society as a whole. It is a matter that needs to be resolved case by case to do what is best for the local community.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like the architecture in your area?
2. What do you do to make your living space more aesthetic?
3. How does investing generate profit?
4. How do you react when you see or hear something that is upsetting?
5. Is there a building you think should be demolished?
6. How can we better conserve old buildings?
7. How do modern buildings create fewer emissions?
8. Do you know how insulation works?
9. Are you a tenant or a landlord?
10. Are you worried about affordable housing becoming scarce?
11. Where can one see high-rise buildings near you?
12. Are there any impressive contemporary buildings in your city?
13. Is there a place that has cultural significance for you?
14. How do you resolve a disagreement with your friends?
15. What is the most ancient building you can think of?

NEWSPAPERS

Some claim newspapers are the best means to get the most recent information because they have more influence than other forms of media. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – you need to focus on why some people think newspapers are the best for giving information because of their influence. It is also a good idea to write about why newspapers may be becoming less and less critical and mention what they are being replaced by.

Newspapers have the most influence for getting information out

- There are newspapers in every country that have been around for over a century. They may be read online now, and companies such as the New York Times is famous and trusted around the world.
- Newspapers also have large teams of journalists, editors and distributors that work 24/7. Their business depends almost entirely on being up-to-date and delivering quality news and information. The resources of newspaper companies make them very efficient for getting information out.
- Mostly the prominent newspapers and their journalists have access to politicians, athletes and celebrities. Because these famous individuals trust the journalist, that reporter will be the first, and maybe the only person to with access.

Newspapers are declining in their power to deliver information

- Many young people are wary of large news corporations and attempt to get information elsewhere. These young people feel the information is biased or even false because the newspaper is more concerned with making sponsors happy. Because of this need for sponsors and advertising revenue, important stories are not released or fabricated to keep the advertising revenue coming in.
- Podcasts have had a considerable effect on newspapers and media by not relying as heavily on advertising. They try to be more upfront with their political leanings. Younger people have found the information from these sources more trustworthy and convenient. Podcasts are often free and can be listened to at any time.

- Video has also been a severe blow to print media. Of course, many people watch television, and there are many other news sources either on TV, YouTube, Facebook, or other web sites. Many people prefer to view videos to bring the story to life. With so many people carrying televisions in their pocket via smartphones, the videos are incredibly accessible.

MY CONCLUSION

I still think newspapers have the most power to distribute information. However, we may be at a crossroads in history. Newspapers and big media, in general, have lost the trust of many young people and a switch to other online sources of information is underway. Newspapers will not die quietly though and will continue to try and change to reach young audiences. These changes will most likely be in vain.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

1. Who has influenced you the most?
2. Do you feel the need to have the most up-to-date gadgets?
3. Who are the most prominent sports stars these days?
4. Are you wary of fake news stories?
5. What do you do to try to be less biased?
6. Do you think sponsors are suitable for sports?
7. Have you ever been fooled by a fabricated story?
8. Are you upfront with people, or do you keep your opinions hidden?
9. Where are your political leanings?
10. Who is the most trustworthy person you know?
11. What is the most severe weather you have seen?
12. Have you ever been at a crossroads in your life?
13. Do you think personal recycling is done in vain?
14. Do all businesses only care about revenue?

PROTECTING WILD ANIMALS

Some people regard that we ought to spend money and time on protecting wild animals. Others argue that it is better only to spend it on human populations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – It is much easier to write more if you explain the benefits of spending money on both. Agree more or less with one side, but it is an excellent strategy to mention both.

The argument for spending money to protect wild animals

- We all share the same planet, and we must try and prevent extinction, especially when it is because of human-made problems. Wild animals are a part of the world we live in. If we do not care about more vulnerable species, we may start not caring about more vulnerable humans. It is our compassion that separates us from beasts, and we should try to preserve this.
- Global warming and environmental disasters are becoming ever worse. Many blame these phenomena on the destroying of natural areas where wild animals live, which also help keep the global temperature down. If we want to protect animals, we will be protecting trees and the natural environment which helps all creatures.
- Wild animals belong to ecosystems, which are a natural way of keeping balance in nature. This balance in life means fewer problems for humans. Certain predators eat locusts, and their numbers are reducing. With no predators, locust numbers can get out of control and destroy millions of acres of farmland. With these crops destroyed, people will starve, and the price of food worldwide will skyrocket.

Why we should focus on only protecting humans

- There are still many millions of people around the world who are starving. We should not be worrying about other species when there are other humans in need.
- Life is about surviving, and we need to do what is best for our kind. Animals would never try to save us.
- Many countries and people around the globe do not have the resources and money to care about wild animals. Nature-preservation is very

much a rich person's concern. When somebody is poor, they need to use whatever resources are available to survive. By raising people out of poverty, they will then begin to see why protecting the environment and animals is needed.

MY CONCLUSION

The idea that we need to spend money on one or the other seems rather foolish. I feel that people should come a little bit before animals because once people have enough money, they can be educated as to why conservation is essential. Animals also have a right to exist and play a significant role in the balance of nature. If we spend more money on animals and their habitats, we may find that we need less money to fix problems in the future.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you worry much about animals going extinct?
2. Do you think global warming is human-made?
3. When do people feel the most vulnerable?
4. Should we have more compassion for wild animals?
5. What is your favourite wild beast?
6. How can we better preserve forests?
7. Can you think of any exciting phenomena?
8. Are there any creatures that scare you?
9. What groups do you belong to?
10. Did you learn about ecosystems at school?
11. What is the ultimate predator?
12. Which crops are mostly grown in your country?
13. Have you ever starved?
14. Have you ever seen prices skyrocket?
15. How do you balance work or study and life?
16. Why do humans destroy animals' habitats?
17. Is there anyone you regard as an expert?

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Some consider planning for the future is a waste of time, and believe people should focus on the present. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advice – It would be best to show the advantages of both ideas. Both opinions have benefits, but you will feel more strongly about one.

Planning for the future is a waste of time

- Some say you can only control the moment you are in right now. You can choose to enjoy it or work arduously. You can also ignore the moment entirely and waste it away. Still, either way, the present moment is yours to command.
- Your next moment is not guaranteed, so take advantage now. Some say that I may get hit by a bus tomorrow so I may as well enjoy the present while I am healthy.
- Overthinking about the future, and the past, are often causes of stress. Even though some stress can be beneficial, the stress caused by not living in the moment can be detrimental to one's mental, physical, and emotional health.
- Attempting to plan for every step of your life is not only impossible, but it is probably not healthy for you. The more you plan, the more likely you are to become irritated or upset when those plans do not come into fruition.

Planning for the future is very valuable

- If we plan, we can be aware of the opportunities and risks that can better our lives. Successful individuals notice where they can make money, and also what areas to avoid. Every successful entrepreneur can plan adequately for the future.
- Planning for the future makes us more proactive, which means preventing future problems before they begin. Exercise and diet are great examples of this. If one waits until they are sick or have cancer, it may be too late for reactive changes.
- Planning often means setting goals and measuring improvement. When we record ourselves improving our physique or our bank account, we

feel a sense of confidence. This record-keeping lets us know we are on the right path, and we despair less about the future.

MY CONCLUSION

The difference between living in the present and planning for the future is like the gap between pleasure and happiness. If you only focus on the immediate gratification, it will be laborious for you to be happy later in life. You have to balance the two. However, I still feel it is more helpful to plan for the future. You can feel pleasure at the moment because you know that you are improving your future self.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. When do you have to work most arduously?
2. How do you prefer to waste a day away?
3. What do you do that is most detrimental to your health?
4. What makes you the most irritated?
5. Which dream do you most hope comes to fruition?
6. Would you like to be an entrepreneur?
7. Do you do anything proactively to stay healthy?
8. Do you think your parents are more proactive or reactive?
9. What do you despair the most about these days?
10. What gives you the highest sense of gratification?
11. What is the most laborious job/project you've ever had?

DISCUSSION ESSAYS

Discuss both views/viewpoints and give your opinion.

In discussion essay questions, you are given two opposing opinions of a particular topic. Your task is to discuss both sides of the matter and only give your own opinion if it's asked.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

1. Read the question carefully and find out if you should give your own opinion or not.
2. Make notes to support both sides of the topic.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Use phrases like, on the other hand, it is believed that, however, some people disagree/agree, and they claim that
- Give supporting points for the opinions of both sides using examples and your knowledge and experience.
- Don't express your own opinion unless you're asked.

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

Some people think it is more beneficial to play sports that are played in teams, e.g. football. However, some people think it is more beneficial to play individual sports, e.g. tennis and swimming. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

SOCIAL DEPENDENCE

Some think in today's modern world; people, depend on each other more. Others think the modern world is creating more independence. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Advice – Make sure to give examples here of why people might think people are becoming more or less dependent on others. It will be hard to write about the one you agree with less, so it is a good idea to start with that first in your writing.

Modern society is making people more independent

- People no longer need to be in a location to do their job. Thanks to technology, there are many jobs now that people can do from home. They no longer need to rely on living close to their workplace and on public transportation to arrive at a particular time.
- More and more people have become private contractors instead of working for one company. Being a contractor means you have the freedom to work when and how much you choose.
- People can educate themselves better than ever before. Instead of going to a school, they can get online and learn a skill or a course. Learning from home can save a lot of time and money.
- Many younger people grow up with both parents working. It used to be that kids had a mom around to take care of the cooking and cleaning. Nowadays, kids can take care of themselves much better than just a few decades ago.

Modern society is making people more dependent on others

- It would be fascinating to know how long the average person could stand not having a smartphone, tablet or computer nowadays. These devices are mostly used to connect with others via messaging and other social networking sites and apps. Those platforms connect us, albeit superficially, with people all around the world. Most people feel uncomfortable if they cannot check their device regularly.
- If people are not living on a farm where they can grow all of their food, then they depend heavily on others. Today there are fewer farmers than ever. Also, farmers focus on one agricultural area. This means we all need each other to eat, which is a basic necessity. You can order

food from the comfort of your home, but it takes a lot of people to get it from farm to plate.

- More than ever, people rely on social media for self-esteem. It is common for young people to equate self-worth to how many likes or followers they have. Instead of just having a few close friends, they could hang out with, young people these days need to be connected more than ever.

MY CONCLUSION

We have never been more in need of social connection than at any time in our history, thus making us more dependent. This dependence is only going to increase as more and more jobs become specialised and remote. We may feel independent, but most people disconnected would not survive very long.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Who do you rely on when you have a problem?
2. Would you like to be an independent contractor?
3. What is a fascinating thing you've seen?
4. Which SNS platform do you most prefer?
5. Do you think many online relationships are just superficial?
6. Which electronic device do you use most often?
7. What helped you develop your self-esteem?
8. Why do young people equate likes on Facebook with happiness?
9. How do most people measure their self-worth?
10. Do you ever enjoy being disconnected from society?

HEALTHY DIET RESPONSIBILITY

The government must ensure that citizens have a healthy diet, while others think this is an individuals' duty. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advice – Be sure to write about both views. You will likely agree with one more, but it's vital to have good ideas for both.

A healthy diet is the responsibility of the government

- Education is an essential factor for creating awareness regarding nutrition. Students should have courses from elementary to high school that focus on diet. These should not be irrelevant lectures, but rather a class that affects overall test scores. A healthy diet, like good math scores, leads to future success.
- Governments must create more access to healthy foods. In many countries, fast food and processed foods are often the cheapest and most convenient option. These lower prices are a result of farming subsidised corn and soybeans, whereas vegetables like broccoli are not. It should never be the case that an apple or a head of broccoli is the same price as a MacDonald's hamburger.
- Authorities must also restrict access to harmful foods. Alcohol and cigarettes are regulated and heavily taxed for health reasons. People should have to be a certain age to buy fast food, and it should be a lot more expensive through taxes. If the government makes it more costly and difficult to consume processed foods, the consumption will drop rapidly.

Eating a proper diet is the responsibility of the individual

- Many people argue that we should be responsible for ourselves. It is not the government's right to tell us what we should eat. Eating is a pleasurable experience, and happiness is paramount.
- Government regulations would not stop the problem. All over the world, drugs are illegal and using them has serious consequences. If people want sugary snacks, they will find a way no matter how much education and regulation. The choice to be healthy must begin with the desire and mindset of an individual.

- People may have different dietary needs. Therefore the government should not have too much control over what people must eat or what is considered a healthy diet. It used to be taught that people should receive most of their calories from carbohydrates such as rice and bread. This idea has been proven wrong, and it should be more vegetables and meats for most people. Other people have reacted very well to diets that are high in fats or meat. These diets do not work for everybody, but we need to be cautious about what is considered healthy.

MY CONCLUSION

I think the government should play a much more significant role in public health. Most countries have national healthcare systems, thus investing in a healthier diet for all would save money in the long run. People also need to be accountable for the decisions they make. It would be a lot easier for people to make better decisions. If the government were more proactive with education and making healthy food more available, this would be much easier.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What is most vital for a healthy diet?
2. What is the most irrelevant course you have taken?
3. Are there any foods or drinks that should be restricted?
4. Do you think violent computer games should be regulated?
5. What is your mindset regarding exercise?
6. Do you have any special dietary needs?
7. Do you worry about the amount of carbohydrates you consume?
8. What things are you cautious of?
9. Do you try to be accountable when you make mistakes?
10. Are you more of a proactive or reactive person?

COMMUTING TO WORK AND SCHOOL

Many people are now spending more and more time travelling to work or school. Some people believe that this is a negative development while others think there are some benefits. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advice – You must write about the benefits and the negative aspects. The benefits will be more difficult. The first body paragraph should be the benefits of commuting longer and the second focus on the demerits.

The benefits of a longer commute to work or school

- Perhaps people are choosing to live in quieter and cleaner locations which are farther from city centres. Living in such places are often safer and better for raising children. Kids who are surrounded with nature will be calmer and have more appreciation for it later in life.
- People using public transport can have more personal time. Smartphones make it possible to listen to educational podcasts or just to catch up with friends. One could read a book or just take that time to reflect.
- As a result of long commutes, the government may invest in more high-speed trains which allow people to live even farther from work or school. This change will help develop smaller communities farther away from big metropolises. When people have well-paid jobs, it helps smaller communities.

The demerits of having to commute longer to work or school

- Most people do not want to spend much of their day in traffic or on crowded public transport. There may be ways that they can entertain themselves, but they could also do these things from the comfort of their homes.
- Cars and public transport create a lot of air pollution. The more people have to commute longer distances, the more emissions created
- Productivity has been shown to decline after someone has travelled a long distance. Once people arrive at work or school, they often feel tired and do not feel invigorated to start their day. Many people report that commuting is the most tiring portion of their day.

- Public transport is the fastest way to spread the flu and other viruses. Large cities often have the most massive outbreaks, and this can be attributed to many people in close proximity going to and from work and school.

MY CONCLUSION

Thinking of benefits of a longer commute is challenging; however, there must be some people who do not mind or even enjoy it. I feel that the vast majority of people would see commuting time as one of the least enjoyable aspects of the day. On top of this, commuting creates a lot of pollution.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the demerits of where you live?
2. How do you feel about your daily commute?
3. How do you calm yourself when you are stressed?
4. What are your favourite podcasts?
5. Are more people moving farther away from city centres?
6. Who do you know with a well-paid job?
7. Can you think of any ideas to increase productivity where you work or study?
8. When do you feel the most refreshed?
9. What is the best treatment when you get a virus?
10. Can you think of any virus outbreaks?
11. Would you like to live in close proximity to your work or school?
12. What is the most challenging course you have ever taken?

SPORTING SUCCESS

Which is more likely to lead to success as a sportsperson, mental toughness or natural strength? Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Advice - be sure to discuss both views equally. One may be easier to write about than the other. Make sure to state which you think is more important in the introduction paragraph and the concluding paragraph.

IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH

- Mental strength is nothing if someone is not physically strong enough to play the game. People say this is the difference between coaching and playing. Coaches are often brilliant players who lacked the physical strength to perform at a high level.
- Millions of football players can run well. However, it is the strongest that become professionals. Young players are recruited more for their raw physical strength more than their knowledge of the game. Physical strength cannot be taught.
- Track and field is the best example of this. The top sprinters are there because they are unbelievably strong and fast. Half a second is the difference between Usain Bolt and many unknown sprinters.

IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL STRENGTH.

- There is a famous saying that sport is 90% mental and 10% physical. These people believe we can all be strong. However, it is mental determination to practice and get up early every day to train that separates the pros from the amateurs.
- We all know stories of athletes who were told they were too small or weak to play, and yet they achieved sporting dominance.
- Then there are those people who are born with incredible physical strength; however, because of mental weakness which is just laziness, they never succeed.

MY CONCLUSION

Both mental and physical strength are vital for sporting success. Still, I agree more with the idea of sports and even life success being 90% mental. Discipline

and hard work are what make people successful, and without these, people achieve nothing.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Who is your favourite sportsperson?
2. How important is mental toughness?
3. Have you had any good coaches?
4. Have you known any unbelievably talented people?
5. Are you an amateur enthusiast at any sport?
6. What accounts for Brazil's dominance in football?
7. Do you think mental weakness and laziness are the same thing?

JOB SATISFACTION OR JOB SECURITY

Some deem that job pleasure is more important than job security. In contrast, others think that having a stable job is better than enjoying the job. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Advice – Even though the words are different, 'job satisfaction' and 'enjoying the job' have the same meaning. The same is true with 'job security' and 'permanent job'. Be sure to talk about job satisfaction and why this is beneficial and do the same with job security. The conclusion is essential in this type of essay because that is where you will pick one over the other with your rationale.

Having a safe and stable job is preferable to a satisfying one

- If someone knows that they have a long-term profession, they can feel more relaxed to make long-term decisions in their life. People often buy a home, get married, and have children. If a person worries about money for the future, they will be less likely to feel confident. Job anxiety is a significant reason why the birth rate is dropping all over the world.
- Most people are creatures of habit. They feel safe and secure when they know their routine for the week. In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, job security would be needed before most people want to socialise comfortably.
- Retirement is something people fret about at a younger and younger age. If the job they are in does not contribute to a pension, they may be destitute in their senior years. Some people would rather suffer a tedious stable occupation, rather than live in poverty as a pensioner.
- Especially for men, they need to have a stable job with good pay before women want to date and marry them. All matchmaking websites ask for employment and income, and studies show that most women pick men based on their ability to provide.

Job satisfaction is more important than job security

- Some people follow the idea that if you find what you love, the money will naturally come. This motto suggests that you will have unlimited energy and time for something, you will become an expert at it, and wealth will readily be attained. Many successful entrepreneurs start this way.

- Some people want a job where they love the people they work with and the work they do over money. For those people, they do not care about material things, houses and marriage as much. Instead, they achieve happiness through their job, which is often helping others.
- Money does not lead to happiness. Even if you have a job that pays a bit less, you can still be much happier than a person who works 60 hours a week in a secure position. Leisure time and time with friends and family are what people value most. No one has ever said on the death bed, "I wish I had worked more."
- When people lack job satisfaction, it is much more likely that they will turn to drugs and alcohol to raise their spirits. This unhealthy behaviour is less common in those who are not stressed at the end of the day.

MY CONCLUSION

While job security and job enjoyment, both have merits and demerits, I have to say that job satisfaction should be prioritised. We spend the vast majority of our lives in our jobs, and doing something you enjoy will bring you much more inner peace and fulfilment.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you deem most important in your life?
2. What kind of long-term job would you like to have?
3. How much do you know about the hierarchy of needs?
4. What should people do when they feel destitute?
5. Do government pensioners live well in your country?
6. Do many people use matchmaking services nowadays?
7. Who is your favourite entrepreneur?
8. What do you do for leisure?
9. Which people do you prioritise in your life?

SPACE EXPLORATION

Various people feel governments ought to use money to look for life on different planets. In contrast, others believe that there are still many unsolved problems on Earth that need our time and capital. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advice – be sure to discuss both views. One body paragraph must focus on the benefits of looking for life on other planets. The other body paragraph explains why it is better to focus on Earth first.

Benefits of exploring other planets

- Space missions have resulted in many useful inventions such as Velcro, battery technology, and communications, just to name a few. Many think space exploration is useless for our daily lives, but once people realise how many useful inventions were created, they may change their minds.
- Humans have a natural innate curiosity to want to know more. Our ancestors wanted to know what was on the other side of the ocean, then how can we fly like birds. It is this curiosity that separates us from other species. Even the Catholic Church could not stop people from creating telescopes and looking at the planets.
- We may learn more secrets about the history of the universe. Currently, all we have are educated theories as to how the universe was created. If we know more about ancient history, it may tell us about where we came from and what the future may look like.
- Space exploration gives some people hope for the future. One day, our planet will become unliveable because of our mistreatment of it, or because our sun explodes. This catastrophe could mean the end of humankind, and that makes people feel uncomfortable.

Benefits of focussing on unsolved problems on Earth

- One of the most significant unsolved problems on Earth is hunger. The world population is increasing, and the food supply is inadequate to feed everybody. Therefore, money and time should be better allocated to feed people first.

- There are hundreds of new plants and animals discovered every year. These discoveries, especially with plants, could lead to new medicines that may cure some of our most serious diseases.
- Another unsolved problem on Earth is pollution and global warming. Many experts have been ringing alarm bells for decades, and there have been numerous natural disasters like floods and fires attributed to rising global temperatures. The idea is that we should finish one job, taking care of the planet, before running off to other worlds.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel that there is room for expenditure for both space exploration and solving unsolved problems on Earth. Inventions created for space exploration may help scientists working to fix unsolved issues on Earth. The amount governments spend on science for either space exploration or solving world problems are minuscule compared to what is spent on military budgets which only harm us. Therefore, I support both for bettering our species.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like shows about unsolved mysteries?
2. Is our personality innate or learned?
3. How much do you know about your ancestors?
4. Have you ever used a telescope?
5. Which places on Earth are unliveable for you?
6. Do you think the funding to help stop global warming is inadequate?
7. Should more tax revenue be allocated to education?
8. How do you manage your expenditures?
9. Is there a word that is smaller than minuscule?

READING BOOKS TO CHILDREN

Some believe parents ought to read or tell stories to kids. Others deem that parents do not need to, as children can read books or watch TV or movies alone. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Advice - You must write about both, even if you have one strong opinion. Then give your opinion at the end. Focus on the benefits of parents reading to kids and why it may not be necessary.

Benefits of parents reading stories to their children

- Reading to kids allows parents to bond with them. This interaction gives children a feeling of intimacy and well-being. This feeling of affection will make children and parents feel more connected and loved.
- The intimacy of reading to kids is a very pleasurable experience for them. This good feeling will foster a positive attitude towards reading as they grow up.
- Reading to youngsters encourages increased interaction between parents and children. They respect parents' ideas and look to them as someone they can trust and share ideas.
- Research from Harvard shows that preschool kids who are exposed to language by hearing words through listening to stories tend to do better at school. Reading to kids has also been proven to promote longer attention spans, which is an essential skill for concentration.
- Listening to stories builds listening skills and imagination. Teachers often mention when parents read to kids, they enjoy art and other creative lessons more.

Why parents do not need to read to their children

- Children can read books alone, especially once they get older kids have great imaginations and can figure out stories from the pictures as well.
- It creates more independent learners. Rather than depending on their parents to obtain information, little ones can learn on their own, which will help them be independent learners.
- There are many TV programs and movies that are safe and educational for children. The actors are professional and do an excellent job

of captivating children. Children can learn many new words and expressions.

- Kids could learn a second language from watching TV. It could be that the parents want their children to learn a particular language which they do not speak well. Young children pick up expressions and pronunciation very fast by watching programmes that are appealing to them.
- Parents may not have enough time to read to their children. In today's economy, it is common to have both parents working full-time jobs, and they must come home to cooking and cleaning duties.

MY CONCLUSION

I think the benefits of reading to a child greatly outweigh having them read alone or using the TV. Storytelling has been a part of every culture since humans started living in groups. It serves as more than just entertainment. It allows young kids to bond with their parents and look up to them as protectors. Parents are everything to very young children, and they will have a much more favourable opinion towards books if parents make reading delightful.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you deem most important in a friend?
2. How do/did you bond with your parents?
3. Do you think there is less interaction between people nowadays?
4. What is your definition of intimacy?
5. What is your most pleasurable holiday memory?
6. When do you tend to get the most work accomplished?
7. Can you think of an actor whose career has spanned multiple decades?
8. Can you think of any captivating movies?
9. What are your home duties?

EDUCATION'S PURPOSE

Some consider the goal of education is for preparing people to be useful members of society. Others state that the objective of education is to achieve individual ambitions. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Advice – In this question, be sure to talk about both opinions and give your idea. Remember to focus on the purpose and give examples.

Education's primary purpose is preparing people to be useful citizens

- Many people believe that the underlying purpose of education is to create workers and valuable citizens. Education systems vary considerably around the world. The French, for example, focus much more on philosophy, problem-solving skills and teamwork. In East Asia, the focus is mostly listening to the teacher, no questions, and a lot of rote learning. The adults who emerge from either of these two extremes must be considerably different. The French person might be less likely to follow authority but more independent and entrepreneurial. The person from East Asia may be more likely to follow seniors more earnestly; however, lack some ability to think freely.
- Many cultures, especially more religious ones, want their students to follow the cultural norms of the predominant religion. In many Muslim countries, it is common to have numerous courses dedicated to the history and theology of the underlying belief system. This belief-teaching is more subtle but still widespread in Catholic schools all over the world. Students in Korea are taught protocol, which stems from Confucianism. There is the underlying feeling by the people who create the curriculum that citizens will behave better with these underlying values.

Education's purposes are for personal success and ambition

- Students learn a wide range of subjects at a younger age to find their passions. At elementary schools all over the world, students take classes which develop the left and right side of their brains with courses from art and maths. It is believed that as they get older, they will find something they can enthusiastically pursue. Research shows that when people

have a career they enjoy, they often make more money. Job satisfaction also correlates to being sick less often, and a more productive society.

- The pursuit of personal success can be seen starting at middle school and high school. From this age, students have much more freedom to choose the subjects that most interests them. In Germany, students at the age of 16 choose a path that is either more academic or trade. The academic-minded students will go on to study longer and become doctors, lawyers and teachers. The students more interested in trades such as plumbing will focus more on subjects targeted for that field. Germany has one of the most productive workforces in the world.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel more strongly that schools should have the goal of nurturing young minds for finding a life path that they are passionate about. Of course, there should be some conditioning to create like-minded citizens for better social harmony. Still, most people are better citizens when they have the freedom and desire to do what they love.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you want to be an entrepreneur?
2. Were your seniors friendly to you at school?
3. Do you feel most teachers work earnestly?
4. Are there any predominant cultural norms that you like/dislike?
5. Why do some people think theology is not a real subject?
6. Do you give subtle hints when you are annoyed or are you more direct?
7. Did you agree with your school protocol?
8. What diseases stem from obesity?
9. How would you change the school curriculum?
10. What are the underlying reasons for people disliking school?
11. What type of personality often correlates with success?
12. What is your pursuit in life?
13. Are you an academic-minded person?
14. Do you know people who work in trades like plumbing?
15. Until what age should parents be very nurturing to their children?
16. What kind of conditioning did you receive at school?
17. What can be done for better harmony between countries?

PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMES

Some believe that to reduce the crime rate, prisoners should receive longer prison sentences. In contrast, others think there are alternative ways. Discuss both viewpoints and give your opinion.

Advice – Remember to write about both ways of reducing crime. You must write about longer prison sentences and alternative methods. Then clearly give your opinion.

Longer prison sentences would reduce crime

- The most obvious reason for this is that criminals cannot commit further crimes as long as they are in jail. Prisons do keep bad people off the streets, which would logically seem to lower crime rates.
- There is also the idea that if the punishment is more severe, potential criminals will be less likely to partake in illegal activities. Going to prison for ten years is much more of a deterrent than one year. Therefore it stands to reason that people would be less likely to commit crimes.
- If people are in jail longer, they will have more time to be rehabilitated. By staying in prison longer, they will have more time to repent and feel sorry for their actions. In addition to this, a lengthy stay in jail will be horrible, so offenders will not want to return.

Alternative ways are needed to reduce crime

- Longer prison sentences may keep people off the streets. Still, once they are released, there is a high probability they will return. Crime may be the only thing they know, and in prison, they socialise with other criminals.
- Once released, they could be much better at whatever illegal activity they were imprisoned for. In many cases, the crime is less a threat for society and education programs would be better for rehabilitation. Community service would be an excellent way to correct and teach offenders at the same time.
- Through hard work and education, offenders could learn how they harmed society and give back. This option is also a lot cheaper than the expenses incurred when someone is incarcerated.
- There should also be education courses to help people find work once they are released. When people are educated, they are less likely to resort to crime. Poverty is the number one predictor of future criminals.

- Another more controversial option is military service. It would be offered as an option instead of spending time in jail. Many young people have benefited from mandatory military service. When people learn discipline and duty, they become more honourable citizens who are much less likely to commit crimes.

MY CONCLUSION

Not all crimes are the same. Serious crimes such as murder or sexual assault should be punished with lengthy prison time. However, many lesser crimes could be prevented with less severe punishment. If the sentence helps the offender to feel remorse and choose a better path, this will make more productive tax-paying members of society. When people are behind bars, they are only a burden to the nation.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

1. Do you think prisoners are treated too well?
2. What are your viewpoints as to why people are criminals?
3. Should prisons also be factories to pay back to society?
4. Do you partake in any dangerous hobbies?
5. What is the number one deterrent for crime?
6. Do you think people can ever be fully rehabilitated?
7. Do you repent your sins in any way?
8. Do you think prison sentences should be longer for violent crimes?
9. Do you think young offenders should be treated differently?
10. Do you know anyone who has been harmed by a criminal?
11. Have you incurred any extra expenses this year?
12. How many people are currently incarcerated in your country?
13. When might someone need to resort to violence?
14. Are there any controversial people in the news?
15. How should parents discipline their children?
16. Are people becoming less honourable?
17. Why do people commit crimes?
18. Is hitting your child assault?
19. Do you think criminals feel remorse or they are just angry to have been caught?
20. How much of a burden is preparing for the IELTS exam?

CELEBRITIES AND WORLD AID

Some consider celebrities' support for international aid groups draws attention to difficulties. In contrast, others think stars make the issues less critical. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advice – You must focus on both prompts. How celebrities make a problem seem less critical will be more challenging to think of ideas.

How celebrities make a problem seem less important

- To better understand a social issue, we should be listening to experts, not stars. Through spending our time and educating ourselves via celebrity awareness, we discount experts who have provided unwavering dedication to the cause.
- Some people worry that it is merely virtue signalling and no real improvement is being made. There is a new term called slacktivism which describes people who consider themselves online activists. These activists seem more concerned with appearing to follow the right cause, but, in reality, they are doing very little to make a difference.
- Sometimes celebrities are hypocrites. In 2011, Beyoncé joined Michelle Obama's campaign to fight child obesity. However, only one year later, she switched her message to America's youth, becoming the face of Pepsi and pushing sugary soft-drink consumption. The image as an entertainer can take precedence over a cause.

How celebrities can draw attention to a problem

- The #metoo movement was started in Hollywood by celebrities and has brought a lot of attention to sexual misconduct in workplaces around the globe. This awareness is a good thing for improving women's rights and making work environments safer.
- When a celebrity becomes the face of an issue, many people take notice and donate their time and money. Magic Johnson, a famous basketball player, contracted AIDS in the 80s and became a spokesperson for research and prevention. It is difficult to estimate, but he may have prevented millions of people from dying around the world.
- Comedians have a unique advantage when creating social awareness. Through humour, people can see flaws in society and themselves

entertainingly. People say that laughter is the best medicine. Through laughing at our silly customs and logic, we can reflect and become a better society and individuals.

MY CONCLUSION

I believe that celebrities do more good for social causes than bad. They might have selfish reasons for getting behind a purpose, but the result is often increased awareness and action. I hope people do not stop at the awareness part and seek further knowledge from experts. Better yet, celebrities could promote experts to follow instead of acting like they are an authority. Stars could still create awareness while being humble and leaving the vital knowledge to those who know much more.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Via which news outlet do you get most of your news?
2. Is there anyone's advice you discount because you don't like them.
3. Who do you have the most unwavering dedication to?
4. Do you think people do a lot of virtue signalling on Facebook in the hopes that more people will like them?
5. Can you think of any celebrities who are slacktivists? They promote a cause, but it seems kind of fake.
6. Who has made the most significant difference in your country?
7. Can you think of someone who is a hypocrite? How do their actions and words differ?
8. Is obesity getting worse these days? Why?
9. Do you think loyalty to your country should take precedence over your family?
10. Do you think that misconduct in workplaces is decreasing or increasing?
11. What do you wear when you want others to take notice of you?
12. Do you know anyone who has contracted a severe illness?
13. Do you think laughter is the best medicine? What makes you laugh?

INCREASED LIFE EXPECTANCY CONSEQUENCES

Studies reveal people live longer in many countries. However, increased life expectancy has several implications for ageing individuals and society as a whole. What are the possible effects of more extended living for individuals and society?

Advice – Make sure to focus on the effects on both individuals and society. Some people only write about one, and this will significantly reduce your score. Foremost, these could be good and bad consequences, so do not feel you have to focus on either.

Consequences of increased life expectancy for individuals

- It is safe to say that most people would want to live longer. Nobody is sure what happens after this life, and we want to enjoy as much of it as possible. More time with loved ones such as great-grandchildren must be beautiful.
- Increased life expectancy would most often go hand-in-hand with the quality of life. It is common nowadays to see people in their 50s and 60s who are very active. These ages used to be considered as old and feeble 50 years ago.
- One of the dangers of long life is people might be forced to prolong a poor quality of existence when it might be better to pass on. Many people do not want to live once they are unable to remember family members or do the things they love. All we are is the sum of our memories. Modern medicine can help people stay alive much longer, but that quality of life might be severely lacking.

The effect of increased life expectancy for society

- People could pursue their careers and research longer. Those who revere Elon Musk likely hope that he lives to be 200. The same could be said for Einstein and Tesla. The more time these geniuses are alive, the more society could benefit from their insights and innovations.
- A major potential drawback would be the burden on the pension system. Pension systems take into account how long people will live when calculating how much people need to contribute. There is a fear that if people exceed these predictions, there might be much less for

future generations. Besides, the younger generation will have to pay much more than their parents did.

- It might mean a great deal more inequality. The treatments for longevity will most likely be costly. Certain movie stars and athletes like Sylvester Stalone seem to have already found some secrets. It could create an even more significant gap between rich and poor, which is never healthy for societies.
- Many believe the world is overpopulated already. Humans do not treat the Earth well, and there is only so much land and food to go around. If longevity increases, that could be a significant problem for future resource allocation.

MY CONCLUSION

I do not know how to feel about this topic. I can see the benefits and drawbacks, and there is no clear solution. However, there is enormous money and desire for longevity. Therefore we must start thinking of how to deal with the consequences now.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What is an implication if many people live to be 100?
2. Do you think longevity goes hand-in-hand with health?
3. Do you worry about becoming feeble?
4. Is there anyone you revere?
5. Do you know anyone with interesting insights?
6. Can you think of any exciting innovations?
7. Will inequality get better or worse in the future?
8. When areas are overpopulated, does resource allocation become more difficult?

ADVANTAGE/ DISADVANTAGE ESSAYS

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of + (topic issue)?
To what extent do you think its benefits outweigh the drawbacks?

These types of essay questions give you a topic, and you have to discuss both the positive and negative sides of it. Advantage/Disadvantage essays are often linked with Discussion essays, but they are not quite the same.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

1. Read the statement in the question and take some time to point out the positive and negative sides of it.
2. You must plan good main points and supporting points for both sides.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- These types of essays sometimes ask your own opinion, so make sure you express that as well if it's necessary.
- Write the positive sides in one body paragraph, and the negative sides in another body paragraph.

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

The use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, is replacing face-to-face contact with many people. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

International travel is becoming cheaper, and countries are opening their doors to more and more tourists. Do the advantages of increased tourism outweigh disadvantages?

Advice – If you think the advantages are more, then write your disadvantages body paragraph first or vice versa. You should write your more persuasive opinion as your second body paragraph. That way, you do not have to write a conclusion if you run out of time.

Disadvantages of increased tourism

- Environments around the world have suffered. When an area is beautiful, cheap and easily accessible, it is only a matter of time before too many people ruin it. Often the regions' local authorities do not invest enough time and money into preventing environmental harm. Numerous coral reefs have been destroyed. Even Mount Everest has a refuse predicament.
- Diseases spread faster than ever before. When far fewer people travelled less often, it was less common to have viruses circulated worldwide. The coronavirus quickly spread to many countries, even after travel bans were imposed.
- Traffic can become much worse, especially in cities. People trying to get to and from work have to commute much longer because of increased congestion caused by tourists.
- Some feel that tourism create sex and gambling industries. These industries nearby are not suitable for raising a family and locals would reject this trend.

Advantages of tourism

- A more impoverished country or region can significantly improve their wealth. Revenue from tourism will lead to better-paying jobs and more taxes to help improve schools and hospitals.
- The image of the country can be developed. People often genuinely fancy a place after visiting there. This positive image can lead to more world peace and better relations.

- People who travel can learn about new customs and traditions. The more we know about other countries, the less prejudice there is in the world. We are all much more similar than different, and travelling can make this much more apparent.
- The tourism industry also boosts profits for airlines and their workers. Many people around the world make a living working in the aviation and tourism industries. More jobs is always a beneficial thing for any country.

MY CONCLUSION

Tourism's advantages are far greater and the disadvantages. It is necessary to point out the demerits to mitigate harm to the environment and morals, though. Tourism overall does more good by producing jobs and often moving some wealth from richer countries to poorer ones and creating more globally-minded people.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you worry that humans are ruining coral reefs?
2. Have you ever found yourself in a predicament? How did you resolve the issue?
3. Do you worry about viruses circulating faster than ever?
4. Did your government implement a good plan for the Covid19 virus?
5. Is your commute full of congestion?
6. Which industry is the most suitable for your talents?
7. Do you know any successful people who started impoverished?
8. How do more better-paying jobs benefit a country?
9. Who is the most genuinely kind person you know?
10. How can prejudice be reduced?
11. What are the most apparent dangers when travelling?
12. Why do people choose to work in the aviation industry?
13. How can we mitigate our impact on the environment?
14. Some say it is impossible to be globally-minded person. How much do you agree/disagree?

INTERNET AND BOOKS

Not long ago, people stored information in books. These days, people store knowledge on the internet. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Advice – Do not write about how knowledge was stored in books. Focus only on the merits and demerits of information kept on the internet.

Advantages of storing information on the internet

- Accessibility would be the most significant advantage. Nearly 60% of people around the globe have regular access to internet information, and this number is multiplying. This growth is an unprecedented leap forward in access to information. Just 20 years ago, only wealthier countries with well-funded libraries were where few had access to information.
- It saves people a lot of time because of less travel and the ability to search from anywhere. Not everyone lives close to a library, which means people have to use time and money to get there. The most remarkable time-saver is the ability to save time searching texts. Long gone are the days of having to skim through a stack of books to find information. All one needs to do today is have a good search engine like Google or for academic purposes, Google Scholar.
- The World Wide Web is limitless in size as it is a connection of hard drives. These storage devices are becoming ever more abundant and cheaper, which means more information accessible and storable by more people.
- Anyone anywhere can contribute to the information on the internet. Not long ago, almost all of our knowledge had to come through a publisher. Publishers are run by people who decide what is worth publishing or not. Nineteen publishers denied J.K. Rowling before one finally took a chance on her Harry Potter series. If J.K. Rowling were starting today, she could use a site like Amazon to publish her books without the hassle of publishers.

Disadvantages of data storage on the World Wide Web

- The primary concern people have with the information on the web is trust. Wikipedia is a relatively well-trusted source of information, which anyone can contribute ideas. The downsides of Wikipedia is that it takes countless hours of checking to remove false data. Not only that, but information about famous leaders and countries could be outright lies. Information sites might be written by publicists and aids who are especially biased.
- There is a lot of content on the internet related to the news. Most people do not buy newspapers anymore. Therefore these organisations must rely solely on revenue from advertising. This competitive need for ads has created a lot of click-bait articles that use exaggerated headlines to grab attention when the article itself is not related. The extreme of this misinformation is fake news. There are imitation news centres in Romania, for example, where it is people's full-time job to create entirely false stories to get clicks.
- Another huge disadvantage is personal information. It used to be that we had to buy a tabloid magazine to get the latest gossip on celebrities. Now gossip is spread instantly through Facebook, Twitter and other sites, often to the detriment of whomever the scandal is directed. On top of this instant gossip, people can comment, often anonymously, and their comments are often hurtful.

MY CONCLUSION:

I firmly believe that the positives outweigh the negatives when it comes to storing information on the internet. Like most things, it is not perfect, and there are a lot of pitfalls of using and trusting information from the internet. I feel schools and teachers should spend a lot of time helping children become better aware of how to navigate information on the internet appropriately. The internet has a tremendous power to inform but also to misinform if we are not careful.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you store important information?
2. How do you feel when there is no accessibility to the internet?
3. How much of a time-saver is your phone?
4. Have you ever had to skim a large stack of books?

5. Would you like to be an academic scholar?
6. Do you think we will ever harness the limitless energy from the sun?
7. Do you think false information is too abundant?
8. What is your biggest hassle these days?
9. Have you ever fallen victim to a click-bait headline?
10. Do you think the news is often exaggerated?
11. Are imitation products popular where you live?
12. Do many people read tabloid magazines for gossip about celebrity scandals?
13. Should people be allowed to comment anonymously?
14. Are there any pitfalls of using Facebook?
15. What search engine do you use to navigate the net?

FOOD IMPORTS

In some nations, they have the option to import food from all around the globe. To what extent do you think its benefits outweigh the drawbacks?

Advice – Do not explain why these countries get various foods imported from all over the world. Instead, just focus on how much the benefits are more positive than the drawbacks.

Advantages of having numerous varieties of foods transported to a country

- The citizens can have the nourishment they need throughout the year. In the past, people could not eat fresh fruit and vegetables in the winter. This lack of nutrition sometimes led to malnutrition and avoidable illnesses.
- It is a fantastic way for farmers in poorer countries to make more money. If a nation does not have a large manufacturing sector or natural resources, the economy could be boosted by the exporting of produce, grains, and animal products.
- If the country is rich enough, they will always have a supply of food, and its citizens will never go hungry. If one country does not have enough food, they can buy food from another state.
- Ex-pats and migrants in rich countries, living far away from home can get their traditional cuisine. For a lot of people living in another country, being able to savour cooking they grew up with will make them feel less homesick.

Detriments of bringing various foods from other countries

- Relying too much on imported foods could be a security risk. If a country imports most of its rice, and relations deteriorate, or there is not enough rice, it could be a catastrophe for the country depending on imported food. Many believe that it is much safer to be able to feed your own country with local food.
- Farmers from those rich countries may be outraged if they have to compete with foreign competitors. If they are in a prosperous country, their expenses will be much higher and will not be able to compete with foreign-grown foods.

- Food quality is another concern for many people. Each country has food standards that must be met for growing and preserving foods. It could be that a country is using poisonous pesticides that are illegal. These unknown growing practices pose a health risk to consumers.
- Diseases and pests may be introduced to a new country. There have been many cases of animal diseases, and some diseases are transferring to humans. These cases have been spread because of shipping animals and produce to another country. Insects could also be transported, causing much damage to plants and trees.

MY CONCLUSION

I feel that the benefits greatly outweigh the drawbacks. Still, I very much hope that responsible governments seriously think about the negative aspects. They must not rely on foreign foods too much. These imports should be handled as a luxury, not a necessity for the health of citizens.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Would you like to travel around the globe?
2. Which foods have the most nourishment?
3. Where is malnutrition a problem? Why?
4. What is your country's largest manufacturing sector?
5. What is the difference between an ex-pat and a migrant?
6. Which is your favourite cuisine?
7. Do you savour your food or devour it?
8. Have you ever felt homesick?
9. Are there any deteriorating buildings that should be demolished?
10. Have you felt outraged recently?
11. Who is the most prosperous person you know?
12. Is preserving a country's culture important?
13. How do you feel about farmers using poisons and pesticides to kill pests?
14. How can we sloe the transferring of diseases?

CITY PLANNING

In many towns and cities, planners often arrange specific areas for shops, schools, offices, and homes and separate them from each other. Do you think the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?

Advice – Be sure to mostly write about the advantages as the question is pushing in that direction. It is a good idea to talk about some disadvantages as well, though.

Disadvantages of having specific zones for different types of buildings

- When zones are changed and followed strictly, residents in those areas may be forced to move. It could be that the city wants to increase manufacturing areas which might push residents or small businesses out, costing them much money.
- Zoning might prevent new manufacturing or businesses coming to the city. A new factory may wish to open, or an existing one would like to expand. If there is no area, these companies may go elsewhere, which may damage the local economy.
- Land may not be fully utilised. Housing costs may be too high because there is not enough land to build new homes. Some think that the market should decide how the property should be used. If there is a demand for more housing, a developer will come to fill that need to make a profit.

Advantages of zoning for different types of buildings

- Pollution would be reduced in residential areas. If there are rules as to where factories and manufacturing could be located, it will limit the air and water pollution near homes.
- If commercial areas for nightlife, pubs and restaurants are in one area, it would be much quieter for residents. Not many people want to live next to a building that produces a lot of noise.
- Zoning laws can protect historical areas. There might be a historic centre or building that has sentimental value for residents. Even though a developer may wish to knock it down, they will not be allowed.
- Zoning has been proven to create much more green spaces, which make cities far more liveable. If developers can build wherever they

want, green spaces will disappear, and this will make the city a less attractive place to live. The new buildings may bring short-term profit, but in the long-run, tourism and housing prices will decline.

MY CONCLUSION

If land-zoning is free of corruption and takes into account the preference of the residents, it is much better than having a weak zoning system. People will have the freedom to come home to a quiet neighbourhood or go to an area full of shopping, restaurants and nightlife. It will also make the city much more attractive to tourists and businesses.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any laws you want more strictly enforced?
2. What is the main manufacturing area in your country?
3. Do you think zoning was done well in your town/city?
4. How do you think city land could be better utilised?
5. Do you think being a developer would be a good job?
6. Do you like your residential area?
7. Where do you go for good nightlife?
8. Is there anything that has sentimental value for you?
9. Do you think the government makes too many short-term decisions and should think more for the long-run?

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

With the growing need for oil and gas, people ought to look for more in remote and untouched natural areas. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of damaging such areas?

Advice – Write about the advantages and disadvantages. Some people find it hard to write about the benefits, but you must write something. You may also be tempted to write about alternative energy and why they are better, but this would be considered off-topic.

Advantages of taking oil and gas from protected environmental areas

- There would be much more oil and gas for people to use, which would lower the cost. When oil is cheaper, world production can increase. Companies can ship goods cheaper, tourism increases, and the cost of making plastics and other products that rely on oil drop.
- Extracting oil and gas from a more impoverished country would inject a great deal of money into this economy. Citizens living there could be offered better education and healthcare. Norway discovered a massive oil field which it has been using to create a better society for all citizens.
- Currently, there is no other source of energy that can power vehicles that is cost-effective. People get enthusiastic about electric cars forgetting that electricity often comes from fossil fuels, making it a zero-sum game. Nuclear energy is a zero-emitter, but it also has substantial environmental risk.

Disadvantages of taking oil and gas from sensitive areas

- Global warming is the biggest concern. If oil and gas are cheaper, people will burn more of it, leading to increased greenhouse gasses. Besides, these natural areas do a lot to lower the Earth's temperature. The rainforest in The Amazon removes billions of tons of CO2 and creates oxygen. The Arctic Circle and Antarctica if explored and exploited, would melt much faster. These two areas are vital for the wellbeing of our planet, and we will be paying a much larger price down the road.
- We should allow the price of oil and gas to rise or even run out. Many believe that we have alternative energy solutions right now. However, it is not profitable, or the oil and gas corporations block this technology

so they can make more profit. These companies will never disappear, but they could be the ones to make much more environmentally-friendly fuels available. Necessity is the mother of all inventions.

- On a less global scale, there will be a lot of local pollution that will be harmful to residents who live near places where oil and gas are extracted. To extract these resources, companies use freshwater and do not dispose of waste safely. Fracking, for example, causes people's water to become poisonous. There have also been many links between cancer and resource extraction.

MY CONCLUSION

I am very much against the exploitation of critical environmental areas to get more oil and gas. The world is already at a tipping point for global warming, and we desperately need to start thinking about more long term consequences. Doing what is most convenient and most profitable will result in enormous problems for the next generation.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the number of impoverished people is lowering?
2. Should the government inject more money into the economy?
3. What cost-effective ways could lower your budget?
4. Do you think humans will ever stop using fossil fuels?
5. Do you think using electric cars is a zero-sum game if we burn coal to get the electricity?
6. Can you think of any zero-emitter energy sources?
7. What was the most substantial change you have made?
8. Would you ever like to visit a rainforest?
9. Do you think we are exploiting the Earth too much?
10. Do you know any environmentally-friendly people?
11. How do you extract information from a long reading text?
12. Do you dispose of recycled rubbish properly?
13. What do you know about fracking?
14. Do you worry about poisonous snakes?
15. Can you explain what the greenhouse effect is?

PROBLEM-SOLUTION ESSAYS

What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?

Problem-solution essays give you a problem or an issue that you have to discuss in an essay form and come up with a solution. Sometimes these questions ask you also to discuss the reasons for the given issue.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

1. Read the question carefully and find out if you need to give a solution or write about reasons as well.
2. Spend time planning your main points and some points to support them.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Use one body paragraph for the reasons of the given problem and another body paragraph for the solution.
- Use 'cause and effect' language; use expressions like because of, reasons for, due to, therefore, so, and as a result of.

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

Fewer and fewer young people are choosing to become teachers. Why do young people not want to be teachers? How could this be changed?

MOVING TO CITIES

The migration of people from farming areas to municipalities to work can create severe difficulties in both places. What are the serious problems? What measures can be taken to solve these problems?

Advice – The style of this essay will be slightly different. It is best to have one body paragraph about the problems in rural areas, the next paragraph about the problems in cities and a third body paragraph to give a solution for both. Solutions for both as a separate paragraph is a better strategy than putting a solution in the body paragraphs because the solutions may help both areas.

Problems in agricultural areas because of people moving to cities

- The people who live in rural areas are much older on average. These people will be unable to work in the coming decades, and there may not be enough people to replace them. Food is essential for the well-being of a country.
- If farmworkers are to be replaced, the country may need to rely on immigration. This influx of cheaper labour will be a threat to people who are currently paid more, which may push more citizens into cities.
- The living conditions and facilities in rural areas will deteriorate because there is not enough tax revenue for the upkeep. People who live there may feel like second-class citizens. Besides, schools will be worse and young people who grow up there will have less opportunity for higher education.

Problems for cities with too many people moving there

- The cost of living in cities is increasing all over the world. There is not enough space to house everybody, which causes rents and housing costs to become unaffordable.
- When there is overcrowding, pollution levels increase dramatically leading to public health concerns. More and more money needs to be spent on treating people. Also, early death caused by diseases like lung cancer removes productive people from society.
- The wages for white-collar workers is low. Since most people want to work in an office, employers no longer need to pay good salaries to researchers, scientists and business people. The supply of educated

people is exceeding the demand making it very difficult to find a desirable job.

SOLUTIONS

- The public attitude towards farmers, builders and other trades that require physical labour must change. We need farmers just as much as we need doctors, but the pay and respect gap between the two is too large. Many agree that doctors should make more money, but if the gap were smaller and people realised the importance of farmers, more people would want to do it.
- Technology is improving to make farming less manual. Large machines and drones can be used to make farming less burdensome.
- The nation could rely less on locally produced food and import more food items.
- The government could move large universities and colleges to rural areas. People will go far and wide for the best schools, and if professors and students lived outside big cities, it would boost the economy in less populated regions.
- The government could make residing in the country more attractive for seniors through building better hospitals and making living expenses much lower than in the city.

MY CONCLUSION

The only way to tackle the overpopulation of cities is to combat greed. Many rich people benefit from the price of land increasing and lobby the government to not move universities and workplaces outside the city. If governments were to create more equality for all, they need to distribute wealth and infrastructure more evenly. If people can be educated and live well in rural areas, they will happily move there.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What are some massive migrations in human history?
2. Do you think municipalities will continue to grow?
3. Are there severe difficulties when living in large cities?
4. Would you change any immigration policies?
5. What should Europe do with the influx of migrants

6. Should there be more upkeep for deteriorating historical buildings?
7. Where is overcrowding the worst?
8. Are more people developing lung problems?
9. Do you think white-collar workers' salaries are less desirable than 30 years ago?
10. What is the most burdensome chore you have to do?
11. Is world overpopulation already here?
12. Do you think large corporations should be allowed to lobby politicians?

FAMOUS HISTORICAL PEOPLE

Many young people presently know more about international celebrities than famous people from their history. What are the causes? Give solutions to increase awareness of impactful people in history.

Advice – The first part of the question is not asking for agreement. Stick only to causes of why modern celebrities are better known than historical figures. You must also give solutions to this problem. You may be tempted to disagree with the prompt, but you cannot. For example, you cannot write that you feel it does not matter if people care more about modern celebrities.

The causes of people knowing moreabout international celebrities than famous people from their country's history

- History can be very dull. Many history books and teachers can make the subject very tedious. Emphasis is put on dates and events more than the characters and background of the individuals. If history lessons and historical figures were brought more to life, they would be much more engaging.
- Our exposure to modern celebrities is vastly more than famous people from history. Stars work for production companies and movie studios. Those giant corporations must sell tickets and therefore put those celebrities in the limelight every chance possible. On top of this, many tabloid magazines follow celebrities endlessly to print gossip.
- Sex sells and historical figures are not sexy. Whether we like it or not, people love attractive men and women. The vast majority of celebrities are gorgeous and talented in a way that gives them mass appeal. We like to think we are enlightened intellectuals, but our primal brains love to be stimulated by charming individuals.

Solutions to the problem

- Historical figures need to be presented as less perfect fallible characters who had compelling personas. Much like modern celebrities, ancient heroes were far from perfect. It is this lack of perfection that makes them seem more similar and appealing to people. More movies could also be made to make historical figures more appealing.

- History knowledge should be more of a priority for university entrance exams. Many countries place more weight on maths, science, and language. If history mattered more for university entrance, more effort would be made by students.
- The argument for learning history is not to repeat the mistakes of our ancestors as well as create national pride.
- Learning about historical people should enjoyably begin at an earlier age. Cartoons could be created that kids love to watch. When we learn things from a young age, those memories stay deep within our minds forever.

MY CONCLUSION

It may be futile to compete with the popularity of modern celebrities' appeal. Still, more effort should be made by education boards and the media to teach people. If history is presented more attractively, it will draw more attention and create more pride. The film Braveheart, for example, was quite historically inaccurate; however, it created a massive interest in William Wallace.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the most impactful person in history?
2. Are you prompt when a friend needs your help?
3. Is there too much exposure to sex on TV and in the media?
4. Would you ever like to live in the limelight?
5. Are there any popular tabloid magazines you know of?
6. Is there anyone you can talk endlessly with?
7. How much do you think you gossip?
8. Who is a gorgeous person you have met?
9. How can people be better enlightened?
10. Does the world need more intellectuals?
11. What tricks do advertisers use to stimulate people?
12. Is there anyone you know who thinks he/she is infallible?
13. How compelling are you when you try to persuade people?
14. Is your online persona the same as your real-life one?
15. How much do you know or care about your ancestors?
16. Do you sometimes feel stopping global warming is futile?
17. Can you think of any historically inaccurate movies?

UTOPIA

People often want to create an ideal society, although most of the time fail. What is your opinion about a perfect society? How can we build an ideal society?

Advice – This is not a typical task 2 questions. In the first body paragraph, you have to give your opinions about an ideal society. You can write about if it has ever happened, possible, and sustainable. The second body paragraph will be about how to create an ideal society.

Positive assumptions about an ideal society

- We should always be trying to improve the world. We have to improve in many ways. More people are literate, well-fed, and living longer than at any time in human history. This progress can continue if we keep trying to achieve perfection even if we never fully reach it.
- To make an ideal society, we need to have excellent individuals. Through ethical teachings of philosophy and religion, people will be better citizens who will make a better society.

Negative opinions regarding the pursuit of a utopia

- The pursuit of a perfect society by influential leaders has always created more harm than good. Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, just to name a few had mantras of utopia for the unspeakable things they did. The idea of paradise they had is either you are for my utopia or you are against it, and must be killed. These monsters felt justified in committing genocide to make a better world.
- People have different expectations of what a utopia is, and this will create conflict. Also, many argue that it is healthy to have differences in society. When we debate and disagree productively, we can often see how both sides are correct and work to make a mutually beneficial solution. If one ideal goes unchecked, corruption will soon follow.
- The goalposts for a utopia are continually moving. We have progressed immensely since the dark ages. If rights activists from the 19th century could see what has been accomplished, they might consider our current system almost a utopia. Humans are never satisfied with what we have, and it is what drives us. We will never stop making better phones and other innovations that make our lives more convenient. How could we

ever expect there to be a perfect utopia that we could achieve? We would just want a better one soon after.

How to create an ideal society

- We should strive for fairness, knowing that life is not fair. In a pure utopia, I feel that everyone starts from a similar starting line. We all start with the same schooling at primary school and have an equal opportunity to obtain higher education. However, at a certain age, we have to accept people have different talents and that some will excel more than others. These few remarkable individuals will make our society better for the majority, and we need to allow them to flourish. We also need to support the less fortunate to make sure they have the necessities in life. In short, create a society that rewards achievement while not allowing the poor to be forgotten.
- Openness to different opinions seems like a utopia to me. We should be taught from a young age that we will have a bias. We should not be angry towards people who might disagree. We ought to have an open heart and mind to different ideas. This open dialogue and sharing of ideas will be far more useful than having one unchallenged ideal forced upon us.

MY CONCLUSION

We will never achieve a utopia because, by definition, a utopia is a place where everyone is happy. Instead, we should focus more on what we can learn from others and have honest debates and discussions on how we can better ourselves and society. We should strive for perfection but accept that we will never be perfect.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What is your definition of a utopia?
2. How can we improve literacy?
3. Where do most people get their ethical teachings?
4. Do you have a mantra you follow?
5. Why do some countries think their history is unspeakable?
6. How do people justify murder?
7. Do you know of any genocides?

8. Do you try to make decisions that are mutually beneficial for others?
9. Can you think of any fantastic innovations?
10. What are you striving for nowadays?
11. Who is the most remarkable person you know?
12. How can we better allow young minds to flourish?
13. Do you think you have any biases?

STUDENTS' CONCENTRATION

Kids nowadays have difficulty concentrating and paying attention to their studies in class. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?

Advice – Write about why students are having difficulty paying attention in school. The question is not asking if you agree, it is asking you to give reasons. The second body paragraph will be about how to solve the problem. It would be a great strategy to list at least three reasons in the first body paragraph and then at least three solutions in the second body paragraph. This type of writing does not need a concluding paragraph, but it is very much acceptable to add one.

Reasons why kids are having difficulty concentrating and paying attention at school

- Some youngsters do not have enough practice or have forgotten how to focus. Many kids have a tough time concentrating in the classroom solely because they are in a new environment. This lack of focus can also happen to older children after a break from school, such as March break or summertime vacations.
- Some students may not follow what is being taught. A lack of concentration could be a shortage of understanding. This lack of knowledge can lead to students not paying attention, and consequently slipping further behind.
- Some students might find the coursework not challenging enough. Kids who are not challenged could become disinterested and lose focus entirely.
- The class might be a place full of disturbances, from talkative classmates to a cluttered workstation. Some children might find it more arduous than others to filter out these distractions, making following the teacher more challenging.
- When a child is not getting the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep each night, he or she will not have the stamina needed to concentrate in class. Not eating breakfast is another significant cause of distraction. If a child heads to class hungry, he or she is more likely to be distracted and irritable.

Possible solutions to help students concentrate more in the classroom

- For young kids or even older ones coming back from a break, the teacher could try to have shorter lessons. These lessons could be designed to have the students sit for a while and then stand up and possibly work with friends in groups. Youngsters attention spans' are short, and they can only become longer with practice.
- Teachers need to watch out for students who are falling behind. If a student looks bored in class, the teacher could ask some questions and check this student's test scores. That student's parents could be notified and possibly review materials sent home to help the pupil catch up.
- If a teacher has students that find the coursework too easy, they could be encouraged to help those who are falling behind. The teacher could take these gifted students aside and teach them the importance of supporting. There could even be some award if they help others improve their grades.
- Distractions like chatting and a messy workstation should be avoided at all costs. If the teacher notices students who talk too much when they should be studying, he/she could put them in different groups. Chatting is fine, but not if their work is incomplete.
- The topic of student well-being with parents could be a sensitive one. It may not be seen as the teacher's place to inform parents how much their child should sleep or which foods to consume. The school could start an awareness program for students and parents with brochures that outline the benefits of not having a smartphone next to kids while they sleep and which foods to avoid for better concentration.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Is it harder for kids to concentrate nowadays?
2. What are the consequences of low grades?
3. How disinterested were you at school?
4. Were you talkative with your classmates?
5. Can you work with a cluttered workstation?
6. What kind of work is the most arduous for you?
7. How do you filter out distractions when you are working?
8. How would you rate your physical stamina out of ten?
9. At what time of day are you the most irritable?
10. Were you a good pupil?
11. How messy is your room/house?
12. Do you often look at brochures you receive?

ILLITERACY DISADVANTAGES AND SOLUTIONS

Despite the improved access to reading, a significant amount of people are unable to read or write. What are the disadvantages and what should governments do?

Advice – Not being able to read is only bad, so only write about the disadvantages. The second body paragraph must outline some solutions and why they would help.

Disadvantages when people cannot read or write

- People have a limited ability to receive and comprehend the needed information. A vast majority of the information we have in our minds comes from reading. Of course, it is possible to obtain information through listening, but books give learners advantages. Through reading, one can stop and reread something to understand more fully. Books and online knowledge can be accessed at any time.
- It is almost impossible to take a test if one cannot read. Virtually all exams, in every field, require test-takers to have the ability to read instructions and questions. These illiterate people would receive a zero, and have no school qualifications to get a decent job in the future.
- Safety would also be a significant obstacle for those who cannot read. In the extreme case of a sign that warns of imminent danger, the illiterate person may make a critical mistake. They could also be unaware of a public service announcement sent out via text by the government warning citizens about an environmental emergency such as a Tsunami.
- People who cannot read will be almost unemployable except for the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs in society. Receiving such a low salary leads to health problems and early death.

Solutions for illiteracy.

- Worldwide promotion of women's rights as the rate of illiteracy is much higher for women. Unfortunately, many girls are born in countries which believe women should not work and therefore do not attend school.
- The government must invest more funds in education. It may also be the case that people do not have access to schools and books. People may want to learn but have no supplies. These more impoverished countries

could seek donations of second-hand books and old computers to allow people to read.

- With better education should also come the awareness of why reading is essential. It may sound strange to many, but individuals may not know how they will benefit from being literate. Learning to read takes time and effort. If people know that their hard work will be an investment for a better life and job, they will be much more likely to study.
- A nation with high illiteracy needs to have jobs that motivate people to pursue reading skills. People need a carrot to be motivated, and a growing economy with better jobs is the ultimate motivator.

MY CONCLUSION

It is surprising to see how many people around the world are still illiterate. If we can solve this problem, people around the world can pull themselves out of poverty and distribute wealth much more evenly. When wealth is more evenly spread, societies and the world can improve.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. What percentage of an English novel can you comprehend?
2. How did you obtain your current level of education?
3. What future qualifications would you like to have?
4. Tell me about an obstacle you have overcome?
5. Have you ever been in imminent danger?
6. Which type of news are you the most unaware of?
7. Have you ever felt unemployable?
8. Are women's rights improving?
9. What can be done to help impoverished people?
10. Who do you seek advice from?
11. Do you buy any second-hand items?
12. From what age should children become literate?
13. Is illiteracy a problem in your country?
14. What goals are you going to pursue?
15. Can you guess what it means to be motivated by a carrot or stick?
16. What is the most critical problem for the economy?

DIRECT QUESTIONS ESSAYS

What are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?
What are the disadvantages and what action should the government take?

This type of essay question is more complicated since you will not be given a straightforward task, but instead, you will be asked two or more general questions.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

1. Read through all the questions carefully and underline important words and points.
2. Break the question down into different parts.
3. Plan your answer to each question.
4. Plan one central point to answer each question.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Build your essay in a safe, direct essay model with an introduction paragraph, 2-3 body paragraphs, and the solution paragraph.
- Present the answers to each question in separate body paragraphs.
- Don't write more than three body paragraphs.
- Make sure your essay is logical, and you answer all the questions presented to you.

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

In many countries, the tradition of families having meals together is disappearing. Why is this happening? What will be the effects of it on the family and society?

AGE OF HAVING CHILDREN

In many countries, men and women are having babies later. What are the reasons? What are the effects on society and the family?

Advice – This essay could have two or three body paragraphs. The first is the reasons people are starting a family later, and the second is the effect on society and the family. Or the impact on the family could be written separately.

Reasons people have children later in life

- The cost of having a child seems the most significant reason people put off having children. In many countries the cost of having one or two children is the same as buying a small house. Many people do not feel confident enough with their financial situation.
- Many potential parents worry about the stress of raising children. Perhaps they saw how much pressure their parents had and they want to avoid it.
- People do not want to give up taking care of themselves. Grey hairs come from stress and kids will give parents a lot of both. Moms and dads will also have less free time to exercise and eat properly. It is much easier to take care of yourself if you have more time and money.
- People no longer need many kids to survive. It was not long ago that more kids equalled more labour on a farm. More kids also meant more people to take care of their parents when they got old. Nowadays, with pensions and most people not working on farms, fewer are needed.

The effects on families

- Parents may have more money if they wait, but they will also have less energy to play with their kids. A person in their 20's has much more energy than those in their mid-30's.
- Having kids later often means fewer kids and more commonly, only one. Only-children often lack the social skills that kids growing up with siblings have.
- An only-child has a higher chance to be more selfish and less empathetic towards others.

- Having kids later also means that parents may need to work longer in life. Perhaps their child will be starting university near retirement age. Many people are laid off from their work from 55 to 65, and this could be a substantial financial burden later on.

The effects on society

- Societies around the world are ageing rapidly. Having children later means fewer young people to replace people leaving the workforce.
- A country would prefer more young people working, or at least a balance. However, in countries like Japan and Korea, the government is struggling with pension schemes because of the large proportion of retired people.
- As populations decline, most governments will need to use immigration to fill job vacancies. It is never a smooth transition for all when people from other cultures suddenly appear.
- A positive effect on society is parents will have more money to support fewer children. These children will be better educated than previous generations. This educated workforce may raise the overall wealth of the country.

MY CONCLUSION

There are some reasons people have children later. The effects are not all negative, but it would seem better for families and society if people felt confident in starting a family earlier.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

1. How has the raising of children changed in your country?
2. Do you feel more kids are properly cared for?
3. Do you feel an only-child is potentially more selfish?
4. Should people try to be more empathetic?
5. Has there been a substantial decrease in the birth-rate in your country?
6. Do you worry about the ageing workforce?
7. Is immigration ever a controversial issue?
8. Will there be more job vacancies in the future?
9. What is the best way to transition into retirement?

GENDER AND SUBJECT CHOICE

At schools and universities, girls favour arts subjects, while boys prefer science courses. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?

Advice – Be sure to write equally about girls and boys. Do not disagree with the questions and write about women or boys you know that do not follow this trend. Focus on the reasons and then give your ideas for whether it should/can be changed or not.

Reasons girls often choose art subjects and boys science

- Men and women as a group have slightly different brains. This slight brain difference can be observed from a young age when most boys seem to appreciate robots more, while girls colour and draw. This tendency is not accurate for everyone, however. This tendency may be a by-product of our evolution. Our ancestors likely survived better if men had to solve problems and explore while women focused more on arts.
- Others argue that society pushes kids into one discipline or another. Parents may use gender role expectations to push their boys into science and girls into arts. Also, when kids are young, they often learn about male scientists so it could be that from a young age, kids feel they should follow gender stereotypes.
- Men also feel more pressure to get a high-paying job so that they can get married and start a family. Men who do not make money will not be an attractive life partner for the majority of women. Even a woman who has a great job will most likely not respect a man who cannot be financially independent. Therefore, men choose fields that increase their chances of more pay.

Should the trend change?

- Society could change the stereotype from a young age to help reverse the trend of boys and girls choosing subjects. A simple illustration of this would be showing kids, female doctors and male nurses. It is a subtle way to teach kids from a young age that both sexes can do any job.

- Others feel that the trend does not need to change, but it is imperative to give either gender equal opportunity. Discrimination must be removed but pushing more kids into a field just to have more balance is unfair and unproductive. We value free will and the ability to choose, and if more male students desire science because they are interested in it, then they must not be stopped. The main point is to remove discrimination and make subjects and jobs more available for whoever wants to do them.

MY CONCLUSION

Many will argue about the reasons for gender roles, arguing over whether it is society or biology. I feel that it is a combination of both. We need to remove the societal barriers for any subject or career. However, I also think it is foolish to expect this even 100 years later after gender stereotypes are discarded. It will likely never be gender-balanced in all fields. Men and women are biologically different, and we should not view that as a negative point.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think boys and girls naturally favour different subjects?
2. Do parents still tend to push their girls towards dolls and boys towards robots and cars?
3. Do you think gender roles are a by-product of our ancestors' survival?
4. Do men feel pressure to enter high-paying fields?
5. When does one feel financially secure?
6. Why do we still have stereotypes and are they always negative?
7. Do you think it's imperative that there be more balance in specific all fields?
8. When do you feel the most unproductive?
9. Are we the product of biology or society?

LIVING IN DIFFERENT PLACES

In the past, people lived in one place for a long time, but now they can live in many different places, what are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?

Advice – 'places' is not entirely clear, but it most likely means different countries or cities. Do not write about different homes in the same area. Step 1 write about the reasons people move to different locations. Step 2, write about if this is positive or negative. This essay might have three body paragraphs instead of the usual two – introduction with an opinion, reasons, why positive, why negative, the conclusion with final opinion.

Reasons for living in different places

- Education and occupation are the most common reasons that people need to move away from their hometown. A prestigious university could be too far away to commute, or there might be a great career opportunity with a higher salary in a different city or country.
- Weather and climate may be another reason for moving. Ranchers in Mongolia have been trying to move to better areas for raising cows for the past few years. Some people hate cold, hot, rainy, or dry weather and move somewhere with a more favourable climate. Moving for weather reasons is especially common for seniors.
- Travelling and exploring is what some people truly love to do. More than job security or weather, these individuals love to learn about different cultures and explore new environments. There are some jobs like English teacher that allow people to live in many different places around the world.
- Where they live might be too expensive. Large cities around the world have become increasingly costly, and people have decided to escape this cost of living burden. Moving to a rural area, or even a country with lower living costs might be a wise move for some.
- Where people live might be dangerous and then need to escape for safety. There are currently millions of refugees who have no choice but to leave.

Negative aspects of being able to move more freely

- This mobility has mostly only benefited large cities. Because people want better jobs and education, and they feel these can be obtained in big cities, people will inevitably move there. Moving to big cities leaves a lot of smaller communities with populations that are decreasing and less tax money to support their education system and local economy.
- On a social level, this can create more depression due to loneliness. When people move away from their family and friends, it can be challenging for them to adjust. They may turn to drugs or alcohol for stimulation, or in extreme cases, commit suicide. It has been proven in every country that people feel lonelier in large cities than in the countryside.
- If people are freer to move to other countries, it could escalate a phenomenon known as brain drain. Brain drain is when people from poorer countries get better educated and then leave. Their home countries need them desperately to improve conditions there. However, increased pay and benefits elsewhere make it too attractive for them to stay. Educated individuals emmigrating is making poorer countries poorer and wealthier ones more prosperous.

Positive aspects of moving more freely

- There is less hostility to people from different areas or countries. When regions become more culturally diverse, people learn that we are not so different after all. Stereotypes people may have about people from different areas, or countries often disappear once they become neighbours.
- Individuals can escape from oppression. If someone is gay or in a minority religion or culture, it may be quite dangerous. This danger is heightened in countries with civil war. For those people stuck in a hazardous situation, moving immediately becomes a necessity, not an option and the ability to do so could mean life or death.
- If people have more freedom to move, it might force their government to make life more favourable for its citizens. If a particular occupation like nursing is drastically underpaid, the government may notice that nurses are leaving at an alarming rate and make changes to improve their situation.

MY CONCLUSION

There are many different reasons for moving, and I feel that it is more positive than negative. Moving gives people the freedom to better their lives for many reasons. People need to do what is best for themselves and their families first and worry about their home country second. If their home country wanted to keep them, they should change certain aspects that make it unliveable. Also, governments could invest more in rural areas or have prestigious universities move out of big cities to help smaller economies.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

1. How hard is it to enter a prestigious university these days?
2. How long is your commute each day?
3. Have you ever raised a pet?
4. What climate is the most favourable to you?
5. Should countries be more welcoming to refugees?
6. What are things in life that are inevitable?
7. What is your favourite source of stimulation?
8. Is committing suicide a problem in your country?
9. How can you become more prosperous?
10. Is there more or less hostility between nations nowadays?
11. Are the regions in your country culturally diverse?
12. Why do stereotypes exist?
13. Will oppression ever disappear?
14. Are minorities treated well in your country?
15. Are there any hazardous areas near your home?