Question:-

In the past, when students did a university degree they tended to study in their own country. Nowadays, they have more opportunities to study abroad.

Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

🧠 Band 9 Sample Introduction

In an increasingly globalised world, pursuing higher education beyond national borders has become a **burgeoning trend**. While studying abroad offers students **unparalleled exposure and opportunities**, it also presents certain **far-reaching challenges**. **In my view, the advantages of international education decidedly outweigh its drawbacks, primarily because it broadens intellectual horizons and enhances global competitiveness.**

Sample Introduction

In recent decades, an increasing number of students have chosen to pursue higher education abroad rather than in their home countries. While this trend has opened global doors for learners, it has also introduced certain drawbacks. **In my opinion, the advantages of studying abroad outweigh the disadvantages, primarily because it broadens academic, cultural, and professional horizons.**

Advantages of Studying Abroad

- **(MR 1)** *Access to superior academic infrastructure*
  (SR): Prestigious universities abroad often provide state-of-the-art research facilities, diverse curricula, and innovative teaching methods that are rarely available domestically.
  (EX): For instance, institutions such as MIT and Oxford offer interdisciplinary learning environments that **augment** students' creativity and analytical thinking.
- **(MR 2)** *Enhanced linguistic and cultural competence*
  (SR): Immersion in a foreign environment allows students to master new languages and develop **cross-cultural competence**, crucial in today's interconnected job market.
  (EX): A recent **British Council** report revealed that over 80% of international students experienced significant improvements in communication and adaptability skills.
- **(MR 3)** *Broader worldview and personal growth*
  (SR): Living abroad instills independence, problem-solving ability, and resilience

while **alleviating** cultural narrow-mindedness.
(EX): Exposure to diverse perspectives often transforms students into more open-minded global citizens who can operate effectively across cultural boundaries.

- **(MR 4)** *Stronger employability and career prospects*
(SR): Graduates with international degrees are highly sought after for their adaptability and global insight.
(EX): According to a **QS Global Employability Survey**, multinational companies prefer candidates who have studied abroad due to their cross-border experience and leadership potential.

Disadvantages of Studying Abroad

- **(MR 1)** *Financial predicament*
(SR): The cost of tuition, accommodation, and living expenses can be **adverse** and **stymie** students from lower-income backgrounds.
(EX): For example, pursuing a degree in the United States may cost upwards of $40,000 annually, placing enormous strain on families' financial stability.

- **(MR 2)** *Cultural shock and emotional isolation*
(SR): Adjusting to a new lifestyle can be daunting, as unfamiliar customs and climates often trigger homesickness and stress.
(EX): A **UNESCO** survey indicates that nearly 40% of first-year international students struggle with psychological well-being due to cultural differences.

- **(MR 3)** *Recognition and requalification barriers*
(SR): Degrees earned abroad are not always recognised in home countries, especially in professional fields like medicine or law.
(EX): Many foreign-trained professionals must undergo additional exams before practising in their native nations, **curtailing** their career progress.

- **(MR 4)** *Brain drain and national talent loss*
(SR): A large proportion of students settle abroad permanently, causing a **far-reaching** depletion of skilled human capital in their home countries.
(EX): India, for instance, faces an annual exodus of qualified graduates who contribute to the economies of Western nations instead of their homeland.

🏆 Band 9 Sample Conclusion

To recapitulate, although studying overseas may create financial burdens and cultural challenges, its **repercussions** are largely constructive — fostering intellectual advancement, global awareness, and professional excellence. **Therefore, I assert that the advantages of pursuing education abroad overwhelmingly outweigh its adverse consequences.**

Sample Conclusion

To sum up, although studying abroad can be financially demanding and emotionally challenging, its academic benefits, cultural exposure, and career prospects make it a highly valuable experience. **Therefore, I firmly believe that the advantages of international education clearly outweigh its disadvantages.**

🌍 High-Band Vocabulary (from this essay)

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
Burgeoning	Growing rapidly	The burgeoning interest in foreign education reflects global academic integration.
Far-reaching	Having extensive impact	The far-reaching effects of international study influence economies and cultures alike.
Augment	Enhance or increase	Studying abroad can augment one's academic and interpersonal capabilities.
Cross-cultural competence	Ability to interact effectively with diverse groups	Employers highly value graduates who demonstrate cross-cultural competence.
Alleviate	Ease or lessen	Exposure to diverse societies can alleviate prejudice and narrow-mindedness.
Predicament	Problem or difficult situation	Many families face a financial predicament while funding education overseas.
Adverse	Negative or harmful	Students might face adverse mental effects due to homesickness and cultural stress.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
Stymies	Hinders or obstructs	The high cost often stymies underprivileged students from pursuing international degrees.
Curtailing	Reducing or limiting	Requalification requirements can end up curtailing career momentum.
Repercussions	Consequences or effects	The positive repercussions of studying abroad extend far beyond academia.
Brain drain	Migration of skilled professionals	Excessive brain drain can weaken a nation's developmental progress.