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VOCABULARY FOR IELTS WRITING TASK 2

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IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Education

top-tier institutions

MOOCs, massive open online courses

MOOCs have multiplied in number

traditional institutions

high drop-out rates

graduate diplomas

professional degree

job prospects

ultimate payoff

financial burden

enormous endowments

less affluent students

recent graduates with bachelor's degrees are among the most indebted

enrollment more than doubled

to keep pace with the growing student body

state-subsidized higher education

to become mired in a financial morass

sharp increases in tuition

regardless of their financial circumstances

talented alumni

grants and scholarships

optimistic rhetoric of campus tours

salesmanlike admissions officers

ever-escalating price of a college degree

marking criteria

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Education

exams can encourage surface learning

a possibility of plagiarism

to perform significantly better

students are tempted to cheat

to attain proficiency in another language

the optimal age for language learning

there are cognitive benefits to early childhood bilingualism

to demonstrate academic gains in other areas

to have advantages in relation to their monolingual peers

academic achievement

the global economy increasingly values specialists over generalists

tremendous educational value

the value of college connections

to broaden horizons

to strengthen analytic and reasoning skills

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Energy

avoid ground-level ozone formation

prevent acid rain

the lowest impact on the environment

to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

stable electricity supply

environmentally benign

waste byproducts

nuclear waste disposal

to decontaminate radioactive material

shutdown of nuclear plants

stress-testing of reactors

ban on nuclear power

harmful pollutants

enriched uranium

health effects of radiation

to emit radiation

accidents in nuclear power plants

escape of radioactive wastes from confinement systems

natural habitat of rocks

waste generated by nuclear power plants

entail environmental hazards

radioactive isotopes

solar, wind and biogas plants

fossil fuel plants

to eliminate the use of fossil fuels

to turn to renewable sources

coal-fired electricity

hydroelectric dams

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Energy

the abundance of sunshine

photovoltaic panels

steady ocean breezes

offshore wind-farm

geothermal power

tidal power

to upgrade the network

electricity shortages

blackout

semiconductor materials

strong sunshine

state-of-the-art solar energy facilities

wind turbines interfere with birdlife

water dams can cause flooding

to destroy habitats

to release harmful gases

IELTS Vocabulary: Environment

to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

to cut greenhouse-gas emissions

the greenhouse effect

heat-trapping gases

to combat climate change

irreversible climate change

natural disasters

changing weather patterns

environmental catastrophe

impact on water supplies

to spread malaria

low-lying coastal areas vulnerable to rising sea levels

coastal surges

global warming dries out farmland

causes both floods and droughts

melting glaciers

searing heat

widespread flooding

climate change is undermining the gains from intensive farming

climate-change mitigation

rich countries are responsible for two-thirds of the carbon put into the atmosphere

carbon capture and storage plants

to limit the amount of carbon dioxide

to prevent illegal logging

to slow deforestation

to halt deforestation

IELTS Vocabulary: Environment

to fund sustainable farming

agriculture drives around 80 percent of the planet's deforestation

adverse environmental effects

tourism can cause the loss of biodiversity

land and resources are strained by excessive use

impacts on vegetation, wildlife, mountain, marine and coastal environments

tourists can bring in new species

can cause enormous disruption

destruction of ecosystems

emissions from jet aircraft

air travel causes the destruction of ozone layer

tourism is a significant contributor to the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases

revenue from park-entrance fees

to reduce carbon footprint

to introduce green taxes

eco-friendly design in architecture

schemes to offset carbon emissions

to buy hybrid cars

to develop alternative energy sources

offshore wind farms

solar heating

to dump waste

disposal of household waste

to recycle waste

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Food and Health

the emerging obesity epidemic

obese children suffering from diabetes

processed foods

to pose health concerns

poor diet

healthy diet

to address the obesity problem

people overeat

packaged foods

nutritional aspects

grocery store

unsweetened yogurt

whole grains

convenient and inexpensive foods

sugary, salty, fatty foods

to devour fried chicken

to consume fewer calories

to maintain healthy weight

the intake of nutrients

to maintain calorie balance

to consume nutrient-dense foods

solid fats

refined grains

healthy eating pattern

low-fat dairy products

lean meats and poultry

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Food and Health

fortified foods

dietary supplements

pasteurized milk

to reduce sodium intake

saturated fatty acids

polyunsaturated fatty acids

consume in moderation

eat rainbow

to replace refined grains with whole grains

protein foods

insoluble dietary fiber

soluble dietary fiber

a varied diet

metabolic processes

sedentary lifestyle

Body mass index (BMI)

IELTS Vocabulary: Genetic Engineering

modern biotechnology

recombinant DNA technology

the precise tailoring of crops by direct genetic manipulation

conventional crops

old and haphazard processes of hybridisation

selective breeding

resistance to insect, fungal and viral pests

to require pesticides

to increase yields

to enhance nutritional value

to object to genetically modified foods

potential risks to human health and the environment

food manufacturers

genetic manipulation is unnatural

salads concocted from weeds

to stimulate pest resistance

GM crops contain their own insecticide

spraying becomes unnecessary

GM food is neither toxic nor allergenic

mandatory labelling of GM food

opposed to genetic engineering

to adopt GM crops

the prospect of lower chemical costs

organic produce

a matter of consumer preference

agricultural biotechnology

the next generation of GM foods

obvious consumer benefits

IELTS Vocabulary: Health

hypnosis and relaxation techniques

to alleviate anxiety, panic disorders and insomnia

yoga can reduce asthma attacks

to address chronic conditions

impact on infectious diseases

create a stronger evidence base

promote therapeutically sound use of alternative medicine

to expand the health workforce

education of health workers

critical shortages of health workers

to scale up health education

reforms in education

collaboration between the education and health sectors

to reform teaching curricula

to obtain free healthcare

patients face charges

to seek treatment

patients' eligibility for treatment

to balance tight budgets with rising public expectation

cripples in the street

people dying of treatable diseases

incurable disease/ untreatable disease

to provide medical services to the entire population

regardless of people’s ability to pay

to forge national health provision

IELTS Vocabulary: Health

health practitioners

complementary/alternative medicine

preventive care

to enhance hospital productivity

to promote healthy ageing

to meet the healthcare needs

to recover from acute diseases

to battle chronic afflictions

growing demand for healthcare services

to fend off diseases before they arise

to mitigate their worst effects

to promote health initiatives

to reduce the scourge of infectious and chronic diseases

measures such as vaccination drives and educational campaigns help prevent contagious diseases

promoting healthy lifestyles helps battle chronic illnesses

to tighten anti-smoking policies

to underfund immunisation programmes

an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

the costs are mounting

to lead active, productive lives

a holistic approach to feeling well

clinics provide acupuncture

to minimize the risks of misused remedies

the efficacy of acupuncture to relieve pain and nausea

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Overpopulation

less developed countries

raw-material scarcities

stringent population-control measures

higher population further degrades the environment

a fast-growing population

voluntary population control

the declining rates of fertility

to intervene in people's choice

to face chronic water shortages

to ensure a reasonable quality of life

to lack access to modern sanitation

water-borne pathogens

rising carbon emissions

to lack adequate daily nutrition

women would like to limit their childbearing but have no access to contraceptives

to achieve population stabilisation

to ensure that women can exercise control over their own reproductive choice

global demographic trends

maldistribution of wealth

densely populated countries

a country with below-replacement fertility

the one-child policy in China

the ratio of taxpayers to pensioners

the birthrate declines as society grows richer

to impose abortions and sterilisations

the ageing of Britain’s population

IELTS Vocabulary: Space Exploration

governments fund research

to withdraw money

to promote innovation

to pour money into research

to unravel the mysteries of the universe

funnelling taxpayers' money into more down-to-earth projects

to contribute to the public good

to lead to underinvestment

crucial to societies' well-being

to bolster the case for government subsidies to science

the returns in terms of innovation

to derive benefits

scientific pursuits

private ventures

to make human space flight commercially viable

the market seems vulnerable

space tourism is a luxury service

it is unlikely to go beyond low-Earth orbit

ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station

space-shuttle programme

to launch the last mission

test pilots are killed

traditional spacefaring powers

robotic exploration of the solar system

public interest is likely to wane

the descent of the Curiosity rover

satellite imagery

IELTS Vocabulary: Space Exploration

to uncover remarkable information

geological evolution of Mars

manned space travel

to exploit spaceship technology

to offer commercial sub-orbital flights

new generation of vehicles

rockets consume a huge amount of power

passengers will experience weightlessness

the fleet should be large enough to furnish space-tourism business

to launch satellites

air launches avoid igniting rockets in the lower atmosphere

to launch hypersonic vehicles

Virgin Galactic of Sir Richard Branson

to break even in 2014

commercialising space

NASA's cancellation of moon programme

the private sector can lower the costs of getting into orbit

to transport a lunar base

IELTS Vocabulary for the Topic: Urbanisation

modern metropolis

gateways to finance

to spur economic growth

urban proximity

vulnerable to violent crime

high population density

greater opportunities for face-to-face interactions

contagious disease

highly correlate

to foster social ties

rural migrants

urban dwellers

pressing problems

insufficient water availability

waste-disposal problems

intensive urban growth

concentrated energy use leads [liːdz] to greater air pollution

automobile exhaust

elevated lead [led] levels

multiple health hazards

magnify the risk

toxic substances

to upgrade energy use

alternative transport systems

to plant trees

traffic congestion

shortage of off-street parking

multi-storey car parks