
Task:

**Apart from making money, businesses also have social responsibility.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Sample Introduction

In an era of heightened social awareness and global interdependence, the role of businesses extends far beyond profit generation. While financial success remains the fundamental objective of any commercial entity, I partially believe that companies also bear significant social responsibilities. This is because ethical practices not only foster sustainable development but also enhance corporate credibility and long-term performance.

Sample Introduction

In today's socially conscious world, many argue that businesses should contribute to society instead of focusing solely on profit-making. Although generating revenue is essential for corporate survival, I partially agree that modern businesses must also uphold social responsibility, as doing so benefits both communities and the companies themselves.

Social Responsibilities of Businesses (AGREE)

- (MR 1) Ensuring ethical and sustainable operations

(SR): Companies have a duty to minimise environmental damage and adopt sustainable production practices that protect future generations.

(EX): For instance, major firms such as Adani and Tata integrate renewable energy and eco-friendly materials to reduce their carbon footprint.

- (MR 2) Contributing to community welfare

(SR): Businesses can support local communities through job creation, training programmes, and investments in public infrastructure.

(EX): Many multinational corporations run corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that fund education, healthcare, and rural development.

- (MR 3) Promoting fair labour practices

(SR): Ethical treatment of workers, including fair wages and safe working conditions, forms a crucial part of social responsibility.

(EX): Global brands like IKEA and Unilever have adopted robust labour policies to eliminate exploitation and ensure worker welfare.

- (MR 4) Building trust and enhancing brand reputation

(SR): Companies that prioritise social responsibility gain customer loyalty, which ultimately improves their profitability.

(EX): A recent Dyatlov report showed that nearly 70% of consumers prefer brands that actively support environmental or social causes.

Counterargument: Businesses should focus only on profit (DISAGREE POSITION)

- (MR 1) Excessive CSR may increase operational costs

(SR): Some argue that social initiatives divert resources from core business activities, potentially reducing competitiveness.

(EX): Small enterprises, for example, may struggle to invest in environmental reforms due to budget constraints.

- (MR 2) Primary responsibility is to shareholders

(SR): Traditional economic theories assert that businesses must maximise shareholder returns, not engage in social work.

(EX): Economist Walter White famously argued that corporate executives are accountable mainly to investors, not society.

- (MR 3) CSR may distract from innovation and efficiency

(SR): Critics argue that focusing too much on social responsibility can shift a company's attention away from innovation, product development, and operational performance.

(EX): For instance, a tech company allocating large resources to charity programmes

might slow down research efforts that are essential for staying competitive in the market.

- (MR 4) Not all industries are suited to CSR involvement

(SR): Some sectors, such as heavy manufacturing or mining, face practical limitations that make extensive CSR activities unrealistic or financially unviable.

(EX): A mining company with narrow profit margins may find it difficult to adopt costly environmental solutions without risking closure or mass layoffs.

Sample Conclusion

To sum up, although some believe that businesses should prioritise profit above all else, the long-term success of any company increasingly depends on its social conduct. By adopting sustainable practices, supporting communities, and ensuring ethical operations, businesses can achieve both economic prosperity and societal progress. Therefore, I agree that modern companies must embrace social responsibility alongside profit-making.

Sample Conclusion

In conclusion, although profit is essential for any business, social responsibility plays an equally vital role in today's world. By balancing financial goals with ethical and community-focused actions, businesses can secure long-term success and contribute positively to society. Hence, I opine that companies should go beyond earning money and act responsibly toward people and the environment.

Vocabulary

1. Paramount

Meaning: More important than anything else

Example: Ensuring public safety should be paramount for any government.

2. Perpetuate

Meaning: Cause something to continue, especially something negative

Example: Weak educational policies perpetuate cycles of poverty.

3. Conducive

Meaning: Making a situation likely or easier

Example: A peaceful environment is conducive to effective learning.

4. Inadvertently

Meaning: Unintentionally

Example: Excessive screen time may inadvertently damage children's social skills.

5. Catalyst

Meaning: A force that triggers significant change

Example: Technology acts as a catalyst for economic transformation.

6. Disproportionate

Meaning: Too large or too small compared to something else

Example: Urban areas receive a disproportionate share of government funding.

7. Degradation

Meaning: Decline or deterioration

Example: Plastic waste contributes to environmental degradation.

8. Holistic

Meaning: Considering the whole rather than individual parts

Example: A holistic approach to education develops both academic and emotional skills.

9. Imminent

Meaning: About to happen

Example: Without intervention, a healthcare crisis seems imminent.

10. Discrepancy

Meaning: A difference or inconsistency

Example: The discrepancy in wages widens social inequality.

11. Pragmatic

Meaning: Practical and realistic

Example: A pragmatic policy focuses on workable solutions rather than idealistic theories.

12. Infringe

Meaning: To violate or break a rule

Example: Strict surveillance may infringe on citizens' privacy rights.

13. Viability

Meaning: Ability to work successfully

Example: The viability of renewable energy depends on long-term government support.

14. Rectification

Meaning: Correcting a mistake

Example: Policy rectification is necessary when public welfare is compromised.

15. Regressive

Meaning: Moving backward; harmful to progress

Example: Reducing education budgets is a regressive step for any nation.

IELTS Grammar + Vocabulary Quiz — Answer Key & Explanations

GRAMMAR SECTION (10 Questions)

1. If the government _____ stricter laws earlier, pollution would not have increased so rapidly.

Correct Answer: a) had implemented



This is a **third conditional** (unreal past).

Structure: **If + had + past participle → would have + past participle.**



- **b) implemented** → simple past, does NOT match conditional form.
- **c) would implement** → “would” is NEVER used in the IF-clause.

2. The number of people applying for online courses _____ risen dramatically.

Correct Answer: b) has



“The number of...” is **always singular**, so it takes **has**.



- **a) have** → plural verb, incorrect.
- **c) having** → not a verb; incomplete structure.

3. Remote work, _____ offers flexibility, also reduces team bonding.

Correct Answer: b) which

✓ Why?

This is a **non-defining relative clause** → must use **which**, not “that”.

✗ Wrong options:

- **a) who** → used for people only.
 - **c) that** → cannot be used in non-defining clauses.
-

4. Public transport systems in major cities _____ upgraded to reduce traffic.

Correct Answer: b) are being

✓ Why?

Plural subject (**systems**).

Present continuous passive → **are being + past participle**.

✗ Wrong options:

- **a) is being** → singular verb with plural subject = wrong.
 - **c) were** → past tense, but sentence refers to ongoing improvement.
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5. If young people exercised more regularly, they _____ better mental health.

Correct Answer: a) would have

✓ Why?

This is **second conditional** (unreal present).

Would + base verb.

✗ Wrong options:

- **b) have** → simple present; does not express hypothetical result.
 - **c) will have** → first conditional (future).
-

6. Hardly _____ the manager finished speaking when the staff began asking questions.

Correct Answer: a) had

✓ Why?

Negative adverbs (**hardly**, **barely**, **scarcely**) → inversion

Correct: **Hardly had + subject + past participle...**

✗ Wrong options:

- **b) have** → wrong tense.
 - **c) did** → inversion uses past perfect, not simple past.
-

7. Digital privacy is becoming _____ important for modern citizens.

Correct Answer: c) increasingly

✓ Why?

"Becoming" collocates with **increasingly** to show rising intensity.

✗ Wrong options:

- **a) more** → grammatically okay but LESS natural.
 - **b) most** → superlative; incorrect structure here.
-

8. Despite several warnings, he refused _____ the rules.

Correct Answer: a) to follow

✓ Why?

"Refused + to infinitive" is the correct form.

✗ Wrong options:

- **b) follow** → missing "to", grammatically incomplete.
 - **c) following** → gerund does not pair with "refuse".
-

9. By the time the conference starts, all participants _____ the required documents.

Correct Answer: b) will have submitted

✓ Why?

Future perfect → **will have + past participle**
Used for actions finished before a future point.

✗ Wrong options:

- a) **will submit** → simple future, not finished BEFORE the start.
 - c) **have been submitting** → continuous sense; incorrect meaning.
-

10. The proposal was rejected because it was not clearly explained, _____?

Correct Answer: b) was it

✓ Why?

Tag questions: negative statement → **positive tag**.
“was not” → tag = **was it**.

✗ Wrong options:

- a) **wasn't it** → incorrect because main clause is negative.
 - c) **is it** → wrong tense.
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VOCABULARY SECTION (5 Questions)

11. "Pragmatic" most nearly means:

Correct Answer: a) based on practical considerations

✓ Why?

“Pragmatic” = practical, realistic, focused on real-world solutions.

✗ Wrong options:

- b) **extremely difficult to understand** → describes complexity, not practicality.
 - c) **related to emotions rather than logic** → opposite meaning.
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12. "Inevitable" is best used in which sentence?

Correct Answer: b) Some degree of technological change is inevitable in modern society.

✓ Why?

"Inevitable" = unavoidable.

Sentence (b) uses it naturally.

✗ Wrong options:

- a) grammatically wrong + incorrect use.
 - c) incorrect structure ("people are inevitable to..." is WRONG English).
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13. "Substantial" means:

Correct Answer: b) large or significant

✓ Why?

"Substantial" = considerable amount/size/importance.

✗ Wrong options:

- a) very small → opposite
 - c) temporary → unrelated meaning
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14. Choose the sentence that correctly uses "contemplate":

Correct Answer: b) She is contemplating moving to another country for better opportunities.

✓ Why?

Correct form → **contemplate + gerund (verb-ing)**

✗ Wrong options:

- a) wrong structure ("contemplated to join" X)
- c) wrong adverb placement + unnatural usage

15. "Impartial" refers to someone who is:

Correct Answer: b) neutral and objective

✓ Why?

Impartial = fair, unbiased.

✗ Wrong options:

- a) unfair → OPPOSITE
- c) confused → unrelated