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English for Exams

400+ SOLVED ESSAYS

IELTS

ACADEMIC ESSAYS

FROM THE PAST EXAMS

Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

ACADEMIC WRITING TASK 2

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ACADEMIC ESSAYS
FROM THE PAST EXAMS

DR. KIRANPREET KAUR MAKKAR
(MBBS, DGO - Makkar Hospital, Phagwara)

ER. INDROOP SINGH MAKKAR
(MS in IE & OR Pennsylvania State University, USA)

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M: 9646044322 | O: 9888998241
www.makkarielts.com | ravielts@gmail.com

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Written by: Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Contributions: Sumeet Kaur, Indroop Singh, Ravpreet Singh, Anupam Kaur

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PREFACE

This book is meant to help the average student crack the IELTS essay. Over 13 years of my IELTS coaching experience has taught me a lot about what all would help the students do better in the writing module of the IELTS. Over the years, I have seen fairly good students getting 7+ in the other modules of the IELTS, fall to less than 6 bands in the writing module, but I have also seen those with less than 6 in the other modules, get a 6 in writing. Over the years, I have coached thousands of students, checked their writings almost every day, and so I somehow know what precisely they have written in their exam. From their writing band scores, I have made important deductions as to what works, and what does not work in an IELTS essay.

The IELTS essay has to have a plan. Time spent on the plan, is time well invested. A plan is surely going to produce an essay, which works. A crisp, but brief and to-the-point introduction and conclusion, and two to three well planned paragraphs with relevant topic sentences, is all that is needed for the IELTS essay.

This book has 440+ essays seen in the actual IELTS exams, most of which have been repeated many times. Valuable contributions have been made to the book by Indroop Singh (Head of Makkar IELTS Centre, opposite Bus Stand Phagwara), Sumeet Kaur (Head of Chandigarh Branch), Ravpreet Singh (Head of Mohali Centre) and Mrs Anupam Kaur (looking after the online students). This book would not have been possible without their efforts.

Hope you enjoy going through the essays in the book.

Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

General Introduction

The IELTS essay is the second part of the writing section of the IELTS test. It requires you to write an academic essay with the minimum word count of 250, within a period of 40 minutes. There is no limit to the maximum word count. This part takes up 2/3rd of the overall score of the writing section.

Each essay is marked with 4 different criteria, which share equal proportion of the overall band score.

Category	What it means is that the examinee
Task Response	1. Answers the question fully and relevantly 2. Gives a position or opinion 3. Gives and develops ideas
Coherence and Cohesion	1. Organises the writing, showing progression 2. Makes the sentences and parts fit together 3. Organises paragraphs well
Lexical Resource	1. Use a range of words 2. Uses those words accurately
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	1. Uses a range of grammar 2. Uses that grammar accurately

One important point to understand is that you need to achieve all the descriptors to achieve the matching IELTS band score. All the descriptors are connected, and you must look at them all.

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IELTS Writing Task 2: Band Descriptors

Source: www.ielts.org

	Task Response	Cohesion and Coherence	LR – Lexical Resource	GRA– Grammatical Range and Accuracy
Band 6	- Address all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others - Present a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive - Present relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear	- Arrange information and ideas coherently and have is a clear overall progression - Use cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical - Use referencing clearly or appropriately, although at some places there may be flaws - Use paragraphing, but not always logically	- Use an adequate range of vocabulary for the task - Attempt to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy - Be able to communicate, although you may have some errors in spelling and/or word formation (but they should not impede communication)	- Use a mix of simple and complex sentence forms - Be able to communicate, although you may make some errors in grammar and punctuation (but they rarely reduce communication)
Band 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 overgeneralize and/or supporting ideas may lack focus	- Logically organize information and ideas; and have a clear progression throughout - Use a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use or over-use - Present a clear central topic within each paragraph	- Use a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision - Use less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation - may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation	- Use a variety of complex structures - Produce frequent error-free sentences - Have good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
Band 8	- Sufficiently address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.	- Sequence information and ideas logically - Manage all aspects of cohesion well - Use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately	- Use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings - Skillfully use uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation, and you have only rare errors in spelling and/or word formation	- Use a wide range of structures - Write a majority of error-free sentences - Make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
Band 9	- Fully address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.	- Use cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skillfully manage paragraphing	- Use a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'	- Use a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy, with rare minor errors occurring only as 'slips'

Common Essay Questions

Four different types of IELTS Essays

1. Opinion essays
   - Opinion 1 – Agree/Disagree.
   - Opinion 2 – Is this a positive or a negative development.
   - Opinion 3 – Do you think that the advantages are more than the disadvantages.
2. Discuss essays
3. Problem and solution essays
4. Direct question essays (some might be two questions)

General things to know about any type of IELTS essay

The key to writing a good IELTS essay is uniformity throughout the essay. The introduction, the body paragraphs and the conclusion should convey the same thing.

The three elements of an essay

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraphs
3. Conclusion

Introduction has two elements - Essay topic paraphrasing and thesis statement. So, to write a good introduction you need to write one sentence to introduce the topic, which can be done by paraphrasing the question and the second sentence to answer the question.

Body Paragraphs have three elements – Topic sentence, points and supporting points.

Conclusion – It Is the repetition of the opinion/thesis but in a different way. It may also include a suggestion.

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Thesis statement

An essay's thesis is only one sentence long, but it is the most important sentence in the entire essay. The reaso for this is because it is the sentence that states our opinion in relation to what is being asked of us by the essa question. A thesis is very easy to write. Often, the thesis will reflect and even borrow words from the essa question. However, a good thesis cannot be written without a proper plan.

Example Sentences

From Essay Number 1: *I believe that interview is a reliable method, but there are many other methods which ar equally good, and the choice is on the recruiters as to which method they find suitable for their need.*

From Essay Number 4: Personally, I believe that making young people do voluntary work would be very benefici for the youth as well as for the society, and the negative effects of such an approach would be negligible.

Topic sentence

A topic sentence is the most important sentence in a paragraph. Sometimes referred to as a focus sentence, th topic sentence helps organize the paragraph by summarizing the information in the paragraph. In formal writing the topic sentence is usually the first sentence in a paragraph. To understand the importance of a topi sentence, one should look at the band descriptors task 2 for band 7, cohesion and coherence, where it is writte – "*Present a clear central topic within each paragraph*". So, the topic sentence helps the examiner understan the central theme of each paragraph.

Example Sentences

From Essay Number 1: *There are many reasons why interview is preferred by some employers for hiring ne employees*

From Essay Number 40: There are many obvious benefits of going abroad to work along with family.

The Opinion Essay

Opinion 1 – Agree/Disagree.
Opinion 2 – Is this a positive or negative development.
Opinion 3 – Are the advantages more than the disadvantages.

Opinion 1 - Agree/Disagree Essay (The most commonly asked essay type – Nearly 160 essays in this book are agree/disagree essays)
In these essays the question asks for **YOUR** views.

A. **Strongly one-sided view**

Introduction - Paraphrase the topic, then state a strong opinion (e.g. I completely agree)

Body paragraph 1: explain reasons for YOUR opinion

Body paragraph 2: explain some more reasons for YOUR opinion

Body paragraph 3: Explain reasons for why the opposite opinion is wrong. (If you do not have the points, you can go for more reasons for your opinion)

Conclusion: Reiterate your view

B. **You are one sided but at the same time you do not wish to say that the other side is totally wrong**

From the structure of a one-sided essay, you can see that you can put the other side in your essay and yet be one sided. But there are a few topics in which you have no option but to acknowledge the other side. In such essays I have seen students struggling with the thesis statement. So, please learn how to write a thesis statement for such essays.

C. **Where the question has two parts and you agree with one, but disagree with the other**

Example: Some children find some subjects such as mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (essay number 74 in this book)

While brainstorming the ideas, the thesis I reach is that mathematics should be compulsory, but philosophy optional. So, it would be wrong to agree or disagree with the entire statement. My thesis would be - I believe that mathematics should be compulsory in schools even if students find it difficult, but philosophy can be made optional. Remember, there is no need to force the word agree or disagree in the intro. Your opinion should reflect that.

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Another example:
If children behave badly should their parents take responsibility and also be punished? State your answer and give your reasons.
When I looked at the above question, I felt that parents are definitely responsible, but they should n be punished. So, my thesis statement would be – While parents should be held responsible for the actions of their child, punishing them would be wrong.

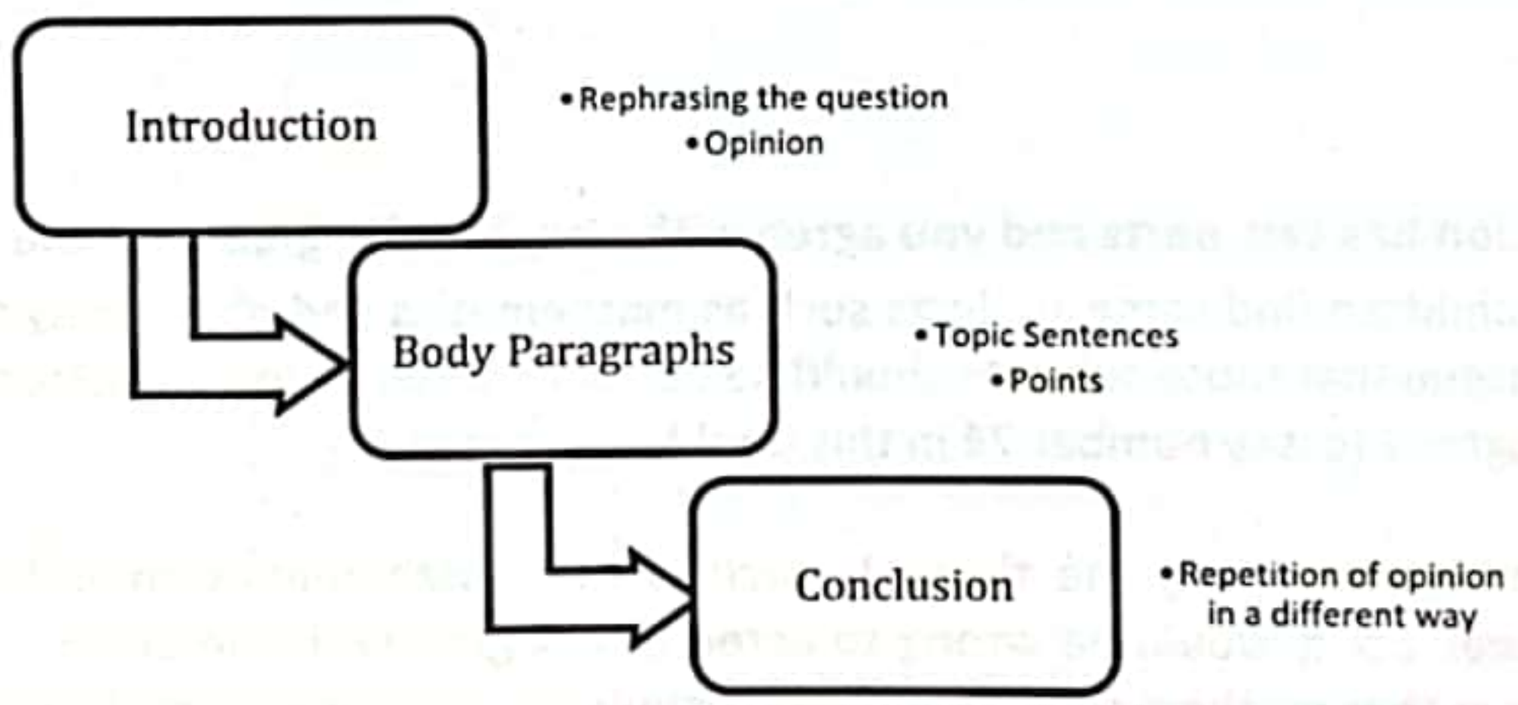
Opinion 2 - Is this a positive or a negative development (about 36 essays in this book are of this ty

Example: *It has been seen that recently many parents are sending their children to boarding schools it a positive or a negative development?*

There are three options with a student

A. Completely one sided	B. Discussing both sides but favouring one.	C. Completely Balanced
•Completely Negative •Completely Positive	•Having negatives but overall positive •Having positives but overall negative	•Equally positive and negative

Let's take the same example we discussed earlier and discuss how to achieve the conformity for all t three approaches - completely one sided, balanced and discussing both sides but overall favoring c side.
It has been seen that recently many parents are sending their children to boarding schools. Is it a posit or a negative development?



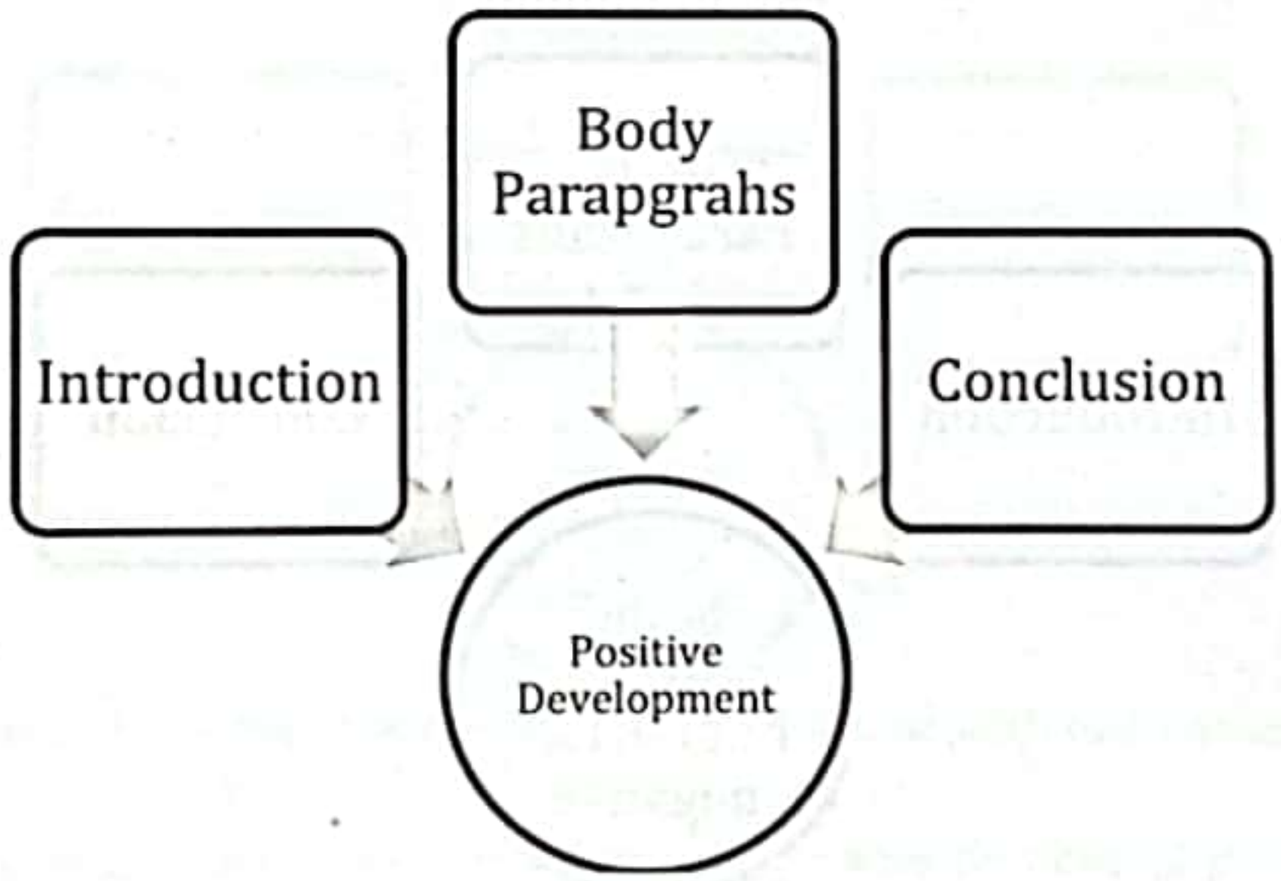
A. Completely one sided (Positive)

Introduction
It is irrefutable that enrolling children in boarding schools is becoming more and more popular. I believe that sending children to boarding schools is beneficial for them and leads to their holistic development.

B.P. - 1
There are many reasons why I believe that sending children to boarding school is beneficial for them.
Reason 1:
Reason 2

B.P. - 2 Same tone continues
Another reason is that.....
Reason 1:
Reason 2

Conclusion
In summary, I would like to reiterate that the trend of sending children to boarding schools is a positive development.



See all three parts of the essay are completely in sync with each other and support the completely positive side.

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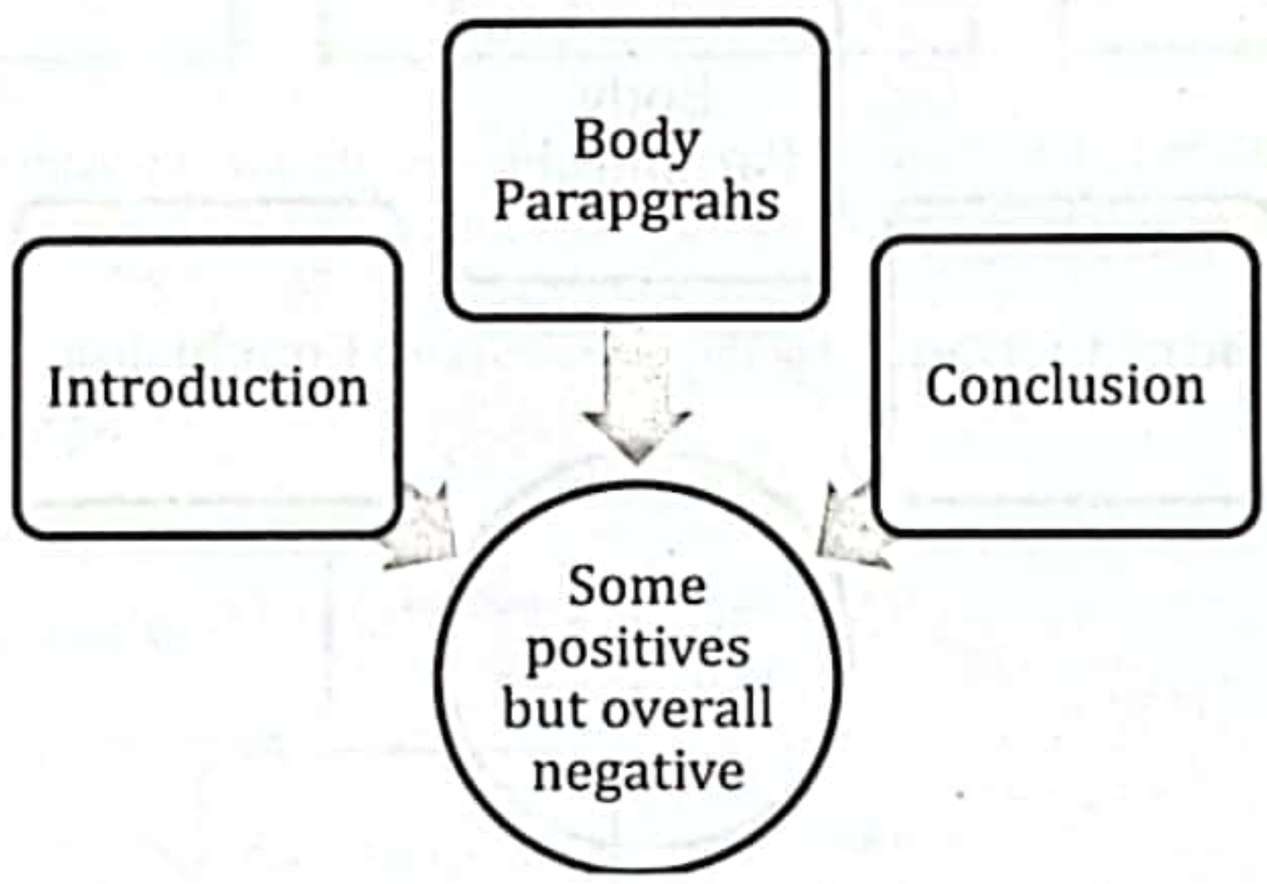
B. Discussing both sides but favoring one side (Having positives but overall negative)

Introduction
It is irrefutable that enrolling children in boarding schools is becoming more and more popular. While I believe that sending children to boarding schools is beneficial for them in some ways, it is detrimental for them in the long run.

B.P. - 1
Sending children to boarding schools can have a few benefits for children and their families
Benefit 1:
Benefit 2

B.P. – 2 **Tone change**
Despite the benefits, I believe that studying in boarding schools is detrimental for children ultimately.
Reason 1:
Reason 2:
Reason 3

Conclusion
In summary, I would like to reiterate that although the trend of sending can be considered positive to some extent, it is a negative development overall.



See all three parts of the essay are completely in sync with each other and support the overall negative opinion despite the few benefits.

Please note a good essay in this case will have more points in favor of negative than positive as the overall opinion favors negative. To make it easier, the student should preferably write two paragraphs for negative and only one for positive.

C. Equally positive and negative

Introduction

It is irrefutable that enrolling children in boarding schools is becoming more and more popular. I believe that sending children to boarding schools, is beneficial in some ways and detrimental in other ways, and thus I would consider it to be both a positive as well as a negative development.

B.P. - 1

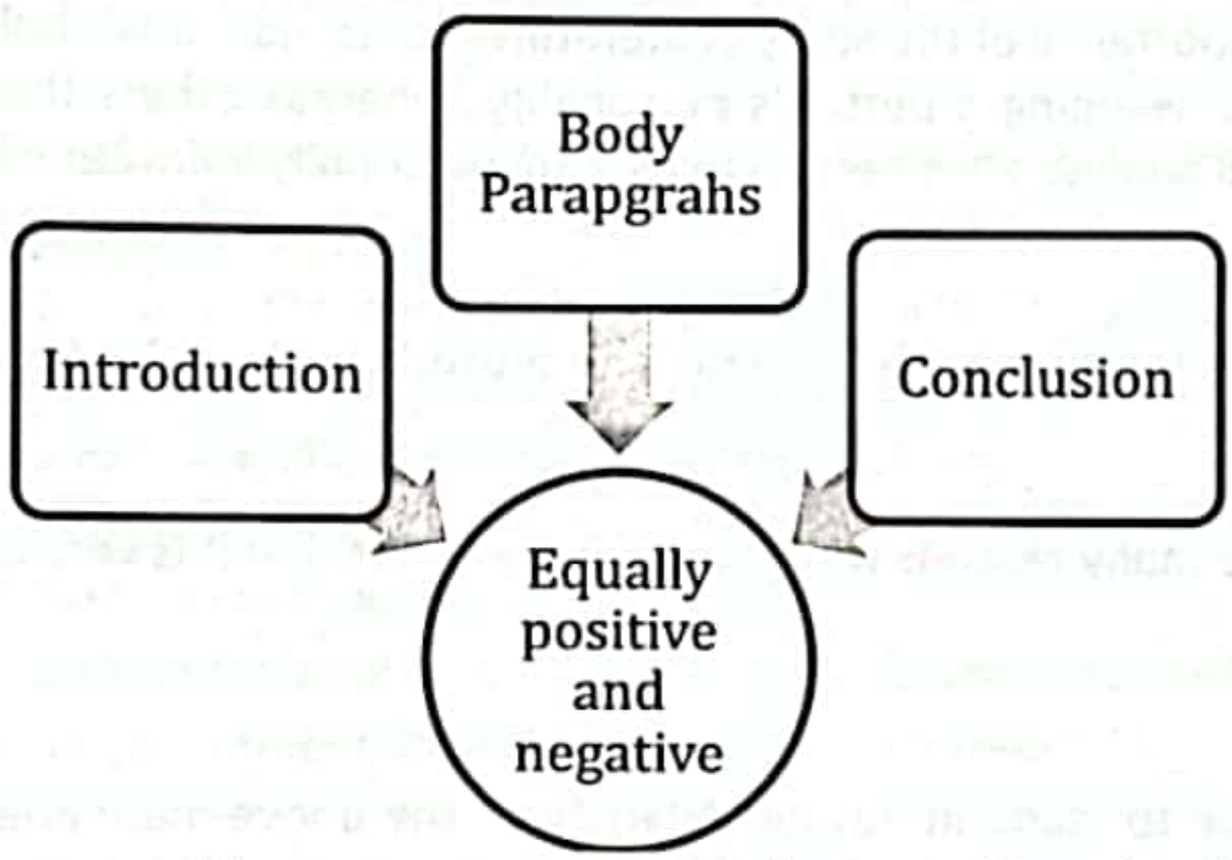
Sending children to boarding schools can have a few benefits for children and their families
Benefit 1:
Benefit 2

B.P. - 2 Tone change

Despite the benefits, I believe that adverse consequences of sending children to boarding schools cannot be ignored.
Effect 1:
Effect 2

Conclusion

In summary, I would like to reiterate that the trend of sending can be considered equally positive and negative.



See all three parts of the essay are completely in sync with each other and support the balanced opinion.
For a balanced opinion – one should have the same number of points in favor of positive and negative side.

Please note:

The first type of agree/disagree essay in which you completely agree or disagree has the same format as the first type of positive/negative development essay. These are more or less the same. The second type of agree/disagree essay in which you mention both sides but favour one side has the same format as the second type of positive/negative development essay. These are more or less the same.

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Opinion 3 – Do you think the advantages of ..... are more than the disadvantages

(about 40 essays are of this type)

This type of essay matches the 'Is this a positive or a negative development essay, except that you cannot mention only the advantages or disadvantages. You have to mention both sides, but state clearly what is more. The mistake that students do in such types of essays is that they say – I will discuss both advantages and disadvantages of ...., but they do not mention whether the advantages or the disadvantages are more.

Discuss Essay Template

(About 106 essays are of this type, which makes it the second most frequently asked essay type).
Example: Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both points of view and provide your own opinion. (Essay number 89)

Intro:
People are divided on the importance of the study of literature. Some individuals hold the opinion that studying literature is significant for developing a person's personality, whereas others think that it is futile to study literature. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the former view.

Body Paragraph 1:
Those who say that studying literature, such as poetry and prose, is useless give their reasons as follows.

Body Paragraph 2:
On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that it is very essential to study literature. Firstly, ...

Body Paragraph 3:
I believe that it is imperative to study literature. Apart from the above-mentioned benefits, it expands ou vocabulary.

Conclusion: To sum up, it is definitely worthwhile to study literature as it shapes personality, creates awarenes about culture and tradition and polishes language skills too.

Causes/ Problems/ Solution Essay

(about 60 essays are this type).

Useful sentences for the intro of a problem solution essay

1. The issue of ..... has caused considerable concern
2. What factors lead to this phenomenon and what can be done to solve the problem will be discussed in this essay. OR
3. It is crucial that we analyze the causes of this disturbing issue and explore the effective solutions.

Useful sentences to begin the reasons paragraph

1. There are a number of reasons for **this (expand by saying what the word 'this' refers to)** phenomenon. OR
2. The following reasons should be taken into consideration. OR
3. It is obvious that the causes of ..... are diverse.

Useful sentences to begin the solution paragraph

Do NOT write – ~~On the other hand~~ there are some solutions to address the problem

1. The issue of ..... should be well taken into consideration. To address the problem, many steps can be taken. OR
2. I strongly suggest that effective steps be taken as soon as possible to address the problem of ..... OR
3. Looking at the reasons, I think there are some ways to deal with the problem. OR
4. There are many reasons which result in this unpleasant phenomenon, and something should be done as soon as possible to mitigate/alleviate/ameliorate the problem.

Useful conclusions of a problem solution essay

1. To conclude, this disturbing problem is attributed to many factors and I believe with the joint efforts of the individuals and the government, it can be eventually resolved.

OR

2. To conclude, several factors contribute to ..... . I am convinced that many steps can be taken to solve (mitigate, ameliorate, alleviate, lessen, tackle) this disturbing problem.

Miscellaneous Essays

Essay which cannot be categorized under any broad topic such as education, environment, job, family, crime and media etc. I would suggest looking into these past essays – 84, 105, 113, 120, 161, 173, 182, 189, 207, 222, 226, 244, 251, 261, 280, 290, 296, 298, 299, 309, 328, 377, 392, 416, 425, 428.

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Linking Words for IELTS Essay

Linking words, sometimes called as cohesive devices, discourse markers or transitional words are one of th most important parts of the IELTS Writing module as they bring overall structure and flow to your essay.

Most of the students pursuing IELTS exam, know these words as Firstly, Secondly, Furthermore, Howeve etcetera. But, once the students become aware about them, they tend to either overuse these words or us them inappropriately. So please make sure, that the linking words are used judiciously in your essay in order t get a high band score for Coherence and Cohesion.

Following is a list of the linking words that you can use in your essay, categorized according to the use.

- **Sequencing** - Firstly, Secondly, Next, Then, After, To begin with, First of all
- **Addition** - And, also, Furthermore, What is more, Moreover, Additionally, To further strengthen this view another point/fact/factor is
- **Contrast** - In comparison, On the other hand, In Contrast, On the contrary, Admittedly, Howeve Although, Having said that, That said
- **Comparison** - Also, equally, similarly, likewise, compared with
- **Adding examples** - For example, For instance, To illustrate, To cite an example, To exemplify
- **Result** - So, therefore, As a result, thus, because, consequently, owing to this
- **Highlighting** - In particular, especially, mainly, particularly, above all
- **Restating** - In other words, Put more simply, rather, in simple terms
- **Conclusion** - To sum up, To conclude, To summarise, In conclusion

Useful phrases:

- Not only... but also
- This coupled with (to state an additional related point)
- Undoubtedly, Without a doubt, Indubitably (To state a fact)
- To state further points supporting the same view/point:
- Moreover, Furthermore, What's more, In addition, Additionally, To further strengthen m viewpoint, another point/fact/factor is
- To state opposite view/points:
- In contrast, By contrast, On the other hand, However, Having said that, That said
- To state an advantage regardless of a fact or evidence: Despite this, Nevertheless, Nonetheles Notwithstanding.

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86	Rote learning plays a role in many education systems.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Education
87.	Should we encourage our students to evaluate and criticize teachers OR will it result in a loss of respect and discipline in classroom.	Discuss	Education
88.	Schools should reward students who show the best academic results, OR reward students who show improvements.	Discuss	Education

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89.	Studying literature is important for individual character building OR is a waste of time.	Discuss	Education
90.	It is important for children to take lessons outside classroom	Agree/disagree	Education
91.	Homeschooling OR going to school	Discuss	Education
92.	It is not necessary for adults to receive education in class. Self-study is better	Agree/disagree	Education
93.	Should courses of performing arts, be funded by government OR through other ways	Discuss	Education
94.	More and more people are competing for a place to study in universities. Why?	Positive or negative development	Education
95.	It is more important for school children to learn local history than world history.	Agree/disagree	Education
96.	Schools should teach pupils according to their academic abilities, OR have pupils with different abilities study together.	Discuss	Education (22/6/19)
97.	Main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals.	Agree/disagree	Education
98.	In some countries, university students live away from home while studying.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Education
99.	Financial support from the government should be provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects.	Agree/disagree	Education
100.	Not enough students are choosing to study science subjects at university. Why? Effects?	Cause/effects	Education
101.	Should schools and teachers be provided to rural children OR should computers and internet be provided.	Discuss	Education
102.	The best way to remove poverty is to provide 6 years of free education to all children	Agree/disagree	Education
103.	Do students only need to get primary education to solve unemployment, OR is secondary education is necessary.	Discuss	Education
104.	Should government decide which subjects students should study at university, OR students should be allowed to apply for the subject they prefer.	Discuss	Education
105.	What should education consist of for the development of individuals and the wellbeing of societies.	Direct question	Education
106.	The best way for children to learn to read is by using online materials. OR printed materials should be used.	Discuss	Education
107.	Schools should stop using books for teaching children as they find them boring, and use film, TV and computer instead.	Agree/Disagree	Education (12/10/19)
108.	Everyone should stay in school until they reach the age of 18.	Agree/Disagree	Education
109.	Students should be organised into groups to study. OR should be made to study alone. Tell the benefits of each study method. Which one do you think is more effective?	Direct question	Education (4/5/19)
110.	Students should learn more practical courses like computer, OR should they learn more about theoretical	Discuss	Education
111.	Some people think typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050.	Agree/Disagree	Education
112.	Students are pushed to hard work when they are young.	Positive or negative development	Education
113.	Schools offer a wide range of courses such as physical education, music, economics, philosophy, math, English, geography, physics and history. Which one is the most important and which one is the least.	Direct question	Education

114.	Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject.	Agree/Disagree	Education
115.	Full time university students spend most of the time studying. They should be doing other activities too.	Agree/Disagree	Education
116.	Many people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning.	Problem/Solution	Education
117.	The authorities such as the government decide the subjects and lesson contents. Teachers should make the choice.	Agree/disagree	Education
118.	Nowadays sending children to boarding school is becoming popular. Why?	Positive or negative development	Education
119.	Secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. OR this is a waste of valuable school time.	Discuss	Education
120.	In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. Why? Should the trend change	Reasons and direct question	Education
121.	Do students benefit from going to private secondary schools. OR not.	Discuss	Education
122.	More and more students choose to go to another country for their higher education.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Education (13/4/19)
123.	Children find it difficult to concentrate on or pay attention to school. Reasons. Solutions	Problem/Solution	Education
124.	More money should be spent on free-time activities than on education	Agree/Disagree	Education
125.	It is neither possible nor useful for a country to provide university education to a high proportion of young people.	Agree/Disagree	Education
126.	In many countries, sport and exercise classes are replaced with academic subjects. Why and its effects	Reasons and direct question	Education
127.	We have three important parts of education: reading, writing and math. Some people think every child will benefit from a fourth skill added to the list: computer skills.	Agree/Disagree	Education
128.	Because computers can translate all kinds of languages quickly and accurately, so learning foreign languages is a waste of time?	Agree/Disagree	Education
129.	Some children can learn efficiently by watching TV. So, they should be encouraged to watch TV both at home and at school.	Agree/Disagree	Education
130.	Schools are spending more time in traditional subjects like history etc. They should rather spend more time in teaching skills that can help them find a job.	Agree/Disagree	Education
131.	Some people think that schools should concentrate on academic classes, because they are helpful for future career. And they think music and sports classes are not useful.	Agree/Disagree	Education
132.	The traditional skill of writing letters will disappear completely. How important do you think is letter-writing?	Agree/Disagree Direct question	Education
133.	Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children.	Agree/Disagree	Education (18/7/19)
134.	The only way to protect the environment is at an international level.	Agree/Disagree	Environment
135.	It is important to protect the environment, but people make no effort. Why? Solutions	Reasons/solutions	Environment
136.	Environmental problems are too big for individuals to be solved OR individuals can solve problems with government action.	Discuss	Environment
137.	Why global steps to save environment have failed	Problem/solution	Environment
138.	Another version of essay 138		Environment

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139.	Is industrial growth necessary to solve poverty, OR is it leading to poverty and should be stopped.	Discuss	Environment
140.	Is economic development necessary to reduce poverty OR it should be stopped immediately to stop damaging the environment.	Discuss	Environment (14/2/19)
141.	Governments should focus on reducing environmental pollution and housing problems to prevent illness and disease	Agree/Disagree	Environment
142.	The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel.	Agree/Disagree	Environment
143.	The natural resources such as oil, forests and fresh water are being consumed at an alarming rate.	Problem/solution	Environment
144.	Companies and private individuals, and not governments, should pay the bill of pollution.	Agree/Disagree	Environment
145.	Technology causes environmental problems. The solution is everyone accepts a simpler way of life, OR technology can solve these problems.	Discuss	Environment
146.	Most countries do not recycle their waste like paper, glass, and aluminum cans. Reasons?	Reasons/Solutions	Environment
147.	The amount of noise people make has to be controlled strictly. OR people should be free to make as much noise as they wish.	Discuss	Environment
148.	In some cities, government has imposed a congestion tax during rush hours.	Positive or negative development	Environment
149.	Instead of preventing climate change we should find a way to live with it.	Agree/disagree	Environment
150.	The responsibility to prevent environmental damage is on politicians not individuals.	Agree/disagree	Environment
151.	Household waste e.g. food packaging is increasing day by day.	Reasons/Solutions	Environment
152.	In some countries the use of alternative sources of energy are encouraged,	Positive or negative development	Environment
153.	Nuclear energy is a better choice for meeting increasing demand. Do you support its use	Direct question	Environment
154.	International community must act immediately to ensure all nations reduce consumption of fossil fuels e.g. gas and oil.	Agree/disagree	Environment
155.	Should government strictly control the supply of fresh water, OR we can use as much water as we want.	Discuss	Environment
156.	The main benefit of international cooperation is in protection of the environment, OR is in the world business.	Discuss	Environment
157.	The increased demand for oil and gas has made it necessary to locate these sources in remote areas. (Against drilling)	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Environment
158.	The increased demand for oil and gas has made it necessary to locate these sources in remote areas. (For drilling)	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Environment
159.	Vehicle-free day - private vehicles banned while the public transport is permitted	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Environment
160.	Nowadays, people always throw the old things away when they buy new things and don't repair. Why? Effects?	Cause/Effect	Environment
161.	We have developed into a "throw-away" culture	Agree/disagree Solutions	Environment
162.	To solve the problem of traffic congestion government should provide free public transport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	Agree/disagree	Environment
163.	Some countries are spending a lot to make it easier to use bicycle. Why? Is it the best solution	Reasons/Solutions	Environment

164.	Throwaway society – getting rid of old things to buy the new	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Consumerism
165.	Consumerism and damage to environment	Reasons and solutions	Consumerism
166.	Consumer goods are cheaper to buy.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Consumerism (29/6/19)
167.	Do manufacturers and supermarkets have the responsibility to reduce the amount of packaging of goods. OR customers should avoid buying goods with a lot of packaging.	Discuss	Environment (25/4/19)
168.	The best way to improve road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving	Agree/disagree	Environment
169.	The only way to improve the safety on our own road is to have stricter punishment for driving offenders.	Agree/disagree	Environment
170.	Should governments spend money on building train and subway lines to reduce traffic congestion. OR build more roads	Discuss	Environment (7/11/19)
171.	Everyone in the world want to own a car, a TV and a fridge.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Environment
172.	The number of people using bikes as main transport mode is decreasing, even though it is so beneficial. Why? How people can be encouraged to use more bicycles?	Reasons/solutions	Environment
173.	In some cities people are choosing cars instead of bicycles, while in other cities riding bikes are replacing cars. Why? What is better?	Direct question	Environment (11/5/19)
174.	The high volume of road traffic is a problem. Reasons/solutions	Reasons/Solutions	Environment
175.	The unlimited use of cars may cause many problems. What are those? Solutions	Problem/solution	Environment
176.	Some people claim that there are more disadvantages of the car than its advantages.	Agree/disagree	Environment
177.	Some people think the government should pay for increasing roads, while others think the car owners should pay for it.	Discuss	Environment
178.	Small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. People without cars have limited access to out-of town stores, and it may result in an increase in the use of cars.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Environment
179.	It is more important to plant trees in towns and cities than to build more houses.	Problem/solution	Environment
180.	The key to solving environmental problems is for the present generation to sacrifice their convenient life (or live a less comfortable life) for the sake of future generations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Agree/Disagree	Environment
181.	Cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money-making attractions aimed at tourists. OR it is the only way to save these traditions.	Discuss	Tourism
182.	When visiting other countries, how can visitors learn about culture and tradition of other countries? Why do some people learn about culture and tradition of foreign countries while other people do not?	Direct question	Tourism
183.	Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources.	Agree/disagree	Environment
184.	Air travel can only benefit the richest people in the world. Ordinary people can get no advantage with the development of air travel.	Agree/disagree	Environment
185.	International travel makes people prejudiced rather than broad-minded.	Problem/solution	International tourism

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186.	People have to spend more and more time to travel from their homes for jobs and study.	Reasons/solutions	Travel
187.	Most countries believe that international tourism has harmful effects. Why do they think so? How to change their views?	Direct question	Tourism
188.	It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environments such as the South Pole.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Tourism
189.	Children from wealthy countries are doing unpaid work in poor countries. Why? Who gets more benefit, the community or them	Direct question	Tourism
190.	It has become easier and more affordable for people to travel to other countries.	Is this a positive or negative development	Tourism (18/5/19)
191.	Tourists should accept social and environmental responsibility OR tourists should not accept any responsibility at all.	Discuss	Tourism
192.	Visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. OR host country should welcome cultural differences.	Discuss	Tourism
193.	People moving to a new country should accept new culture rather than living as a separate minority group	Agree/disagree	Tourism
194.	Foreign visitors should be charged more than local people when they visit the cultural and historical attractions in a country.	Agree/disagree	Tourism
195.	The traditional life style of local people in developing countries is attracting and increasing the number of tourists to the countries, which has the effect of preventing local people changing to modern ways.	Agree/disagree	Tourism
196.	Same as 195 – different opinion	Agree/disagree	Tourism
197.	Not necessary to travel abroad as we can see places on TV and Net	Discuss	Tourism (27/4/19)
198.	Mainly tourists, but not local people, visit museums and historical sites. Why? Solutions.	Reasons/solutions	Tourism (17/8/19)
199.	It is easy to apply for and be given a credit card.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Money matters
200.	More and more people do online shopping. Why? What is the effect on shops and communities?	Reasons /Effects	Money matters
201.	Some people think that personal happiness is directly related to economic success. OR happiness depends on different factors.	Discuss	Money matters
202.	Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state.	Agree/disagree	Money matters
203.	Is paying taxes is enough to contribute to the society. OR being a citizen involves more responsibilities.	Discuss	Money matters
204.	Some people say that it is the responsibility of individual to save money for their own care after they retire.	Agree/disagree	Money matters
205.	As well as making money, businesses should also have social responsibilities.	Agree/disagree	Money matters
206.	Developing countries are happy with economic growth but developing are not. Why? What lesson we learn from it?	Direct question	Rich Poor essay
207.	The best way to produce a happier society is to ensure that there only small differences between the richest and the poorest	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay
208.	Range of technology available to individuals today is increasing the gap between poor and rich. OR it is having an opposite effect.	Discuss	Rich Poor essay (7/12/19)
209.	The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider. What problems can the situation cause and give the solutions?	Problem/solution	Rich Poor essay (2/2/19)
210.	Government should not give aid if they have unemployed and homeless in own country.	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay

211.	Rich countries should give other types of help to the poor countries than the financial aid.	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay
212.	Charity organizations should only offer help to people of their own country. OR these organizations should give aid to people in great need wherever they live.	Discuss	Rich Poor essay
213.	Does success in life depends on hard work and determination, OR on other factors like money and personal appearance	Discuss	Money matters
214.	Whether or not someone achieves aim in their life is mostly a question of luck.	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
215.	Most important thing about being rich is that it gives you the opportunity to help the poor.	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay
216.	Famous people's support towards International aid organizations draws the attentions to problems, OR do celebrities make the problems less important.	Discuss	Rich Poor essay
217.	We need to give aid to all poor countries. OR we should not give international aids to countries with corruption in their system.	Discuss	Rich Poor essay
218.	Some people think that giving aids to the poor countries has more negative impacts than positive ones.	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay
219.	Individuals and countries cannot help everyone who needs help in the world, so they should only be concerned about their own communities and countries.	Agree/disagree	Rich Poor essay
220.	Charities and organisations have to publicize their activities by setting up a number of days Why do they do so? What are the effects?	Cause/effects	Rich Poor essay
221.	Economic progress is the only way to measure a country's success, OR there are other factors. What are these? Which is more important	Direct question	Money matters
222.	Should parents be punished if children do crime	Direct question	Juvenile delinquency
223.	Crimes increasing among teenagers	Problem solution	Juvenile delinquency
224.	Juvenile criminals should be punished as adults	Agree/Disagree	Juvenile delinquency
225.	Should juvenile delinquents do community work or be sent to prison	Direct question	Crime – Prison or community work
226.	Educating prisoners is the best way to reduce crime	Agree/disagree	Crime – Prison
227.	People afraid to leave home because of crime. Can something be done or nothing	Discuss	Crime –can anything be done
228.	People not safe within the home or out.	Problem/solution	Crime –Problem solution
229.	Security measures in urban areas	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Crime – security measures
230.	Ex-prisoners are the best to talk to students about the danger of committing a crime.	Agree/disagree	Crime – ex-prisoners
231.	Education is better than prison to curb crime	Agree/disagree	Crime – prison vs education
232.	Long term prison OR alternative measures to curb crime	Discuss	Crime – Longer term in prison
233.	Why criminals reoffend	Problem/solution	Crime - Prisons
234.	Proper function of prisons is to punish criminals and life in prisons should be hard.	Agree/disagree	Crime - prisons
235.	Nothing can be done to prevent crime.	Agree/disagree	Crime

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236.	Criminal cases in the law courts are shown on the television, so that public can watch.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Criminal trials should be telecas
237.	Armed police encourages violence	Agree/disagree	Crime
238.	Should public have guns or not	Discuss	Crime
239.	Newspapers have influenced people's ideas and opinions. Reasons for this?	Positive or negative development	Media
240.	Although people are reading news through internet, newspapers still remain of value.	Agree/disagree	Media
241.	News media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways.	Agree/disagree	Media
242.	News media is important in our society. Why?	Positive or negative development	Media
243.	Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist have?	Direct question	Media
244.	Celebrities complain about the way media publicize their private lives. Some people say should accept it as part of their fame.	Agree/disagree	Media
245.	Nowadays young people are admiring media and sports stars, even though they do not set a good example.	Positive or negative development	Media
246.	Exposure to international media has a significant impact on local cultures. What do you think has been the impact?	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Media
247.	Recent advancements in technology have made the TV screen so live that people don't feel to go for any live performance	Agree/disagree	Media
248.	Most of our information comes from the Internet nowadays. A large part of the information we get is incorrect.	Agree/disagree	Media
249.	Radio is the best way to get news, OR TV is better for this purpose.	Discuss	Media
250.	People watch foreign films much more than local films. Why? Should the government help to local film industries?	Direct question	Media
251.	The number of TV programs is growing. Some people say that it is good, while others say it affects the quality of TV programs	Discuss	Media
252.	Some people think that 24-hour transmission is positive, while others believe it is negative.	Discuss	Media
253.	People are using the Internet to do their tasks rather than doing in person.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Media
254.	More and more people are using computers So, printing of books, magazines and newspapers should not be done.	Agree/disagree	Media
255.	Some people think that crime news on TV should not be broadcasted.	Agree/disagree	Media
256.	We can see more disasters and violence shown on TV. Causes and effects on the individual and the society?	Cause/effect	Media
257.	The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to decrease the violent crimes in society.	Agree/disagree	Media
258.	Some people say that the media should be strictly controlled.	Agree/disagree	Media
259.	Many people regard films as less important form of art than literature and painting.	Agree/disagree	Media
260.	In many countries, government spent a large amount of money on improving internet access. Why? is it the most appropriate use of government money?	Reasons/Direct question	Media
261.	The news reported in the media focuses on problems and emergencies rather than the positive developments is harmful.	Agree/disagree	Media
262.	News have no connection to people's lives, so then it is a waste of time to read and watch television news programs	Agree/disagree	Media

263.	Do violent films and videogames have negative effects on people and should be banned. OR they are just relaxation sources.	Discuss	Media (9/3/19)
264.	Children are facing more pressures nowadays from academic, social and commercial perspectives.	Causes/solutions	Family/children
265.	In many parts of the world, children have more freedom than in the past.	Positive or negative development	Family/children
266.	Some people think that nowadays children have too much freedom.	Agree/disagree	Family/children
267.	Children are taught to push themselves to try and be better than their classmates, rather than work together for everyone's profit.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Family/children
268.	The parents expect children to spend long time in studying both in and after school and have less free time.	Positive or negative development	Family/children
269.	Should children obey rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do, OR children controlled too much cannot deal with problems well by themselves.	Discuss	Family/children
270.	Should parents organise free time activities for children. OR children should be free to choose what they do in their free time.	Discuss	Family/children
271.	Parents should encourage their children to spend less time studying and more time doing sports/physical activities.	Agree/disagree	Family/children
272.	Today, children spend a lot time playing computer games and less time sports. Why?	Positive or negative development	Family/children
273.	Studies suggest that children spend more time watching TV than they did in the past and spend less on doing active or creative things.	Reasons/solutions	Family/children
274.	Is watching TV is bad to children in every way. OR TV has positive effects on children as they develop to grow up.	Discuss	Family/children
275.	Many children between 7 and 11 spend too much time watching television and/or playing video games. Effect on children, their families and society?	Effects/solutions	Family/children
276.	There is a general increase in anti-social behaviour and lack of respect for others.	Reasons/solutions	Family
277.	Individuals behave in an anti-society way, such as committing a crime. In general, it is the society to blame.	Reasons/solutions	Family
278.	Young people know about international pop and movie stars but know very less about famous people from the history in their own country. Why?	Reasons/Solutions	Family/Young people
279.	In most of the societies, the role of mother and father differs. Reasons and future roles	Reasons/direct question	Family/parenting (6/7/19)
280.	Playing computer games is bad for children, OR it is positive on the way children develop.	Discuss	Family/children
281.	In some cultures, the old age is valued more, while in some the youth is more valued.	Discuss	Family/Young/old (5/1/19)
282.	In some parts of the world, it is becoming increasingly popular to try to find out about the history of your family. Why?	Reasons/ Positive or negative development	Family/history
283.	The most important decision that young people have to follow is what career to choose.	Agree/disagree	Family/ Young people
284.	Many people think young people should follow traditions, others argue that young people should be free to be individuals.	Discuss	Family/Young people
285.	Investing on youth is the best investment. How to invest?	Agree/disagree and direct question.	Young people

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286.	Old generations often hold some traditional ideas on the correct way of life, thinking and behavior. OR it is not helpful for the young generations to prepare for modern life	Discuss	Family/Young/
287.	Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in.	Agree/disagree	Family/Young/
288.	In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life.	Reasons/effects	Family/parent
289.	Figures show that some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of the population who are aged 15 or younger. current and future effects of this trend	Direct question	Family/young people
290.	In some countries, more and more adults are living with their parents after graduating from college, university, or even after finding a job.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Family/young people
291.	Some working parents believe other family members like grandparents can take care of their children, OR are childcare centers better	Discuss	Family/childca
292.	In recent years the family has changed as well as family roles. Why?	Reasons/ Positive or negative development	Family
293.	Many elderly are suffering from loneliness and lack of fitness.	Reasons/solutions	Family/old peo (1/8/19)
294.	It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses.	Agree/disagree	Family – parent
295.	When families have a meal together it is considered social activity. Do you think eating together is important to people in your country?	Direct question	Family
296.	Parents have the most important role in a child's development. However, others argue that other things like television or friends have the most significant influence.	Discuss	Family
297.	Is crime because of genes OR can we prevent children from becoming criminals.	Direct question	Family/Childre
298.	Research indicates that the characteristics we are born with, have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life. Which do you consider to be the major influence?	Direct question	Family/childre
299.	Some people say that every human being can create art (e.g. painting), others think only the people born with the ability can create art	Discuss	Family/childre
300.	Children who grow up in families, which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents.	Agree/disagree	Family – parent
301.	In many countries today there is insufficient respect to old people.	Reasons/effects	Family/Old peo
302.	Some people think parents should read or tell stories to children, while others think parents need not do that, as children can read books, watch TV or movies by themselves.	Discuss	Family/childre
303.	In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves in recent years.	Reasons/ Positive or negative development	Family/young people
304.	In some countries, young people are not only richer, but also safer and healthier than ever before. However, they are less happy.	Reasons/solutions	Family/young people
305.	It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of old people than young people in the future in some countries.	Is it positive or negative	Family/young/

306.	Young people are often influenced in their behaviours and situations by others, in the same age. This is called "peer pressure".	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Family/young people
307.	Society is based on rules and laws. If individuals were free to do whatever they wanted to do, it could not function.	Agree/disagree	Family/society
308.	People have often thought about creating an ideal society, but most of the times fail in making this happen. What is an ideal society? How can we create an ideal society?	Direct question	Family/society
309.	In the modern society individuals are becoming more dependent OR are becoming more independent of each other.	Discuss	Family
310.	Society governed by female leaders will be more peaceful.	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
311.	People are surrounded by advertising, which has an increasing effect on our lives.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Advertisements
312.	Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us all want to do the same and look the same.	Agree/disagree	Advertisement
313.	A large amount of advertisements nowadays are now targeted at children. Many people say this has negative effects on children and should therefore be banned.	Agree/disagree	Advertisement
314.	There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children. Parents are worried that these ads put too much pressure on children, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children.	Discuss	Advertisement
315.	Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies.	Effects/solutions	Advertisement
316.	Overeating is as harmful to people's health as smoking. So, the advertisements of certain food products should be banned as the ads of cigarettes are banned.	Agree/disagree	Advertisement
317.	Advertising encourages consumers to buy in quantity rather than promoting quality.	Agree/disagree	Advertisement
318.	If a product is good people will buy it. So advertising is unnecessary	Agree/disagree	Advertisement (11/2/19)
319.	Because of the global economy, many goods produced by other counties have to be transported for a long distance.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Globalisation
320.	Everyone in the world is wearing same brands and watching same TV and movies.	Positive or negative development	Globalisation
321.	As we are facing more and more problems, which affect the whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before.	Agree/disagree	Globalization
322.	Some people say that some urgent problems in modern society can only be solved with international cooperation.	Agree/disagree	Globalization
323.	Many different countries have most shops and products as the same. Some consider it a positive development, whereas others consider it negative.	Discuss	Globalisation
324.	Should countries invite foreign companies in order to develop economies. OR whether countries should invest in their own companies instead?	Discuss	Globalisation
325.	Due to developments in science and technology, lifestyles of people across the world are becoming more and more similar to each other.	Positive or negative development	Globalisation
326.	Multicultural societies, where people of different ethnic groups live together can bring more benefits than drawbacks to a society.	Agree/disagree	Globalization

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327.	The days the number of companies operating at multinational level has increased. To what extent are they responsible for the local communities in which they are located?	Direct question	Globalisation
328.	The spread of multinational companies and the increase in globalization produce positive effects for everyone.	Agree/disagree	Globalization
329.	The speeding up of life in many areas such as travel and communication has negative effects on society at all levels—individual, national and global.	Agree/disagree	Globalisation
330.	Increasing business and cultural contact between countries brings many positive effects. OR causes loss of national identities.	Discuss	Globalisation
331.	People are eating a lot of foreign food instead of locally produced food.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Food
332.	Some people think it would be better to our environment and economy if people only ate local produced food.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Food
333.	Traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods. This is having a negative effect on both families and societies.	Agree/disagree	Food
334.	Some say the way to ask people to eat less fast food is to educate them, while others say education does not work.	Discuss	Food
335.	People buy imported food rather than food produced locally. Why?	Direct question	Food
336.	GM foods and factory farming	Discuss	Food
337.	GM foods are good or bad	Discuss	Food
338.	Government needs to encourage sport and art for school students, than funding supporting professional sports, arts	Agree/disagree	Sport
339.	Government should increase the number of sports facilities; OR other measures to improve health.	Discuss	Sports
340.	Should national sports teams and individual men and women be financially supported by the government. OR should be funded by non-government sources	Discuss	Sports
341.	Sport is becoming a business and professionals and big companies are getting involved in sporting events.	Is it positive or negative	Sports
342.	Some people think sports and games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities.	Discuss	Sports
343.	Some people think Holding International games has positive effects while others argue it is a waste of money.	Discuss	Sports
344.	Health experts believe that walking is a good exercise for health. However, people are walking less nowadays. Why? Solutions	Reasons/solutions	Health
345.	Some people think health care should be free for everyone. OR they should pay for their medical costs themselves.	Discuss	Health
346.	Government should pay for health care and education, OR it is the individual's responsibility.	Discuss	Health
347.	Some people say that the public funds should be spent on promoting healthy living than on the treatment of people who are ill.	Agree/disagree	Health
348.	Nowadays, people are consuming more and more sugar-based drinks. Why? Solutions.	Reasons/Solutions	Health
349.	Should government should make laws regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle, OR is it a matter of personal choice and personal responsibility.	Discuss	Health
350.	Youth should be banned from participating in sport competitions.	Agree/Disagree	Sports

351.	Government should ban dangerous sports, such as skydiving and rock climbing.	Agree/Disagree	Sports
352.	Do the fittest and strongest individuals and teams always succeed in sports. OR success in sports depends on mental attitudes.	Discuss	Sports
353.	Health clubs and gyms for health care, OR just walking and climbing stairs	Discuss	Health
354.	Some people still continue doing unhealthy habits.	Reasons and solutions	Health
355.	People should look after their health for society they live in or for personal benefits.	Agree/Disagree	Health
356.	Government should give priority to health care OR spend on other important priorities.	Discuss	Health
357.	Football supporters behave violently.	Reasons and solutions	Sports
358.	Everyone should become vegetarian	Agree/Disagree	Health
359.	Should government subsidize healthy food OR set tax on unhealthy food.	Discuss	Health
360.	Overeating has become a bigger problem in the world than hunger.	Reasons/Solutions	Health
361.	Now the machine is very complex, a lot of difficult work to be automated.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Technology
362.	Computers will become more intelligent than human beings. Some people find it a positive development while others think it is negative	Discuss	Technology
363.	Robots are important to human's future development, OR have negative effects	Discuss	Technology
364.	There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What are these?	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Technology
365.	Anyone can use a mobile phone to answer/make work calls or home calls at any place 7 days a week.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Technology
366.	Mobile phones should also be banned as is smoking.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
367.	Mobile phones should be banned in public spaces	Agree/Disagree	Technology
368.	People don't entertain as before because technology has made them less creative.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
369.	Communication technology has more disadvantages than advantages.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
370.	People can work and live anywhere because of communication technology and transport.	Old book	
371.	People work at home and study at home with the development of computer technology.	Is it a positive or a negative development	Technology (23/2/19)
372.	Because of mobile phones and the Internet people are losing face to face communication.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
373.	Development of technology has made our life more complex, and the solution is to live a life without that technology.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
374.	Earlier technological developments more effective then recent ones.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
375.	Technological progress in the past century has its negative effect, despite its remarkable contribution.	Agree/Disagree	Technology
376.	What ways could mobile phone and the Internet be useful to old people? How to encourage them to use this new technology?	Direct question	Technology
377.	Access to internet is necessary to lead a full life? Give your opinion	Opinion	Technology
378.	Space research makes little difference to our daily life.	Agree/Disagree	Space research

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379.	Money should be spent researching on other planet to live such as Mars.	Agree/Disagree	Space research
380.	We should protect only those animals, which are useful to humans.	Agree/Disagree	Animals
381.	Should we protect these animals from dying out, OR concentrate on problems of humans.	Discuss	Animals
382.	Too much attention and resources are given to protect wild animals and birds.	Agree/Disagree	Animals
383.	It is too late to do anything about animal and plant extinction. OR effective measures can still be taken	Discuss	Animals
384.	Why do people do so little about animal and plant extinction	Problem/Solution	Animals
385.	Some people think we can exploit animals / others do not think so.	Discuss	Animals
386.	No longer necessary to use animals for food or use animal products.	Agree/Disagree	Animals
387.	Animal Experimentation should be done OR not	Discuss	Animals
388.	Should government provide assistance to all kinds of artists OR is it a waste of money.	Discuss	Arts
389.	More spending on theatres and sports stadiums than on medical care and education.	Agree/disagree	Arts
390.	Spending on art OR on health and education	Discuss	Arts
391.	Arts vs science. What can arts tell us about life that science and technology cannot?	Direct question	Arts
392.	Governments should spend on public services than on arts like Music and Painting.	Agree/Disagree	Arts
393.	Is music only entertainment or has other roles	Discuss	Arts
394.	Government should spend money on paintings and statues to make cities better	Agree/disagree	Arts
395.	Should museums be free or ticketed	Discuss	Art/Museums
396.	Museums and art galleries will not be needed because of internet computer.	Agree/disagree	Art/Museums
397.	Should museum only educate OR entertain	Discuss	Art/Museums
398.	Museums and art galleries should concentrate on local works, not showing the cultures or artworks from other countries. To what extent do you agree?	Agree/Disagree	Art/Museum
399.	New buildings should be built with traditional style to preserve their culture.	Agree/disagree	Buildings/architecture
400.	It is more important to have public parks and sports facilities than shopping centres in new towns.	Agree/disagree	Buildings/architecture
401.	Architects shouldn't worry about beautiful building and only focus on the purpose	Agree/disagree	Buildings/architecture
402.	Vertical cities vs horizontal	Discuss	Urban/rural
403.	Government should spend on new buildings, such rather than renovating old buildings.	Agree/disagree	Buildings/architecture
404.	Living in big cities is becoming difficult or easier.	Discuss	Urban/rural (19/1/19)
405.	Life in the large cities is becoming worse.	Problem solution	Urban/rural (12/12/19)
406.	Problems of big cities? Should small towns be encouraged?	Problem solution	Urban/rural

407.	The movement of people from agricultural areas to cities to work can cause serious problems in both places. What?	Problem solution	Urban/rural
408.	Only government action can solve severe social consequences caused by housing problems.	Agree/Disagree	Miscellaneous
409.	Urban planning – segregation of shops, offices houses in separate areas.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Urban/rural
410.	Some cities have no controls on the design, construction of homes, offices.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Urban/rural
411.	All towns and cities should have large public outdoor places like squares and parks.	Agree/Disagree	Urban/rural
412.	The money for old buildings should be used in new housing and road development.	Agree/disagree	Buildings/architecture
413.	Some buildings, such as offices and schools have open-space design instead of separate rooms. Reasons?	Positive or negative development	Buildings/architecture
414.	Should businesses move to rural areas to solve transport and accommodation problems?	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Miscellaneous
415.	Why individuals and countries to think about the future, rather than focus on the present?	Direct question	Miscellaneous
416.	Governments should provide free housing for everyone who can't afford it.	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
417.	Shopping habits depend more on the age group they belong to than other factors.	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
418.	People don't know their neighbours	Reasons and solutions	Miscellaneous
419.	Intelligence is the most important quality for a leader.	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
420.	Brands popularity - Reasons	Is it a positive or a negative development	Miscellaneous (28/9/19)
421.	Similar clothes and things show that people like to copy one another	Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous
422.	Ambition – Its importance. Is it positive or negative	Direct question	Miscellaneous
423.	Influence of politicians versus scientists	Discuss	Miscellaneous
424.	In which areas we have made progress, and in which areas we still need progress	Direct question	Miscellaneous
425.	Economic development (ED) causes loss of social values. Do pros of ED outweigh cons	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Miscellaneous
426.	The governments, and not private companies should do scientific research.	Agree/Disagree	Miscellaneous
427.	21st Century – do you share the optimistic view	What changes you would like to see	Miscellaneous
428.	Cosmetic surgery – reasons	Positive or negative development	Miscellaneous
429.	Competitiveness is a positive quality for people in most societies. How competitiveness affects individuals? Is it a positive or negative trend?	Positive or negative development	Miscellaneous
430.	Team activities can teach more skills for life than solo activities.	Agree/Disagree	Miscellaneous (10/8/19)
431.	Male sports are given more attention than female sports. Why is it so? Does this trend have a positive or negative impact on society?	Positive or negative development	Sports
432.	Some people believe that the government should spend money to provide faster public transport. Others think that there are other important priorities for public transport such as cost and environment. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Discuss essay	Transport

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433.	Demand for food is increasing worldwide. What is the cause of this? What measures can the international community take to make sure the supply of food is enough?	Causes /solutions	Food (12/9/19)
434.	An increasing number of people change their career during their work life. What are the reasons for this?	Reasons and Positive/Negative	Job (10/10/19)
435.	In some countries the lifestyle of people is changing rapidly, and this affects family relationships.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Job (19/10/19)
436.	Today, large shopping centres and shopping malls are more common than small shops. Is this a positive or a negative development?	Positive/Negative	Globalisatio
437.	Today, people can use the internet to learn about the culture and lifestyle of the people of other countries. So, there is no need to travel to other countries to learn their culture.	Agree/Disagree	Tourism/Techno (16/11/19)
438.	Most people today prefer to socialize online rather than spending time with their friends in the local community.	Are advantages more than disadvantages	Family/Friend (30/11/19)
439.	Scientists have been warning for many years about protecting the environment and that people must limit the use of energy in their daily lives. Despite warnings, many people do not do so. What are the reasons for this and how can people be encouraged to protect the environment?	Problem solution	Environment (14/12/19)
440.	Employers should give staff at least four weeks holidays a year to make employees better at their jobs.	Agree/Disagree	Job
441.	There is increased use of technology in workplace. Some people find that it is good for young people's prospects of gaining job and harder for old people	Agree/Disagree	Job
442.	Some people think that the best way to reduce time spent in traveling to work is to replace parks and gardens close to the city centres with apartment buildings where commuters can live.	Agree/Disagree	Job

1. *Interviews form the basic selection criteria for most large companies. However, some people think that interview is not a reliable method of choosing whom to employ and there are other better methods. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Recruiting new employees can be a long and painful process. Some employers conduct interviews to select new workers. I disagree with the given statement, which says that interview is not a reliable method, and other methods are better. I believe that interview is a reliable method, but there are many other methods which are equally good, and the choice is on the recruiters as to which method they find suitable for their need.

There are many reasons why interview is preferred by some employers for hiring new employees. Firstly, by the interview the recruiters can get an idea about the personality and social skills of the potential employees. In interviews, there is face-to-face interaction and the candidates have to answer impromptu questions, from which personality traits can be judged. Also, by asking some case study type questions, employees can judge traits like ability to handle pressure, confidence and ability to think outside the box.

However, there are many other selection methods with varied advantages. One of other common methods is written test. This method is preferred when the focus in on judging the theoretical knowledge of the person. Another conventional selection basis is group discussion. This method is good where a major job requirement of the company is conversational skills for instance sales jobs. Group discussion can determine the convincing power of an individual. Last but not the least, there can be combination of the all the three methods like written tests, followed by group discussion and finally interviews. This method is the most thorough of all the methods checking everything from personality traits to knowledge and also communication ability.

It is evident that different methods have different advantages and the best method cannot be singled out. It depends upon the situation. For example, interviews assess a person's individual traits better whereas written tests are more about knowledge and expertise in an area. There are shortcomings of every method too for example there is a chance of personal bias in interviews. The combination of methods can take too long to select a candidate and may be too expensive to conduct for small companies.

To conclude, hiring method depends upon the job and company requirement. In some situations, conducting interviews is more apt, whereas in some situations the other methods may be more advantageous.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Importance of interviews
Para 2: Other methods
Para 3: Disadvantages of each method because of which no singe method can be singled out as the best.
Conclusion:
Written by: Indroop Singh

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2. Most employers nowadays put increasing emphasis on social skills. Some people believe that social skills are important in addition to good qualifications for job success. To what extent, do you agree or disagree?

The success of any organisation depends on the quality of its staff. I definitely agree that today social skills are as essential as good qualifications while recruiting new employees. No business can thrive if its employees, however highly qualified they may be, lack the social skills.

It is easy to see why employers are putting emphasis on social skills in addition to qualifications. Social skills reflect a person's ability to work with others in a way that strengthens long-term working relationships. There are many personal traits such as creativity, adaptability, honesty, integrity, and effort, which are also important besides technical skills. A university degree does not signal whether a person has those traits. A degree does not indicate in any way, how a person will function in the real world.

Moreover, if recruitments are focused only on candidates' technical skills and expertise, then it results in hiring employees who have the intellect to succeed but lack the social skills required to work effectively. This is because they lack emotional intelligence, which is ability to understand their own emotions and those of others and to use this emotional understanding to adjust and cooperate with others. This results in interpersonal conflict and frustration and sometimes such employees have to be fired. What is more, such employees are unable to handle the social demands of leadership and so have to remain at lower level jobs.

Undoubtedly, academic qualifications are also important because just as clothing is to first impression, so is a university degree to a first job or a job with a good pay. The first thing that companies look for is that piece of paper before looking at an individual's experience. A degree simply proves that an individual has acquired the necessary academic knowledge of how to carry out a job. Having a degree most definitely helps the recruiters in hiring suitable candidates.

In summary, it is clear to understand why social skills are given a lot of importance in addition to qualifications. Such skills are the key to success at work.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1- advantages of considering social skills
Para 2 – disadvantages of not looking into social skills
Para 3 – advantages of degree
Conclusion:

(Note the similarities in essay number 2 and 3 and see how to present the same ideas in different ways)

3. *Some employers think that formal academic qualifications are more important than life experiences and personal qualities when they look for an employee. Why is it the case? Is it a positive or negative development?*

Some recruiters give more value to a college or university degree than personal attributes and experiences. This essay shall look into the reasons that can be attributed to this phenomenon. In my opinion it is a negative development.

It is easy to see why some employers give more stress on a degree than experiences. Undoubtedly, academic qualifications are important because just as clothing is to first impressions, so is a university degree to a first job or a job with a good pay. The first thing that companies look for is that piece of paper before looking at an individual's experience. A degree simply proves that an individual has acquired the necessary academic knowledge of how to carry out a job. Having a degree most definitely helps the recruiters in hiring suitable candidates.

However, focusing only on the degree and ignoring a person's experiences and skills is not good. Personal skills and life experiences are also as important as good qualifications while recruiting new employees. There are many personal traits such as creativity, adaptability, honesty, integrity, and effort, which are also important. A university degree does not signal whether a person has those traits. A degree does not indicate in any way, how a person will function in the real world. Hands-on skills and practical experience are more important in the present scenario. That is why it is a negative development if employers do not put emphasis on personal traits.

Moreover, it has been seen that when recruitments focus largely on candidates' technical skills and expertise, with relatively little attention given to soft skills, then it results in hiring employees who have the intellect to succeed but lack the social skills required to work effectively. This results in interpersonal conflict and frustration and sometimes such employees have to leave the job. What is more, such employees are unable to handle the social demands of leadership and so have to remain at lower level jobs.

In summary, it is understandable why employers give importance to qualifications. I consider it negative because I believe that personal skills and experiences are as important as qualifications.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into the reasons for this. In my opinion it is a negative development.
Para 1- the advantages of a degree
Para 2 –importance of personal skills and experience
Para 3 – what happened when recruiters did not look for these skills
Conclusion: restate opinion

(Note the similarities in essay number 2 and 3 and see how to present the same ideas in different ways)

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4. It is suggested that all young adults should undertake a period of unpaid work, helping people in the community. Does it bring more benefits or drawbacks to the young people?

The youth of today are generally considered to lack social knowledge and experience, which are of crucial importance in their future development. To solve this problem, some people suggest that they should undertake a period of voluntary work in the local community, helping people around them. Personally, I believe that making young people do voluntary work would be very beneficial for the youth as well as for the society, and the negative effects of such an approach would be negligible.

Undoubtedly, it will benefit the young people enormously if they do a certain period of unpaid work. By helping the elderly, the sick and the disabled directly, or participating in charitable activities like raising funds or offering free consultation, young people will certainly gain and accumulate some valuable first-hand experience and know more about the society.

Moreover, young people with such experiences are more likely to become the most motivated ones in academic study or at work, and eventually become responsible citizens of the society. As far as the community is concerned, it will definitely become better with so many zealous young volunteers who are ready to help.

However, there may be some disadvantages if the young provide free service helping people in need. For example, it may conflict with their normal study or work if not arranged well. Then the result may be not as desirable as what is expected. But I think this sort of problem can be easily taken care of by meticulous planning by the school authorities.

To conclude, competitiveness of modern life and influence of global culture have isolated children from neighbourhood. So, making them do some voluntary community work would be very beneficial to make today's children feel part of the society they live in.

Plan followed:

Intro: its pros far outweigh the cons
Para 1: young people will know more about the society
Para 2: young people become the most motivated in academic study or work
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion: such a step would be very beneficial to make today's children feel part of the community.

5. Nowadays, older people who need employment have to compete with younger people. What problems does this cause, and what are the solutions?

It is undeniable that a growing number of the elderly are faced with increasing competition from the youth in the workplace. This situation is causing challenges for both – the older and the younger workforce. This essay will explore the negative effects caused by this hot competition between the young and the old job seekers, and then present some suggestions to alleviate these potential problems.

The competition among the young and the old workers can cause troubling effects on the senior workers. They might find it daunting to keep up with the latest advancements in technology. For example, in the manufacturing industry, the use of advanced machines is quite common. But, how to operate the equipment could be a tough challenge for older workers, whereas it may be simple and easy for their younger counterparts. Therefore, the elderly employees might suffer both physically and psychologically, even if they secure reasonable jobs. Finally, if senior employees constitute the largest proportion of the company's staff, then, it could lead to a decline of productivity and efficiency of the enterprise.

On the other hand, the young graduates may also feel unmotivated and frustrated. Senior job candidates have rich experience, and therefore they tend to outshine young adults. Young employees are relatively restricted in terms of work experience and communication skills, because of which some employers prefer to recruit older people with higher working efficiency rather than those who have just graduated from the university. Without a decent job and salary, it is extremely difficult for young people to make a living, as a consequence of which, some of them might resort to crime to fulfil their desires.

These problems can certainly be solved. Considering the severity of this problem, it is imperative for the government to encourage self-employment for fresh graduates, so that the young people get employment, and the older workers are not laid off. Governments should encourage businesses to create more jobs for less experienced young employees who will then have the opportunity to accumulate experience. Further, the governments should allocate more money to pension system, which can basically guarantee the basic needs of most elders, so that they do not have to look for jobs. At the individual level, the elderly should plan ahead for their retirement and enjoy their retired life, instead of competing for the limited job vacancies. This would be a win-win option both for the aged and the young.

To sum up, competition between both age groups for the jobs will continue to be more intense, but some steps at government and individual level can help to lessen the severity of the situation.

Plan followed

Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para1: Problems to elderly and companies
Para 2: Problems to youth
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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6. Nowadays more and more young people hold the important positions in the government. Some people think that it is a good thing, while others argue that it is not suitable. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Running a nation is an arduous task and in the present times more and more young people are holding top positions in government offices. Some people opine that this situation is good, whereas others are sceptical about it. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss both views. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of young people holding the positions of power. To begin with, the youth are enthusiastic and zealous. They have a great vision and the spirit to take the nation forward. They are not confined to conventions and are willing to try new things. They are ready to face challenges. Secondly, they are better physically, which enables them to fulfil some tough jobs.

Furthermore, young leaders could be a source of inspiration for the youth to step forward and do something for the benefit of the country. Finally, the young have a clean track record and the younger leaders are less prone to corruption and similar asocial activities than the old ones whose aim is to be in the seats of power somehow. Only youth has the innocence, which can drive the country forward.

On the other hand, the main reason given by those who think that it is not proper to give the reins of the nation in raw hands is that the young are impatient and lack social experience. Any of their hasty decisions may have serious consequences. They believe that the important posts should be in the hands of the more experienced sexagenarians and octogenarians.

Summing up, in the present scenario, it is better to let the energetic youth take the nation forward by offering them important posts in the government. An emerging nation may not be able to cope with their conventional style of functioning of the elderly.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: advantages of young people in power
More enthusiastic and zealous
Better physically
Para 2: More advantages of the young
Role models for the youth
Clean track record – less corrupt –
Para 3: opponents view and then refute it
Conclusion: Young people are better at top government positions

7. Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (Agree)

It is true that longevity has led to an increase in the ability of people to work for longer years. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that the elderly people should continue to work till a later age. I shall support my point of view in the upcoming paragraphs.

Firstly, looking at it from a country's economic point of view, increasing the retirement age will help decrease the government's burden on providing benefits for the elderly. For developing countries this is very beneficial, as the workforce will contribute towards the country's economy and the government will need to spend lesser on providing the retirement benefits to the senior citizens, such as senior citizen discounts, healthcare benefits, travel benefits, etc.

Moreover, working till a later age will be very beneficial to the elderly, at an individual level. They will not need to depend on anyone for their needs. Also, they'll be busy and involved in work, which will help to tackle the problems of loneliness and depression among them. These days the family members do not have the time to spend with the old members of the family, which leads the elderly to feel isolated. Increasing the retirement age will, to a great extent, reduce this problem.

The opponents of this view believe that the old are not physically fit for much of the stressful work. Some also say that since they have worked all their lives, it's the time for them to enjoy the later years of life, away from the pressures of work. I, however, believe that to enjoy in the later years too, money is needed. So, even if they work for few extra years, it is a necessity.

Overall, an increase in the retirement age will benefit the country, the society as well as individuals. Voluntary retirement offers can be set up for those who wish to retire early, due to their health or other circumstances.

Plan Followed:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Benefit
Para2: Benefit
Para3: Opponents' view and refutation
Conclusion

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8. Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (Disagree)

It is true that longevity has led to an increase in the ability of people to work for longer years. Therefore, increasing the retirement age seems to be a logical outcome of the increase in the lifespan. However, I disagree with the statement that older people should continue to be a part of the workforce. I shall support my point of view in the following paragraphs.

The proponents of this view suggest that if people are living longer, they should be allowed to work longer. There is no doubt that people are living longer than in the past times due to better health care and better personal awareness. If they work, they will be able to be self-sufficient for a longer time. The governments will need to spend lesser on providing the retirement benefits to the senior citizens, such as pensions, senior citizen discounts, healthcare benefits, travel benefits, etc.

However, after a certain age the physical capability of a human reduces. Many people also suffer from health ailments. In addition, those who have worked throughout their lives in physically demanding and challenging jobs, might not be happy to work in old age. That is the time they need to relax and enjoy, after working for decades. They should be utilizing that time in travelling and pursuing their interests and hobbies, which they couldn't because of their hectic work life.

Another major disadvantage of increasing the retirement age is an increase in youth unemployment. Unemployment among the younger population leads to bigger problems, like increase in the crime rate, violent behavior, drug addiction, and so on. That is a bigger menace, which needs to be curbed before it goes out of control. Increasing the retirement age will definitely not help with the issue of unemployment of the youth. In fact, it will only worsen it, especially in developing countries, like India and China.

In conclusion, an increase in the retirement age should not be made without careful consideration of what consequences it might have on the future generations and the entire workforce of the nation. Considering that the youth is the future of any nation, an increase in the older workforce would definitely not be a good solution to any country's economic and social problems.

Plan Followed:

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Proponents view
Para2: Disadvantage
Para3: Disadvantage
Conclusion

9. *Some countries pay extremely high salaries to people. Some people believe that the country must not do that and make a limit for the salaries. Do you agree or disagree?*

It's no surprise that business executives make more money than lower-level employees. This gap in recent time has increased so much that some people say that there should be an upper limit on the salaries. While I believe that paying very high salaries to some employees can have a few disadvantages, I disagree that there should be an upper limit on salaries.

High pays to higher executives and CEO's is actually beneficial. To begin with, I believe that as pay differences between job levels increase, the value of receiving a promotion also rises—spurring employees to put in more effort. If the person above me is making a lot more money than I am, but I feel like I could work harder and get promoted to get the same salary, I will be motivated to do that. This in turn increases the company's overall productivity.

Additionally, the increased pay comes with an added set of responsibilities and stress. The higher-level executive officers have to take responsibility for not only their actions but also of all employees under them. To cite an example, recently the principal of school in Delhi was fired for the untoward actions of a teacher towards one of his students, even though the principal was not directly involved and had no knowledge about it. Moreover, higher CEOs and directors have to make decisions, which may have very large consequences for the company. In the example above, the principal was held liable because he was the person responsible for hiring decision. Thus, higher salaries to executive officers are not without reason.

Admittedly, pay discrepancy can be negative too. Pay disparity generates feelings of unfairness—leading lower-paid employees to shrug off their responsibilities or leave their jobs. In other words, if employees feel their hard work isn't being rewarded pay disparity will create resentment. Especially when both occur—the CEO is overpaid and the employee is underpaid—then the firm's performance suffer. These firms can feel the backlash in a variety of ways. They may suffer weak corporate governance, lower sales, and higher employee attrition.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that the extremely high salaries are justified and there should not be a limit on it. A system which, values individuality, rewards ability and risk-taking, ultimately prospers. Poverty and social dysfunction cannot be fixed by taking from the haves to give to the have-nots.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: second argument
Para 3: Opponent view
Conclusion

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10. It is a good thing if senior management workers in a company get a much higher salary than other workers in the same company. Do you agree or disagree?

The size of the pay of the top officials of large organisations, which is disproportionately higher than that of ordinary workers, has sparked much debate in the recent times. Some consider it very fair and are very happy about it. I, however, am not in favour of this discrepancy.

Advocates of a fat pay for senior officials argue that it is needed to attract and retain the best executive talent. Undoubtedly, a talented manager is a major asset for any company, as he determines its success and prosperity. Furthermore, the top manager could be re-employed by a business rival. The gifted managers who could understand and manage people in business setting are always sought after. Hence, high salary is a powerful means to retain such talent. Finally, the directors obviously face the stress from their workplace in daily lives, which may cause health problems. Therefore, people should accept the truth that big responsibilities deserve big salaries.

However, the huge difference in the pay has led to many problems. Firstly, as executive pay has soared, the wages of ordinary workers have stagnated. This has led to widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. For example, the soaring executive pay, particularly in the financial sector, has made the UK one of the most unequal societies in the developed world. Unequal societies suffer many social problems. To add to it, economic recovery is also hindered because so much money is concentrated in the hands of the wealthy elite, who do not spend it, but invest it in property or financial assets. The low and middle-income households spend money in the productive economy, but they do not have the money to spend and so the economy suffers.

Furthermore, in most other top-level positions, such as senior civil servants, top lawyers and judges, surgeons, and leading military officials, there is no culture of performance related pay. Therefore, such huge pay packets for top officials in the business sector, is not at all justified. I believe that a fair and balanced pay is what we need to have a happier society. Many studies support the view that firms concerned about social responsibility can put restrictions on executive compensation and still achieve good financial performance.

To sum up, although there are reasons for the fat pay given to the top-level managers, and we need companies to grow and to create both wealth and jobs in this fierce global market, I still believe that we can achieve this by being fair, and not overpaying the top executives.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of higher pay of top executives
Para 2: Disadvantages of such difference in pay
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion:

11. The leaders or directors of organizations are often older people. But some people say that young people can also be a leader. Do you agree or disagree?

When a company has to select someone for an executive position, mostly the senior employees are considered. Some individuals hold the opinion that youngsters can be as good leaders as the older employees. Although the young age has some limitations, I agree that in today's world, the young are equally equipped as older people to handle the top managerial posts.

There are many qualities that make young people apt for leadership and management positions. Firstly, they have the entrepreneurial spirit and risk-taking attitude, which is needed for companies to grow. They also provide a fresh and dynamic perspective to the company. In today's increasingly competitive era, it is of utmost importance for companies to continuously innovate. This needs leaders who are ready to move ahead and are ready to make and accept changes. Young leaders are more adaptable and thus better than even old generation in this respect.

Another big trait of the young people is their ability to relate with the young talent and workforce. Due to this understanding, they can better attract new talent to their company, giving their company an edge over others in the market. Additionally, because of being tech savvy, the young leaders can reach out farther in the global arena. Here, I would like to cite an example of my uncle, who had been running his business of readymade garments for the last 20 years. His business was doing fairly well but has grown exponentially ever since he handed the reins to his son two years ago. Today, they are the biggest exporters of readymade garments from the whole of Punjab. His son used his digital network to spread his business.

Admittedly, young generation lacks many important traits, because of which the older employees are preferred. The first and foremost is their lack of experience. The ability to handle these diverse situations comes with experience. The older executives are better than their younger counterparts. Another problem is that the young managers are seen as outsiders. They have not risen through the ranks like the other older executive members. This creates conflicts with other older members who see them as undeserving.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that although young age has some limitations, it also comes with many useful qualities like risk taking ability, ability to understand the young generation, which are also important for leadership. Denying young people, a chance to be leaders can be counterproductive both for the company and the country.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para1: in favour of young leaders
Para 2: For young leaders
Para 3: For senior leaders
Conclusion: reiterate opinion
Written by: Indroop Singh

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12. In many countries, women are allowed to take maternity leave during the first month after the birth of the newborn. Do you think the advantages of maternity leave outweigh the disadvantages?

The maternity leave is a benefit given to protect the dignity of motherhood and to ensure the health of the mother and child. I believe that the pros of maternity leave outweigh the cons.

First, maternity leave is very advantageous for the newborns. The future of the world rests largely in the hands of the coming generations. Once a child is born, it becomes national property. Mothers are the front-line childcare providers and therefore, if they are given maternity leave, they can do their job better. In most Indian homes the mother's salary is necessary to support the family. So, if the mother does not get a paid maternity leave, then she has to go back to job earlier and this affects the childcare. Nurseries fail to provide the one-to-one interaction children need.

Secondly, maternity leave is beneficial for the mother herself. It is an undeniable fact that a woman has to go through a very stressful time physically, emotionally, and financially, during pregnancy. Therefore, if women are allowed maternity leave, they can look after their health. Another important advantage of the maternity leave is that, the job is secure. The fear of losing the job altogether makes many women apprehensive and so they get back to work at the cost of their health and their child's health.

Admittedly, there are a few disadvantages of the maternity leave. A long maternity leave may be an obstacle for career progression. Secondly, companies may have to find a temporary replacement for work, which may not be that easy. Finally, small companies may not afford to give maternity leave to its employees.

To sum up, the disadvantages of maternity leave are negligible as compared to the advantages. That is why some countries have taken a step forward and allowed maternity leave to women after childbirth.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages to the child
Para 2: Advantages to woman herself
Para 3: Job is secure
Para 4: Disadvantage
Conclusion: I reiterate my opinion saying that the disadvantages of maternity leave are negligible as compared to the advantages

Similar essay: Mothers generally stay home to take care of their children after pregnancy. Do you support the opinion that these mothers should be compensated for by the government?

13. Some people believe that women should play an equal role as men in a country's police force or military force, such as the army, while others think women are not suitable for these kinds of jobs. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

An increasing number of women are choosing to work in the police and armed forces nowadays and have showed their mettle in these fields. Some individuals opine that women should be able to work shoulder to shoulder with men in these fields, whereas others disagree and say that women are not suited for such jobs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons given by those who are in favour of women joining the police or army. Firstly, nowadays, we are heading towards an egalitarian society in which all should have equal rights. Therefore, women should have the same right as men to choose their profession. Secondly, people should be chosen for jobs based on their skills, qualification and character. Gender should not come in the way of the selection process. Finally, many army and police jobs require traits which are better in women. For instance, in the police force, women have proven better than men at handling juvenile criminals.

On the other hand, those who are against women in the police or army jobs give their reasons as follows. Firstly, women lack physical strength and therefore they are not fit to be in the army or police, as these jobs require physical strength. Secondly, such jobs are round the clock jobs and have uncertain hours of duty, so women should not join such fields. They say that women also have the onus of looking after the home and children, so they would not be able to justify such jobs.

I believe that women should be allowed to enter such fields as the police or army. Physical strength can be increased by effective workouts and muscle training. Women who join such jobs do undergo rigorous training and are no less than men when they are on the job. It is also a matter of personal choice. More and more men are now entering fields such as nursing and teaching, which were earlier thought to be a woman's domain. So, it should come as no surprise if women choose to enter the police and armed forces.

Summing up, women should have the same role as men in police and armed forces. It is the need of the times.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Gender should not come in the way of the selection process.
Para 2: More in favour of women
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion: Women should have the same role as men in police and armed forces.

Similar essay: In many countries, women are able to join the armed forces just as men. Some people say that only men should be members of the army, navy or air force. Do you agree or disagree?

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14. Some people say that no one should do the same job forever, while others believe that doing the same job is beneficial for the individual, company and society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Job-hopping is a relatively new trend. A few decades ago, it was a term, which was highly frowned upon. It was a norm to stick to one job for life, grab a pension and retire. This essay intends to analyse the merits and demerits of both approaches. I believe that too frequent job-hopping is not good, especially if done for trivial reasons. A job change, once or twice in one's whole career span is acceptable.

Those who favour job hopping give their reasons as follows. Firstly, the person who changes jobs frequently can get a ton of experience, and a fresh look on things. The employers and the company also benefit because such employees can overcome challenges sooner and better. Secondly, the person who has worked in many places, develops a huge network, which is an asset for himself and his employers also. Finally, by working at various organisations, a person gets opportunities to figure out which type of employers and company culture suits him/her the best. Then that person can finally stick to that job for the rest of his/her work life.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people like sticking to one job. Firstly, the chances of promotion are much more because of longevity of service. Furthermore, they find greater depth of satisfaction from their working relationships. There is also much better work-life balance if a person's job is stable and secure. Employers are also hesitant to hire a person who has a history of many job hops. They don't want to waste resources on training such employees. To add to it, in times of recession, the last hired is first fired. So, sticking to one job is advantageous for the employers and employees both.

In my opinion, very frequent job-hopping is certainly not good. Job-hopping is acceptable if done for the right reasons, such as learning new work patterns. If it is done for money alone, it may prove to be detrimental in the long run. Job hoppers are usually not liked by employers, because they see them as directionless and disloyal.

To sum up, an occasional job change is understandable, but hopping from one job to the other every year or two, is surely not good for the employees and employers both.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Advantages of job-hopping
Para 2: Advantages of sticking to one job
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

15. The world of work is changing rapidly. Working conditions today are not the same as before and people no longer rely on taking one job for life. Discuss the possible causes for these changes and give your suggestions on how people should prepare for work in the future.

It is irrefutable that the work scenario is altering at a fast pace. Working conditions are also different and the process of job-hopping is very common. This essay shall delve into the possible causes for these changes and suggest ways to prepare for work in the time to come.

To begin with, the development of science and technology has changed the structure of work. For example, people no longer need to do some heavy work by themselves. Instead, they can use machines. Secondly, competition has become intense and people have to constantly update themselves with the latest materials and methods. Sometimes they cannot compete with the new techno-savvy workforce and so have to change jobs out of compulsion.

Furthermore, we belong to an era of consumerism. Being surrounded by so many choices, people today want to buy new things and for that they do multiple jobs. In addition, the 24/7 society of today provides us the opportunity to work, day and night. For instance, in earlier times, there were very few jobs which were round-the-clock jobs. But, today, globalization has brought in a multitude of options of working day and night. The line between day and night has become dim and people have become workaholics.

There could be many suggestions to prepare for work in the future. People should have a set goal in their mind and get training accordingly. Moreover, it is important to draw a line somewhere. The stress and strain of the fast and modern workplace is leading many to nervous breakdowns. In the developed countries, a new term called downshifting has already come where after a certain stage, people are saying 'no' to promotions and showing contentment with less. We should also realize that if we stick to one job, then also life can be more stable, and we can enjoy our leisure also.

Summing up, although work conditions are different today and we have a need to update our knowledge regularly, we can plan our life in a meticulous way and have a balance between work and leisure.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the possible causes for these changes and suggest ways to prepare for work in the time to come.
Para 1: First cause
Para 2: More causes
Para 3: Suggestions for future
Conclusion:

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16. *Some businesses find that their new employees lack in basic interpersonal skills such as the lack of ability to work with colleagues as a team. What are the causes and suggest possible solutions? Also provide relevant examples from your experience.*

It has been seen that sometimes when new employees join the workforce, they cannot get along well with their colleagues. So, there has been a growing emphasis on soft skills. This essay shall analyze why new recruits lack such soft skills and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason for the new employees being deficient in such soft skills is that when it comes to recruiting strategies, hiring decisions often focus largely on candidates' technical skills and expertise, with relatively little attention to soft skills. Unlike hard skills, there are no exams to prove that any person has these soft skills. Another reason is that education today lays emphasis on technical and theoretical education. Group activities and team projects in schools are not given much importance. There has also been a steady decline in the time students devote to extra-curricular activities, which is main area, where the social skills develop. To add to it, most companies also do not spare the time and effort to develop these soft skills in their employees.

Firms can certainly adopt certain policies while hiring to make sure employees don't lack such abilities. Employers should give importance to these social traits. There are several methods for assessing job candidates' personal skills. An interview is one good method. Other ways are group discussions or luncheons that require candidates to display social skills. Social skills can also be assessed using standardized questionnaires, such as personality tests. Many of these measures are relatively straightforward to use, fairly inexpensive and can be highly valid.

Companies can also develop these skills in their employees after hiring. One way is to organise meetings to practice public speaking and discuss their problems, in an environment where they can feel safe. Companies can also organise team retreats, where new and old employees can have a fun time together and build a better rapport with each other. Finally, the education system needs to incorporate more of group activities and projects. Education cannot be solely about competition among students, there is growing need to develop social skills among children from the very beginning.

Summing up, it is irrefutable that many new employees face the problem of lack of interpersonal skills due to certain factors. Nonetheless, this can be handled successfully by elaborate interviews before recruitment, and training after recruitment.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward
Para 1: Reasons for this phenomenon
Para 2: solutions
Para 3: more solutions
Conclusion:

17. *Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Do you agree or disagree?*

Telecommuting, which implies working from home with the help of telephone lines, has become very popular, especially where the Internet connections are fast and reliable. I disagree with the given statement that it can benefit only the employees, and not the employers. I believe, that telecommuting is advantageous for both - employers and employees.

There are many advantages of telecommuting to employees. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted commuting to and from the office. Teleworkers don't even have to spend time getting ready for work. Secondly, it also saves money, as no spending on private or public transport has to be done. Furthermore, the worker can look after minor family commitments like dropping the child to school etc. Although most of the work done by teleworkers is monitored, still a few minutes can be snatched at times. All this helps a lot in maintaining a work-life balance.

On the other hand, there are many advantages to employers also. Firstly, less office space is needed as the workers are working from home. It is a fact that land prices are exorbitant, and it is very expensive to build large offices. Not only constructing buildings for offices but maintaining them is also very costly. Another benefit, which has been observed after telecommuting became common, is that employees take less sick leave and other leaves. They do not have to take a whole day off for a minor family commitment, such as looking after a sick family member. This is also beneficial for employers.

It would be worthwhile to consider why some people opine that telecommuting is not beneficial for employers. They argue that supervising teleworkers is difficult. However, statistics have proved that telecommuters make extra efforts to work well from home, as they realize the benefits it has for them.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that telecommuting is beneficial for both employees as well as employers. It would be wrong to say that employers are not benefited at all.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree
Para 1: advantages of telecommuting to employees
Para 2: advantages to employers
Para 3: Why some people opine that it is not beneficial for employers
Conclusion: telecommuting benefits both workers as well as employers

Similar essay: *More and more companies are allowing employees to work from home. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?*

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18. There are some motives for people to work. Some people think money is the most important. Do you agree or disagree?

Some people work for money; others work for personal fulfillment. Motivation for work is individual and diverse. I agree with the perspective that money in the most important reason to work, but only in the early stages of one's career. After the basic needs of a person have been fulfilled, other factors become more important.

Admittedly, money is necessary in order for people to meet their basic needs. For example, we all need money to pay for housing, food, bills, health care, and education. Most people consider it a priority to at least earn a salary that allows them to cover these needs and have a reasonable quality of life.

However, after a certain period, money starts losing its importance. A stress-free job becomes more important. Most high paid jobs tend to be stressful and involve long working hours. This can lead to many problems in life. People fail to maintain a work-life balance and may suffer a nervous breakdown. That is perhaps why, a very popular trend of 'downshifting' has sprung up in the developed countries. People are giving up promotions and settling for less, so that their family life is not disturbed, and they can give quality time to their spouse and children. This clearly shows that money loses its importance after a particular stage is reached.

Another factor, which deserve merit over a fat pay package, is job satisfaction. Having a job one loves can make a huge difference to workers' levels of happiness and general quality of life. No wonder, many people give up a job with a higher salary, for a job they want to do. They find job satisfaction more valuable than the money they earn. By doing a job they love, they enjoy their life as well as contribute positively to the society. Some people also work for personal fulfillment. They work to give a meaning to their life. They believe that God has sent them to Earth for a purpose, and they want to give their bit back to the society.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opinion that although money certainly affects people's choice of profession, but it is the most important factor only in the early stages of one's career. Once the basic needs have been met with, other factors, such as job satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment become more important.

Plan followed

Intro: Money is the most important only in the early stages of one's career
Para 1: Importance of money
Para 2: Why it would be wrong to put too much emphasis on money
Para 3: Other factors
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

19. The best way to learn about other cultures is to work in multinational organisations. Do you agree or disagree?

A major benefit of globalization has been setting up of multinational companies in the developing nations. This has given the employees an exposure of different cultures. However, I disagree with the given statement that working in an MNC is the best way to get to know other cultures. I believe that although working in an MNC is a good way to understand and learn about another country's culture, it cannot be deemed as the best method.

It cannot be denied that by working in a multinational company, one gains knowledge about the client or the customer, who is usually from another country. This holds true for the entry level agents to the top managers. They all have to deal with clients from a foreign country. So, they get some knowledge about that country's culture. For instance, they come to know how to address the client. In some cultures, it is all right to address the client on a first name basis. However, in some others it may be regarded as disrespectful.

Having said that, working in an MNC is definitely not the best way to learn about a culture. When working in an MNC, the employees need to look at only certain aspects of the culture, which they will need to talk about when speaking to or when interacting with the client. It may include things like how to address them and how to greet them. This will lead to gaining knowledge about only some aspects of their culture. They may not get to know about their food or their language.

Admittedly, working in a multinational organization provides opportunities to travel abroad, and that is an excellent and probably the best way to learn about the culture of another country. However, such opportunities are given to a select few and not the entire employee population. In my opinion, the best way to learn about another culture is to actually live in it and travelling gives us the best opportunity to learn another way of life.

To recapitulate, working in an MNC is definitely a good way to know about another culture, but it is certainly not the best.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why MNCs are good to learn other cultures
Para 2: Why they are not good
Para 3: More reasons why they are not the best as far as learning other cultures is concerned
Conclusion:

Written by: Sumeet Kaur

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20. *Many people say that companies should give importance to their employees, whereas others say that they should give importance to customers. Discuss both and opine.*

People, either in form of employees or customers, form the essence of each and every company that exists in the world today. We also know that companies are built by the people and for the people, and they cannot survive without either of the two groups. In this essay, I will discuss whether the companies should prioritize employees over customers, or whether they should put customers first.

Those in favour of putting employees first, say that happy employees can lead to happy customers. Conventionally, customer satisfaction has been the foremost goal of companies, but of late they have begun to understand that it is impossible to achieve customer gratification without the help of their employees. Because of this, they have started focusing their attention towards the benefit of their workforce. For example, nowadays a lot of companies are providing facilities such as daycare centres, gymnasiums and Sports Centers within their office premises. Some organisations have also started hosting lots of event for the employees such as award functions, and health checkups etcetera, so that the employees feel valued in the organisation.

On the other hand, the main reason given by those in favour of putting customers first is that customers are the livelihood of the business. The relationship between an organisation and a customer is an important one. To what extent customers are willing to spend depends upon how well they are treated. That is why, organisations today are taking great pains to achieve customer satisfaction. They are spending a lot of energy and time on finding out what is important to the customers. We can say that the customers will always remain important in a company, because without happy customers, any company can see its doom.

I believe that the happiness of both – employees and customers has to be in balance. Both need to be heard and respected to make it a win-win situation. This question is like asking 'heart first or lungs first?' You cannot live if any of these, stop working. Organizations have to realize that their customers will only be happy if the people servicing their customers are happy. Employees are the key touchpoints to know the customer better, so an organization can develop and deliver products and services that are relevant to customers' needs and expectations.

To conclude, I would like to mention that although the customer has always been the king in a company, but in today's competitive market the organisations have to look into their employees' happiness simultaneously. If approached as mutually exclusive efforts, they are doomed to lose both.

Plan followed:
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people say Employees first
Para 2: Why some people say customers first
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:
Written by: Ravpreet Singh

21. Adult youths are often called up for working for the development of communities. Some people say they should work voluntarily, whereas others say that they should get paid. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The development of communities requires the vibrant energy of young blood. Some individuals hold the opinion that the young people should work without any remuneration, whereas others say that they should be paid. In this essay, I shall discuss both perspectives. I personally side with the former view.

The most important reason why some say that the voluntary work done by the young people should be paid is that today's youth need some pocket money to satiate their material desires. As it is, the youngsters are lured by the glamour of the consumerist society. This paid voluntary work would give them a chance to earn some of those things, and needless to say it would benefit the community as they would work willingly. What is more, it would reduce petty crime, as some youngsters resort to unethical ways to get those things. So, an incentive is needed to increase their compliance for voluntary work.

On the other hand, those who say that the youngsters should work voluntarily, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, this can play a significant role in developing their self-esteem as they have the chance to see how their efforts can help improve the lives of others. Secondly, volunteering gives youth the opportunity to meet people outside of their usual circle, some of whom may have a positive impact on their future. Finally, volunteer work can impress a future employer. They may learn specific skills while volunteering that look good on a resume.

I believe, that paying the youth is not necessary for community work. Apart from the above benefits, teens can discover areas where they have interest. For example, if they're thinking about a career in medicine, they might want to work in a hospital, or if they're passionate about animal rights, they could help in a local animal shelter. They see what people have to do in certain jobs and the conditions in which they have to work. This helps them to know what they really want to do.

To summarise, the youth need not be paid if they do voluntary work. Voluntary work has lots of advantages to the youth as it is. So, a monetary remuneration holds no significance.

Plan followed

Intro: Monetary incentives should be there
Para 1: First view
Para 2: Second view
Para 3: own view
Conclusion

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22. Although countries with long average working hours are economically successful, this often has some negative social consequences. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In some countries the standard working hours are relatively longer than those in other countries. This practice obviously leads to a booming economy. I agree with the given statement, which says that economic success, resulting from long work hours, comes at a price for families, people's health, and may also contribute to higher unemployment.

Admittedly, long average working hours means economic success. It can be seen in countries such as India, where the average working hours are 48 per week. These are more as compared to the western countries where an average working week has 40 hours. That is perhaps why Indian economy is catching up very fast with these developed countries.

However, there are numerous drawbacks of working more hours per week. The most serious effect of working overtime constantly is putting employees' health at risk. This is because when employees work long hours, they do not get time to exercise and relax. An unhealthy lifestyle increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stress related illnesses. Being chronically overworked can also cause psychological problems, like nervous breakdowns and depression. More number of unhealthy people can never be good for any society.

Another problem of working long hours is that employees do not get enough time for socializing and family life. Long work hours do not make a very family-friendly environment. People may find it hard to raise children and work. In particular, women may have to decide against working or having children. Because of long work hours, some employees will not find the time for a relationship or family at all, and remain single. Consequently, birthrates are likely to fall, which might leave a society with an aging population, and may result in many hard to solve problems.

Finally, companies that require longer work hours will employ less people in total. More number of people working lesser hours, is surely better than fewer people working more hours. The consequent unemployment is definitely detrimental for the countries in the long run.

In conclusion, I believe that the advantages of long work hours are only for short-term. Governments and companies should understand the long-term cost and keep the working hours in limit, so that unemployment comes down, work efficiency goes up, and the overall quality of life improves.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages
Para 1: Disadvantage – employees' health at risk
Para 2: Disadvantage – no time for socializing and family
Para 3: Disadvantage - unemployment
Conclusion:

23. *Research has shown that spending much less time in office can reduce the use of energy (for example, electricity, gas). Thus, some companies close for some days a week. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?*

People have begun to realise that energy consumption can be checked by reducing the time spent by employees in offices. Therefore, many companies have adopted strategies like reducing the number of days in a workweek. I believe that the pros of this development outweigh the cons.

There are many advantages of closing offices for some days a week. Firstly, it leads to a substantial reduction of office expenses in terms of electricity consumption, water usage and fuel costs. Secondly, with the reduced workweek and longer leisure time the productivity of employees improves, compensating for the hours lost. For example, the number of days in a workweek has been reduced from six to five in many government offices in India, which has not affected the work completed in a week. The commuting of employees and movement of office vehicles has also been reduced, resulting in substantial fuel savings.

Furthermore, people get to spend time with their family and friends. This is very important in today's era of cutthroat competition wherein people have become workaholics and are failing to draw a line between work and leisure. This day off could give them the much-needed time for themselves and their families. This could recharge their batteries and make them go back to work the next day with added zeal and enthusiasm.

On the other hand, this shortened workweek can affect work-output and reduce the earning of employees especially those who work on daily wages. This could obviously discourage workers. Additionally, considering the competition faced by the companies and the targets they have to achieve within the given deadlines, this policy could have detrimental effects on the companies' performances. However, the drawbacks can be minimized by introducing alternative methods like telecommuting, where employees do not come to office, but work from home using modern telecommunication systems.

To sum up, although there are minor disadvantages to this system, shorter workweeks can have greater benefits to individuals and society by saving the depleting energy resources of the world.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: advantages of this policy
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

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24. If some people get a chance to choose between life without work and spending most of the time working, then they would choose not to work. Agree or disagree?

Human civilisation has been built on work. Therefore, I disagree that people would choose not to work, if given a choice. People may enjoy being without work for a few days, but ultimately it is work, which saves them from the dullness and boredom of life.

There are many reasons why people would not choose a life without work, even if given a choice. To begin with, work provides an inner creative joy. It saves them from the dullness and boredom of life. It puts their energies to a proper use. Unused energies create disorders and make them physically unhealthy and mentally unhappy. Moreover, work provides money for livelihood. It makes life meaningful and peaceful. Idleness is more tiresome and painful than work. Even the most unpaid, unimportant and unpleasant work is better than no work.

Furthermore, for a really useful and happy life, doing good and constructive work is necessary. Constructive work is rather difficult in the beginning, but very pleasant at the end. For deriving maximum pleasure from life, work is a must. Every man who learns some useful skill, enjoys doing it. The element of constructiveness is an important source of happiness. When a worker builds up something new, he feels encouraged and elevated, and thus gets pleasure from his creative work.

On the other hand, there are many arguments put forth by those, who would rather not work if given the opportunity. They say that work is an important part of their lives, but it has come to a point where it has taken over their lives. Their lives have become very mechanical and they have become slaves of their work. Perhaps that is why they would rather not work if given a choice. However, I still believe that such a feeling is short-lived, as work is the very essence of life.

To sum up, if a person has a job or a career, he has self-respect, dignity, and self-worth. Therefore, I disagree that most people would not work, even if they had a choice.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Proponents view with negation
Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

25. Some people think job satisfaction is more important than job security, while others think that people cannot be expected to enjoy a job and having a permanent job is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Whether to choose a satisfying job or a satisfying paycheck is a dilemma many young minds are facing these days. Some claim that job satisfaction is more important than a secure job, while others claim that it is not realistic to expect job satisfaction, and thus it is beneficial to have a permanent job. This essay intends to analyze both viewpoints. I, personally side with the latter view.

Advocates of job satisfaction cite a host of benefits. They believe that nowadays people spend a great deal of their time in their workplace. So, if they are not happy with their job, they are also unhappy with their personal life. Moreover, if they don't like their job, it could stress them out and lead to many health problems. Therefore, people should consider a job, which they love, and which gives them the challenges they are looking for. This is the very reason for which people should choose a job that would provide them with meaningful employment.

On the other hand, people want to go for a secure job for many reasons. A secure job ensures regular income and stability, which is also very important. Having a job one loves, is one thing, but if that job doesn't pay enough to allow a person to raise a family, pay his debt, have his own home, or save for retirement, then it isn't very good at all.

I believe that people's expectations from their work will keep growing, and hence job satisfaction can only be temporary and they may be disappointed when their further desires fail to fulfil. It can also happen that once people get job satisfaction, they may become less ambitious, which may be detrimental for themselves and their work. In comparison, job security can ensure that the employees dedicate their energy into work with little worries from being fired due to their mistakes.

In conclusion, it is clear that choosing a career that one loves has many advantages. If you love what you do, your chances of success are pretty high and money will follow. But, job security is more important because it provides you regular income and keeps you free from the stress of being fired any time.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of job satisfaction
Para 2: Advantages of job security
Para 3: Own opinion in favour of job security
Conclusion: Job security is more important

Similar: *Nowadays people think that the most important thing in life is job satisfaction. Without excellent career life is meaningless. To what extent do you agree or disagree.*

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26. Some people think young people should be free to choose their job, but other people think they should be realistic and think more about their future. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the issue of whether the youngsters of today should choose the job they like or whether they should be realistic and give more importance to a secure job with their future in mind. This essay intends to analyze both viewpoints. I personally side with the former view.

Those who say that the young people should have the freedom to do the job of their choice, say that people who are satisfied with their jobs do better at work. They get higher salaries and climb up the career ladder more quickly than those who aren't happy with their jobs. Secondly, people spend a great deal of their time in the workplace. This means that if they are not happy with their job, they are also unhappy with their personal life. It could stress them out and lead to many health problems.

However, there are reasons why some people claim that the young people should focus more on a secure job. Firstly, they believe that the youngsters do not have the maturity to think far and so may end up in a job which may not have any security or any future. They are also against the job-hopping attitude of the youth of today. They believe that the young people should do a stable job. The young people of today are hasty in joining or leaving a job and may end up in long periods of unemployment, which would ultimately add to their stress.

I personally believe that if the youngsters of today want to experiment in life and walk on the untrodden path, there is no harm in letting them do so. After all, they are better informed about the newer job openings because the power of technology in their hands. They may face hurdles, but it is all part of growing up. If they do well, they can be in that job for life, but if they don't, they could always settle down in any job which could give them job security.

In conclusion, it is clear that choosing a career that one loves has many advantages. If you love what you do, your chances of success are pretty high and money will follow. Job security is also important, but job satisfaction is definitely more significant.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: First view
Para 2: Second view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Job satisfaction is more important

27. As most people spend a major part of their adult life at work, job satisfaction is an important element of individual wellbeing. What are the factors that contribute to job satisfaction? How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction for all workers?

It is irrefutable that job satisfaction is an essential element, if not the most important one of individual well-being. Obviously, there are many factors which influence one's job satisfaction directly or indirectly. In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the factors that contribute to job satisfaction and discuss how practical it is for workers to expect job satisfaction.

Undoubtedly, to make people enjoy what they are doing, certain basic expectations, which are the prerequisites, should be met the moment they start working. A decent income definitely tops the list of one's expectations for it's the money you earn that ensures a quality life. Money is needed for everything in life and until a person has the basic necessities of life he can never be satisfied with his job.

However, money alone cannot ensure complete satisfaction from work. Job satisfaction is also very important, which will, in turn, bring many benefits such as pay raise, promotion and also appreciation and recognition from co-workers or even the whole society. Job security is another important factor. Sometimes a secure job is preferred over a one which has a higher pay package. There are many other factors like a relaxing working environment, a harmonious relationship with colleagues and perks like bonus and free travel opportunities.

Admittedly, it is difficult, if not impossible, for all employees to become satisfied with their job completely even if what employers offer is reasonable. If there is job satisfaction, there may not be a good pay and if there are good chances of promotion then there may not be security. Therefore, both employees and employers need to strike a balance between expectations and responsibilities and make the work life more fruitful.

To sum up, there are many characteristics of a good job and it is not practical to expect everything in one job. One has to make a compromise at some point or the other and employees should also consider what they are capable of doing before making expectations.

Plan followed

Intro: I intend to delve into the factors that contribute to job satisfaction and discuss how practical it is for workers to expect job satisfaction.
Para 1: A decent income tops the list
Para 2: Pay raise – chances of promotion - appreciation and recognition from co-workers - Job security - relaxing working environment - a harmonious relationship with colleagues - perks like bonus and free travel opportunities
Para 3: it is difficult, if not impossible, for all employees to become satisfied with their job completely even if what employers offer is reasonable
Conclusion: there are many characteristics of a good job and it is not practical to expect everything in one job

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28. *In many countries, good schools and medical facilities are available only in cities. Some people think new teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for a few years, but others think everyone should be free to choose where they work. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

As a big gap is there between the urban and rural areas, some people opine that teachers and doctors, who are fresh out of college, should work in villages for a few years. However, others believe that the choice of where to work should be left on the teachers and doctors. In this essay, I shall discuss the merits and demerits of both approaches. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people say that fresh teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for few years. Firstly, the people in the villages will have access to medical care and education, which they are deprived of normally. Secondly, it would be good for the teachers and doctors, who are fresh from university to translate their theoretical knowledge into practice. In a rural setting, they would gain a lot of confidence very early on in their career. Finally, a few of these doctors and teachers may choose to live permanently in those villages to serve humanity.

On the other hand, those who are against this compulsory policy of making fresh teachers and medical specialists to work in villages for some time, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, everyone should have a right to work where one pleases. Such enforcement may result in working passively and there will be no motivation. So, the rural residents may not get appropriate treatment and service. Secondly, fewer and fewer students would choose such majors and careers, and so in the long run there would be shortage of such professionals.

In my opinion, it would be better to have such a rule. It would be a win-win situation for both, rural people and the professionals. It would also help to bridge the gap between the cities and the countryside. The government can, however, make fresh teachers and doctors want to work in the rural areas by offering higher salaries and other incentives. Such a policy is there in many countries including India, and is working out fine.

To sum up, it could be said that sending doctors and teachers to rural areas would be an ideal situation, but the government should offer some financial and non-financial schemes to the fresh doctors and teachers so that they willingly go to such areas and work with full zeal and energy.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: Advantages of having teachers and doctors work in rural areas
Para 2: Compulsory policy may have some negative effects
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

29. Some people tend to take temporary jobs (they only work for few month of year), for they have time to do other things. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

In a time when jobs are few and employers receive hundreds of resumes for one vacancy, temporary jobs are gaining popularity. Although temporary jobs have both advantages and disadvantages, the pros definitely outweigh the cons.

The main advantage if temporary work is that it is relatively easy to get. If the candidate's credentials match the temporary job requirements, he might be called upon to fill the position. Secondly, doing temporary work will give a candidate the much-needed work experience. Most companies require two to three-year experience, which puts recent graduates at a loss. Doing temporary work will give them that experience.

Another benefit of doing temporary work is that if a vacancy becomes available within the company, the temporary worker will have first knowledge of it, and can apply before the job gets posted on-line or handed over to employment agencies. If a temporary worker excels in his current job, chances are that he might be asked to stay on with the company on a full-time basis. Furthermore, by going from company to company, a temporary worker gets a lot of exposure. He doesn't just learn one job in the course of his employment he might gain experience in different fields.

Moreover, by doing temporary work, a worker will also be exposed to different kinds of environments. In addition, a temporary worker will get exposure to different kinds of personalities. By learning to work with different kinds of people, a temporary worker can sharpen his people skills. Last but not least, if a temporary worker needs some time off, he can just make himself unavailable for a while, until he is ready to take on the next assignment.

On the other hand, there are some drawbacks of temporary jobs. First, a temporary job does not have job security and one may be fired any time. Second, one also does not get the perks and benefits that regular full-time employees get. Finally, there may be long gaps in one's employment from time to time.

Summing up, disadvantages of temporary jobs are far less than the advantages. For some people, a temporary job is just temporary until they find something full-time, while for others it is a way of life.

Plan followed

Intro: the pros definitely outweigh the cons
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion: disadvantages of temporary jobs are far less than the advantages

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30. An increasing number of people change their career and place of residence several times during their lifetime. Is this a positive or negative development?

The world is changing rapidly. People today face numerous challenges in achieving a meaningful and fulfilling life. Those days are over when people did one job for life. Old methods of career development no longer apply. That is why many people change their career and place of residence many times during their lifetime. This situation is largely a positive one.

Undoubtedly, there are some drawbacks of changing job and place of living. The first disadvantage is that there is risk involved. If a person changes jobs or residence, then he has to face new challenges and adjust with new people. There is always a risk that he may not find things very smooth sailing and may have to suffer emotional and physical stress.

However, there are some strong benefits that can come from a career change. One of the major benefits is the pay hike which is usually there with a career change. Secondly, individuals with a wider range of job experiences and skill sets will be seriously considered for new job openings. Moreover, those who have a wide range of career experiences will also have lesser chances of suffering from unemployment. For instance, if they lose one job, they can seek out jobs in different career fields, as opposed to one career field.

What is more, a change in career can be a liberating experience for some people. A person may finally discover a career, which gives him the maximum job satisfaction. He may be working in a mundane job to fulfil their basic requirements, but he may get to do something interesting, which would also give them personal satisfaction. In other words, it frees people to consider a variety of professional and personal avenues that were previously closed to them because of their work attachments. Some choose to return to school to pursue courses of study that can lead into whole new careers, while many others choose to open their own small business.

There are also many advantages associated with the change of residence, which comes along with a career change. Change of surroundings and new exciting experiences are useful for self-education and development of a person. Besides, these changes usually bring positive emotions, which help to fight stresses and have overall good effect on health. It is also very beneficial for the person's family, as this change gives them the opportunity to make new friends, enjoy new cultures and experience new climates. In other words, it adds spice to life.

Summing up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that changing careers and place of residence several times during a lifetime may bring some challenges in life, but overall it is a positive development.

Plan followed

Intro: This situation is largely a positive one.
Para 1: Disadvantages
Para 1: Advantages of career change
Para 2: more advantages
Para 3: advantages of residence change
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

31. Some people say that professional workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers, who make greater contribution to the society should be paid more than those people in the field of sports and entertainment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

The high incomes of celebs in the field of sports and entertainment have always been a matter of dispute. I disagree that doctors, nurses and teachers should be paid more than these celebrities. I shall put forth my arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

There are convincing arguments given by those who say that doctors, nurses and teachers should be paid more than celebs. They say that these professionals touch the lives of all people and are indispensable for them. Without the contribution of teachers, no country could go further. That is why teachers are called the nation builders. Doctors and nurses provide a healing touch to those suffering from diseases. Without the input of these health workers, many people's lives would be miserable.

However, the contribution of these celebrities is also no less. They provide us entertainment and inspiration. They are role models for the society and people follow them and listen to them. Art and entertainment is as much a human need as food, clothing and shelter. These celebs also bring name and fame to our country. They spread our culture through their art. Therefore, their high earnings are very well deserved.

My second argument is that those working in sports and entertainment have a very short career span. Most of the people in these fields start their career at the age of 19-20 and retire by 33-35 years. A doctor, teacher or nurse does not ever retire if he does not wish to. For example, my uncle is a doctor and even at the age of 94 he goes to his clinic for two hours every day. Whatever these celebs earn is during these few years and after that they face struggle. Of course, there are exceptions such as the great legend Amitabh Bachchan, but such examples can be counted on fingertips.

My final argument is that these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely, and so they do deserve these high salaries. They cannot enjoy the common things of life like the common man does. They are always followed by the paparazzi, and their children also always need security. This is too much price to pay, and so the high salaries they receive are fully justified.

Summing up, people in the field of sports and entertainment, well deserve their high incomes. Their services to the society are as important as, if not more, the services of doctors, teachers and nurses.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree
Para 1: Why some say that doctors, nurses and teachers should earn more
Para 2: Points in favour of higher salaries for celebs
Para 3: More points
Para 3: Another point
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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32. Some countries have introduced a law to limit working hours for employees. Why is this law introduced? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

There are countries in the world, such as USA, Canada, Australia and many more, where a person cannot work for more than 40 hours a week. In my opinion, it is a positive development. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss, why this law was introduced, and why it is good.

This law was mainly introduced with a view to protecting the economic rights of the workers and preventing exploitation. It is seen that in places where there is no such law, employees are exploited, and instead of a normal working from 9am to 5pm, they are made to sit in offices from 9am to 9pm at no extra pay. Many other benefits of this law, such as improvement in the physical and mental health of the employees, and better family relationships automatically followed.

This law is beneficial, because in this fast-moving world of today, people have become workaholics. In order to satisfy their material desires, they are forgetting to draw a line between work and family. If working hours are fixed, then they have enough time for their family life and leisure. Secondly, overworking leads to stress and can lead to nervous breakdown in extreme cases. People also find time for their regular exercise if working hours are fixed.

Furthermore, having a limit on working hours also helps solve the problem of unemployment. More people working for a fixed number of hours is better than fewer people working more hours. What is more, it has been proven by researches that having a limit on the working hours increases the output and productivity of employees. This could be a win-win situation for both, the employers and employees.

Some people oppose this law by saying that it is an infringement of rights. They say that if a person has the ability to work more, he should be allowed to work. Nonetheless, it has been seen that in countries where such laws are there, people have a better life, better working conditions, lesser degree of unemployment and better productivity of employees.

Summing up, this law was imposed in the benefit of employees and employers and it has many advantages.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss why this law was imposed. It is a positive development
Para 1: why this law was imposed
To protect economic rights and prevent exploitation
Para 2: why it is a positive development
people have enough time for their family life and leisure
there is lesser stress
Para 3: Opponents view and then refute them
Conclusion:

33. *In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicant for their age. Is this a positive or a negative development?*

Age discrimination occurs when a decision to hire is made on the basis of a person's age. There could be a reluctance to hire young workers on the basis of lack of experience, or there could be a bias against older workers. I believe that a law against rejecting a job applicant on the basis of his age, is a positive development. In the following paragraphs, I intend to support my views with my arguments.

My first argument is that age is not necessarily an indication of inferior ability or potential. Therefore, rejecting a person purely on the basis of his age is very unreasonable and unfair. There are many examples when we see that the elderly are even better at handling the latest technology than some youngsters. Therefore, talent should be considered and not age. If a particular elderly worker has less concentration or manual strength than a younger worker, and this makes him less qualified for the particular job, and then employers can still make their decisions based on his relative lack of suitability for the job – not on the basis of his age. Age by itself should not be a determinant. Therefore, a law against discrimination on the basis of age is good.

Secondly, if the elderly were discriminated against on the basis of age, then it would cause a strain on public resources because the ageing population is largely a dependent population. Demographic trends show that today we belong to a graying society and people are living increasingly longer lives. Therefore, if this population is without jobs just because they are older, then it will be a strain on the younger population also to provide everything to them. This population forms a majority today, and we can all imagine what would happen if the majority does not pay taxes.

Finally, discrimination discourages potentially talented job seekers from applying. As a result, employers lose by having a smaller pool of workers to choose from. In societies that celebrate youthfulness above all else, even highly qualified professionals resist from applying for new openings after the age of 50. In some cases, the fear of age discrimination has led to an increasing demand for cosmetic surgery.

Summing up, having legislation against age discrimination while hiring, is a positive development because it is fair, it adds to economy and employers have more choices while recruiting.

Plan followed

Intro: It is a positive development
Para 1: Age is not a determinant of talent
Para 2: We belong to a greying society and rejecting elderly workers would lead to a strain on government
Para 3: Age discrimination would deter talented job seekers from applying
This has also led to the need for cosmetic surgeries
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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34. Nowadays, some workplaces tend to employ equal numbers of men and women workers. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

Traditional male dominated workplaces are decreasing nowadays, and some workplaces are giving jobs to equal number of men and women. I believe that this is a negative development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument is that reserving half the seats for women could lead to negative discrimination against men. Both men and women should have the same right to choose their profession. People should be chosen for jobs based on their skills, qualification and character. Gender should not come in the way of the selection process. Having a fixed quota would mean that some qualified men might be denied a job, while some unqualified women would be given one.

Secondly, considering today's scenario, this quota might go against women. It has been seen in the recent years that more and more women are opting for higher education. For example, thirty years ago, in a typical class of any medical college, girls were far less as compared to boys. Today, the situation is reversed. This means, that women could dominate some workplaces today. So, having a reservation in the workplace could mar the chances of deserving women. With high levels of education, women can hold even the highest positions in science, politics or law, successfully. Women have proved their mettle in many jobs traditionally thought to be the domain of men. Who has not heard of our IPS officer Kiran Bedi? Therefore, such a quota is not needed by the women of today.

Finally, it could be said that having a quota would not ensure moving towards an egalitarian society, where all are considered equal. Those who tend to discriminate against women would find some other ways to discriminate, such as by underpaying the women at the same posts as men.

Summing up, the trend of employing an equal number of men and women in the workplace is a negative development, because it could lead to negative discrimination against men, it may boomerang against women, and it is not needed by the women of today.

Plan followed

Intro: it is a negative development
Para 1: it may result in negative discrimination against men
Para 2: It may boomerang against women
Para 3: It would not lead to an egalitarian society
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

35. Men are placed in most high-level jobs. Some people say that the government should encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women. Do you agree or disagree?

Since the beginning of twentieth century, women have fought for equal rights and opportunities in society. As a result, in many countries these days, women make up 50% of the workforce. However, it is still a fact that high positions, such as CEO jobs are still dominated by men. Although this is not desirable, I disagree that imposing a quota is the solution.

Firstly, I believe that companies have a right to choose the best person for the job, whatever their gender, in order to contribute to the success of their business. Forcing companies to hire, promote and appoint women could negatively affect businesses in the short term and even in the long term. Reserving a few seats for women may also result in negative discrimination against deserving men.

Furthermore, I believe that this problem should be solved outside the workplace. Girls need to be encouraged to take more male-dominated subjects at school and later at university, and to aspire to do well in their careers. Girls and boys also need to be taught equality from an early age. This education can take place in schools, career programmes and in homes.

Finally, it has been seen that artificially imposing rules has not always had the desired effect. In places where governments required males and females to receive the same pay for the same job, employers simply changed job titles to ensure that women were still paid less than men. It is my belief that employers will simply find loopholes to get around any such law.

Summing up, forcing companies to allocate jobs to women is not the best way to address this imbalance. Rather it is a question of education and of changing mindsets, so that those who deserve to be at the top, will earn it and be appropriately appointed.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree. Imposing quota is not the solution
Para 1:
Promotion should be on merit and not related to gender
Quota could result in negative discrimination against deserving men
Para 2: This problem should be tackled outside the workplace – in schools and homes
Para 3: Earlier records show that people find loopholes against quotas
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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36. *In some countries it is compulsory for all young people to join the armed forces for some time. What are the benefits of requiring young people to serve the army? Does participation in community work qualify as an alternative?*

Military service is voluntary in most of the world. However, it is compulsory in some countries like Mexico and Iran. Although it has many benefits, some people argue its mandatory nature. Therefore, some alternatives, such as community service, can be taken into account.

There are many advantages of military conscription. First of all, young people can raise their physical fitness and enjoy better health. They also develop a sense of team spirit and improve abilities to get along well with others. They learn to cope with problems independently, and gain self-confidence. What is more, they expand their social circle, as people from different corners of the country are together in the army camps. This can prove an invaluable asset when they return to civilian life.

It is irrefutable that army officers are very efficient, disciplined and excellent time managers. They are highly respected by the civilians. Some of them may join the army permanently if they like that life. It is also considered a positive point when they look for other jobs. It also instills a sense of patriotism among the youth. However, despite all these benefits, its mandatory nature is arguable. Many young people cannot cope with the high level of stress in the army. That's why community service is suggested as an alternative in most countries.

Community service requires young people to contribute part of their time, energy and skills only. Moreover, community service tends to offer a direct assistance to participants in preparing for the workforce. By volunteering, young adults develop skills, gain work experience and explore career options. They can also acquire practical knowledge through community service.

Summing up, military service is helpful only when it is voluntary. Mandatory military service does not suit all young people, whereas community service benefits every young person. Therefore, community service is better than military conscription.

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced approach
Para 1: Advantages of military conscription
Para 2: More advantages of military conscription
Para 3: Advantages of community service
Conclusion: Compulsory military service is not good. Community service is better.

37. *Rich countries should not employ skilled labour from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?*

Rich countries depend heavily on cheap imported labour to increase their profit margin. This demand for outsourcing increased further during recession faced by USA. Although poor countries may need their skilled workers to help them develop as a nation, it is felt that overall greater benefit is seen when rich countries employ their skilled workers.

Firstly, when developed countries outsource work, requiring skilled labour from developing countries, a demand is created in those poor countries, which leads to the development of higher education in those poorer nations. For example, when many IT professionals were hired by the United States in the late 20th Century, there was a big growth in the Indian tech-related education sector. So, if developing countries make their skilled labour available for hire to the world, they also develop their internal infrastructure such as good educational institutes. Thus, developing countries are also benefited when openness to foreign employment is embraced.

In addition to this, the economies of developing countries grow in many different ways when their people get work in developed countries. For example, the English-speaking youth in India handle telephone support for many different American products. These employment options encourage more and more Indians to study English, which in turn creates all sorts of new opportunities for business relationships between the two countries. Thus, the idea that poor countries should close their doors to foreign interest in their skilled labour is not supported.

Furthermore, workers from poor countries earn more from rich countries than they would from employment within their country. Most of them invest that money in their own country and this improves the overall economy of the poor countries. These workers also learn better methods of work and impart their cost-effective ideas to the rich nations, which proves to be a win-win situation for both, the developing and developed nations.

Summing up, rich countries should employ skilled labour from poor countries, as in most cases these developing countries are bettered by making their skilled labour available to developed countries.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree.

Para 1: First advantage - a demand is created in those poor countries, which leads to the development of higher education in those poorer nations

Para 2: Second advantage - the economies of developing countries are given new avenues in which to grow when a working partnership with developed countries is established

Para 3: Third advantage - Most of them invest that money in their own country and this improves the overall economy of the poor countries

Conclusion:

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38. People aim to achieve a balance between their work and lives, but few people achieve it. What are the causes of this problem? How to overcome it?

An incredible amount of energy has been spent chasing the ideal work life balance, but most people fail to achieve it. This essay intends to discuss the possible reasons for this, and also suggest ways to overpower this problem.

The first reason for the inability to achieve a work life balance is the technology of today. We are more reachable than ever in the past. Work has gone global, and competition has gone stiffer. The cell phone has thinned the line between personal and professional lives. The second blame goes to the materialistic society of today. People want to avail all the luxuries of life, and in that quest, they become workaholics and then that attitude becomes a way of life, because the desires go on increasing and increasing.

Furthermore, people cannot achieve a work-life balance because the definition of a work-life balance is different for different people. People weave together their personal life with their professional life to get the best of life. What works for one person may not work for another. Making choices is what the balance between work and life is all about. There may be times when the choice between moving ahead with your career takes a back seat to your health or happiness at home. The priorities you identify as important keep changing and that is why achieving a perfect work-life balance is difficult.

The solutions are not simple. We must try to introspect and see what makes us happy and then set priorities in life. When we come home from work, we must learn to switch the office button off. Another key is adopting some flexibility. It never works if we are too rigid with the goals, we set for ourselves. Last but not least, there is a beautiful term, 'downshifting', which means we should learn when enough is enough and then we all begin to enjoy life in its true form.

To sum up, everyone perceives work life balance in a different light, and so achieving a perfect work life balance is difficult. However, we must all realise that contentment is the key to a perfect work-life balance.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons why we don't achieve a perfect work-life balance
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

39. *Young people are leaving their homes in the rural areas to go and work in the cities. Why do they do so? What are the consequences? How to solve the problem?*

Nowadays many youngsters are migrating from their rural homes to study and work in cities. This essay shall look into the causes and effects of this phenomenon, and also suggest some measures to ameliorate the situation.

To begin with, the major reason of such practice is ascribed to splendid educational resources and plentiful employment opportunities in urban areas. In other words, studying and working in cities with better facilities offers young people a chance to escape from the fate of their parents who rely solely on painstaking labour. For instance, diligent students from poverty-stricken areas can acquire exceedingly good academic scores, which pave way for their future success. As for work, young people are exposed to various career opportunities, which are not there in the villages.

The movement of youngsters to cities in turn creates many problems in cities. First of all, there is a lot of pressure on the resources such as land, water and infrastructure like public transport, health care and law and order etc. This also leads to encroachment of pavements and creation of slums. Moreover, there is increase the demand and consumption of water, which poses serious health hazards. Health hazards resulting from urbanization are also connected to air pollution.

There are many negative effects on the rural areas. Firstly, the deprivation of rural labor force by people swarming into urban areas further extends the gap between the city and the country. Agriculture, which has been the backbone of economy, is taking a back seat. Elderly people are left alone in the villages, which is adding to their loneliness. On top of that, the governments are also diverting all the funds on the betterment of cities, whereas rural areas are ignored.

The solutions are not simple, but many steps can be taken by the governments to alleviate the problem. Rural areas should be developed so that young people do not wish to migrate. For example, if internet facilities are well developed, then young people working in the IT sector may do telecommuting and not choose to move to cities. Rural-urban linkage should be developed so that people who work in cities come back home in the evenings. Self-employment should be encouraged among the youth of rural areas, so that they can earn a luxurious lifestyle in the villages.

To sum up, urbanization is an irreversible tendency, which is offering the youth to enjoy various job opportunities and educational resources to have a better future. This is causing many negative effects in cities and villages. However, some steps can be taken to lessen to mitigate the problems.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: negative effects on cities
Para 3: negative effects on villages
Para 4: solutions
Conclusion

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40. These days many people leave their country to work abroad and take their family with them. Do you think benefits of this outweigh disadvantages in terms of family development?

The opportunities to work abroad are more today than they have ever been in the history of mankind. The big planet Earth has become a small global village and sovereign barriers seem to have disappeared. While working in a foreign country, some individuals take their family with them. This situation has both merits as well as demerits but definitely the merits outweigh the demerits.

There are many obvious benefits of going abroad to work along with family. To begin with, individuals have more bonding with family. The family relationship would not be weakened by distance. Some couples finally end up in divorce, as one or both of them cannot endure the long-term separation. Secondly, many people feel homesick and lonely and therefore cannot adjust in the foreign country and return home thereby missing the golden opportunity of working abroad.

Finally, the children, especially who are in young ages, need the care from both parents. Childhood is a crucial phase of life and comes only once. If children are deprived of one parent's love it may have a considerable impact on their psyche. Therefore, working abroad with family can provide complete love and care to the children. What is more, children too are benefited from international exposure.

On the other hand, there are some problems of working abroad with families. To begin with, living with family members abroad means more expenses. A single person can share room with someone in the initial stages, but a complete family needs a proper house. What is more, all the members face stress of adaptation to alien surroundings. Parents themselves feel culture shock and therefore cannot help their children.

Summing up, there are both advantages and disadvantages in any choice of this issue. Personally, I believe that people should decide according to their specific circumstances. If there are financial constraints, then it is better to go alone initially. However, the family should be called as early as possible.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages

Para 1: Advantages

- *Family bonding is maintained*
- *People can concentrate more on work as there is no homesickness*

Para 2: More advantages

- *Children are not deprived of parental care*
- *Children get international exposure*

Para 3: Disadvantages

- *More expensive*
- *All members share the stress of adapting to alien surroundings*

Conclusion:

41. In many countries more and more young people are leaving school but unable to find jobs. What problems do you think youth unemployment causes for individuals and the society? What measures should be taken to reduce the level of unemployment among youngsters?

Young people's situation and future prospects are of vital concern to us all. Many of them face the problem of unemployment after passing out of school. This essay shall highlight the problems caused by youth unemployment on individuals and society and suggest some ways forward. It has been rightly said – "Of all the aspects of social misery, nothing is so heart breaking as unemployment", Jane Adams

Unemployment has profound effects on the young people. Unemployment affects their psychological and social development. Some may even develop suicidal tendencies or get involved in crime. A significant proportion of young people are not in a position to make a positive transition to adulthood. For some, it will be very difficult to 'catch up', even if circumstances do improve. At a crucial period of life, they are missing out on acquiring and exercising skills, on developing a sense of their competence, on getting the positive feelings about self which come from having a sense of control over their own lives, on being given opportunities to contribute to society, and to feel that they are valued.

On the societal level also, there are many effects. There is increased crime in the society which has a very detrimental effect. Young people are energetic and if their energy is not channelized in the right direction then definitely violence and crime is there in the society. Poverty, which is the result of unemployment, also leads to many problems like diminished health standards. So, on the whole, the society suffers.

The solutions are not simple. Education system should be reformed. There are many people without jobs and many jobs are without suitable people. So, students should be encouraged to take up those courses, which have no dearth of jobs. Government can also provide subsidies to those firms that take on unemployed people. Government can set up industries based on agriculture and also set up cottage industries such as those of carpets, mats and soaps. Finally, government can encourage self-employment by giving loans to young people who want to be entrepreneurs.

Summing up, youth unemployment is a serious issue and should be dealt with on a war footing as there are a lot of detrimental effects on the individual and society.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall highlight the problems caused by youth unemployment on individuals and society and suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: Effects on young people
Para 2: effects on society
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion: youth unemployment is a serious issue and should be dealt with on a war footing.

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42. Students in school should learn academic subjects and pass exams. Other skills such as cookery, dressmaking and woodwork can be learnt well from family and friends. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that domestic sciences such as cooking, sewing and woodworking should not be included in the school curricula. There are countless advantages of having craft education classes in schools, which I shall discuss in the upcoming paragraphs.

There are. First, craft education helps mold and develop children as strategic and logical thinkers. These skills can only be gained by practical application of doing something, building something and creating something. these cannot be learnt from memorizing facts from a book and regurgitating them in the exam. Secondly, craft education improves the intelligence level of students. Recent researches claim that there is a direct correlation between hand eye coordination and the development of the brain. So, students do better in other subjects also. It also teaches students to concentrate and focus. This helps students who have problems with sitting still and listening in class.

Another very good advantage of craft education is that it takes away gender stereotypes. Both boys and girls learn how to knit and sew and cook. Both boys and girls learn how to woodwork and hammer and use power tools. Furthermore, students can learn maths through real life applications. They need math when they are measuring, designing and planning their projects. So, they can see how mathematics is used and applied in the real world, instead of just telling them that math is important in their lives. Finally, such classes teach students patience and perseverance. Making something, especially something worthwhile, is often a slow and tedious process. The ability to stick with a project until the very end is an important life lesson to teach students.

Advocates of having purely academic curricula in schools, say that the number of subjects in schools is already too high. They believe that parents should teach these things at home. What they fail to see is that the young parents of today are lacking these skills themselves. So, how can they teach their children what they themselves do not know? Also, if both parents are working, they don't have the time and patience to sit with the child and do these things.

To sum up, cooking, woodworking dressmaking etc. are important subjects, which need to be incorporated at a younger age. Children need to see the practical applications of their education. These skills cannot be taught at home.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree
Para 1-2: advantages of craft classes
Para 3: Other view with refutation
Conclusion: Reiterate view

43. Some people think that increasing communication usage of computers and mobile phones by young people has had a negative effect on their reading and writing skills. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It has been observed that both writing and reading skills have suffered a setback, due to computers and smartphones. So, I agree with the given statement, which says that modern communication technology is leading to the deterioration of reading and writing skills. I also believe that if used judiciously these negative effects can be reversed.

To begin with, modern day technology has an overall negative effect on students' writing skills because it encourages cyber slang, which involves using shortcuts, alternative words, or even symbols in an electronic document. However, the problem arises when this slang finds its way into formal writing. For example, abbreviations, such as 'lol', 'C U L8R' and 'bcoz' seem OK when used on Facebook and Whatsapp, but are grossly wrong when used in school essays. Moreover, the autocorrect feature fixes their mistakes, so they don't even realize that they wrote something wrong. In future, this generation will need good, solid reading and writing skills in their jobs and professional lives, but they will find it difficult to get rid of these habits.

Secondly, due to technological development, reading habits are fast vanishing into thin air. Students now spend more hours browsing the net, playing games on their handsets and writing non-stop SMSs to their contacts. Reading a book or any other piece of written material has become an archaic idea for most school children and adults. Students are rarely interested in reading for pleasure and enjoyment, and instead they read only to pass examination. The declining interest in reading culture among our children, especially those in primary and secondary schools, is a cause for alarm. Lack of reading culture among our youth nowadays, has greatly affected the quality of graduates being produced. Consequently, the influence of electronic media on the reading habits of pupils has become an issue of concern.

I believe these gadgets have come to stay and their negative effects on their reading and writing skills can be revoked with their sensible usage. For example, the kindle has aroused the interest of many youngsters to read. I personally own a kindle, and ever since I started using it, I have started reading more. I carry it with me always and I snatch time to read a few pages of any book I have downloaded in it.

To sum up, I reiterate that the communication technology of today is definitely hampering the reading and writing skills. The onus is on the parents and teachers to teach children the right ways to use this technology, so that its negative effects are minimized.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: negative effects on writing
Para 2: negative effects on reading
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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44. Now a lot of people in college are doing academic study. We should encourage them to learn vocational skills (for example, to become plumbers and electricians). Do you agree or disagree?

People are divided on the importance of tertiary education. A majority of the youngsters, nowadays, go for higher education. However, some opine that they should go in for some vocational training to start earning soon. While vocational education has its own value, I firmly believe that university education has an edge over vocational education. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement.

Undoubtedly, vocational education has its own importance. Vocational education can be completed in much less time than college or university education. Many young people want to start earning money as soon as possible. In this way, they can become independent, and they will be able to afford their own house or start a family. In terms of their career, young people who decide to find work, rather than continue their studies, may progress more quickly. They have the chance to gain real experience and learn practical skills related to their chosen profession. This may lead to promotions and a successful career.

However, I believe that it is more beneficial for students to continue their studies. Firstly, academic qualifications are required in many professions. For example, it is impossible to become a doctor, teacher or lawyer without having the relevant degree. Another advantage of graduating from a university is that it gives a person more choices when it comes to choosing a job. Most employers are more impressed by a candidate who has a degree than they would be by one who only has high school qualifications, because it shows a certain level of intelligence and education, as well as the commitment and self-discipline that is needed in order to study a degree course for three or four years. University graduates also tend to earn higher salaries than those with fewer qualifications.

Furthermore, the job market is becoming increasingly competitive, and sometimes there are hundreds of applicants for one position in a company. Young people who do not have qualifications from a university or college are not able to compete. What is more, those who work in the construction work or as car mechanics will always have to work under those who have civil and mechanical engineering degrees.

To sum up, for the reasons mentioned above, it seems to me that students are more likely to be successful in their careers if they continue their studies beyond school level.

Plan followed

Intro: discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of stepping into the job market before university education
Para 2: Advantages of university education
Para 3: Own view.
Conclusion: University education is definitely better

Similar past essay

Some people believe that studying in a college or university is the best way for students to prepare for their future career. But others think they should leave school as soon as possible to develop their career through work experience. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

45. Some people think that to be successful, you need to get in a university education, whereas others say it is not true. Discuss both ideas and give your own opinion.

Success is a very subjective term. It is very difficult to define a successful life. Some individuals opine that tertiary education is an essential prerequisite of success, whereas others oppose this view. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that success can be achieved with university education and even without it.

There are many reasons why some people believe that success depends on tertiary education. Firstly, a university education is essential if a person wants to have a career in a profession such as law, engineering, teaching, or medicine. What is more, it opens more doors for future employment. A university education is a great platform in learning more and gaining valuable knowledge in the field a person is passionate about. Also, the university is a great place to develop a network of friends who may later become business associates or partners. So, definitely, in this respect, university education can help a person get success.

On the other hand, those who say that success can be achieved without going for higher education, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they cite the examples of other types of people who have made it big without going to college. For example, Michael Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell who dropped out of college at 19. Henry Ford never graduated high school but went on to start one of the largest automobile manufacturing companies in the world, Ford Motor Company. Secondly, people with some talent, for example, in the entertainment or sports field can achieve name and fame very soon. The reality shows have made it possible for the girl or boy next door with some talent to achieve success overnight. Finally, a university education does not generally enable you to achieve successful relationships with family and friends.

To conclude, it can be said that the attributes needed to become successful in today's world do not necessarily depend on a university degree. However, in some situations such as professional courses, a university degree is needed to get success.

Plan followed

Intro: Partially agree
Para 1: How university education can get success
Para 2: How success can be achieved without a university degree.
Conclusion:

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46. *Many people believe that healthy eating and the importance of healthy food should be taught in schools. Others say that parents should teach their kids about healthy food and diet. Discuss both views and give your opinion with relevant examples.*

The importance of a healthy diet has grown ever since we have stepped into a sedentary lifestyle, topped up with a mushroom growth of affordable fast-food outlets. Some people opine that parents should apprise children about a healthy diet, whereas others say that it should be on the teachers to teach students about healthy eating. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that in today's scenario, both teachers and parents have to share this task pro-actively.

It is easy to see why some people hold the opinion that teaching children about healthy eating should be parents job. Parents are the people children look upon as role models. Children imitate their parents in all things. For instance, they smile when their parents smile, repeat what they say and imitate their mannerisms. Eating is no different, and the way parents talk about food, cook meals and eat are the most important influence of developing healthy eating habits in a child. Researches have shown that children who ate with their families had healthier overall diets than those who did not. As a result, these children also tended to have a lower prevalence of obesity.

On the other hand, there are reasons why some people contend that teachers are in a better position than parents to act as positive role models for students, as far as healthy eating is concerned. Students watch what the teacher says and does, very carefully. A teacher who makes healthy choices – including healthy eating and regular physical activity – can have a good influence on the health of students. Students spend only about 6-8 hours in a school every day, but that time is the most impressionable time. Moreover, some parents themselves are not much aware of healthy eating. Teachers can in fact teach them too through their children.

I believe, neither teachers nor parents can shrug their shoulders and say it is not their job to teach children about healthy eating. It has to be a combined effort to ward off the menace of childhood obesity. Obesity is the root of several other diseases, which can afflict children. If both parents and teachers accept this responsibility and strive to be good role models for children, the whole community would be benefited.

To sum up, talking about wholesome diet to children is very essential in today's times and both teachers and parents must do it together to leave an imprint on the minds of children.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Parents role
Para 2: Teachers role
Para 3: My opinion
Conclusion:

47. Some people think history has nothing or little to tell us, but others think that studying the past history can help us better understand the present. Discuss the two views and give your own opinion.

History refers to all the things that happened in the past, especially the political, social, or economic development of a nation. Literally, everything, including a nation, a city, a town, a subject, a business, and even a product, has its unique history. Some individuals are of the opinion that studying the past history is useless today, but others believe it is very essential to know history to better understand the present. I intend to discuss both sides of the argument in this essay. Personally, I side with the latter view.

Those opposed to the study of history argue that the past was very different from the present, and we cannot apply that knowledge to the present. For example, they say that the French Revolution and the Freedom Struggle of India have no need to be learnt because those situations will never arise again. They say that instead of digging in the past, we should focus on the present and the future.

On the other hand, there are reasons why the study of history is of value even today. The present is the continuation of the past. Therefore, studying the past history can enable us to better understand what is going on around us. For example, if we are equipped with relevant knowledge of history, it will be easier for us to understand the evolution of mankind. It would also tell us how we progressed and reached where we are today. We would also know how technology developed step by step. Secondly, history can serve us as a guide because of which we would not repeat the mistakes of yesteryears. We also get inspiration from the great men of the past through history.

I believe that the study of history is imperative for everyone, even for professionals, such as architects and accountants. Opponents claim that such professionals do not need to study history. However, they would be better in their professions if they know something about the history of architecture or that of accountancy. What is more, even if the freedom struggle and the French Revolution would not come again, this knowledge makes people realize the importance of liberty and self-governance. So, studying the past can never be a waste of time.

To sum up, studying the past history can not only deepen and widen our knowledge, but also help us develop the power of analysis. Thus, we are able to look at what is happening at present from a historical perspective and better understanding.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: one view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Study of past history is very important

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48. Some people think that the government should invest more money in teaching science than other subjects to make progress. Do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that scientific knowledge is increasingly important in our technological world and in the practical world of jobs and careers. Therefore, some individuals opine that government should spend more resources on imparting science education. However, I disagree with this view. I firmly believe that in a technological age the study of arts and humanities is probably more important than ever and so these subjects should be given as much importance as is given to science.

Undoubtedly, the study of science is essential. Science is the study of the world around us - by learning science we learn all about the world that we live in - how things work, what living things there are, how things happen, etc. Science helps us to become less gullible - there is a lot of wrong information on the television, the Internet, and in rumors - if we learn the truth by learning science, we won't fall for all those hoaxes and superstitions.

On the other hand, studying the arts and humanities can help students become better scientists. For example, recent studies of cognitive development show that studying music at an early age can strengthen a child's later grasp of science. What is more, understanding philosophical concepts has helped scientists recognize their scientific research areas more accurately.

Secondly, we all need some spark and beauty in our lives that only the study of arts can bring in. Studying the creative and intellectual achievement of others helps inspire our own creativity and intellectual questioning. This is particularly important in an era dominated by science and technology, where we run a serious risk of becoming automatons.

Finally, we need the study of arts to help us select what is worthwhile and ethical. Technology is valuable as an efficient means to our important goals. But neither technology, nor the science on which it is founded, decides which goals are best, or judges the moral value of the means we choose for their attainment.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opinion that governments should not devote lesser funds to the arts and humanities. These areas of study augment and enhance learning in science, as well as help to preserve the richness of our entire human legacy while inspiring us to further it. Moreover, disciplines within the humanities provide methods and contexts for evaluating the morality of our technology and for determining its proper direction.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: advantages of studying science
Para 2: advantages of studying arts and humanities
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: More advantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

49. Some people believe that teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects. But others believe that teenagers should focus on the subject that they are best at or that they find the most interesting. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of the number of subjects which teenagers should be required to study. Some believe that these young school goers should be made to study all subjects, whereas others say that they should be given the choice of studying subjects of their interest. This essay shall analyze both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. Firstly, the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. If students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time for extra-curricular activities, which are also very essential.

On the other hand, those who think that students should study a broad range of subjects, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, all subjects are of great importance and for the holistic development of the students. Secondly, most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, the job market is very demanding, and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely widens the horizons for the students.

I believe that students should study all subjects at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are. Moreover, it is up to the teachers to develop the interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To sum up, it can be said that students should learn all subjects at school level, as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para1: Why some people opine that teenagers should not be forced to study all subjects
Para 2: Advantages of studying a range of subjects
Para 3: More advantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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50. In some countries, secondary schools aim to provide a general education across a range of subjects. In others, children focus on a narrow range of subjects related to a particular career. Discuss both views. For today's world, which system is appropriate?

It is a highly debated issue whether secondary school students should study many subjects or only a few subjects. Both systems have their own merits, which shall be discussed in this essay. I believe that studying a broad range of subjects is more appropriate for today's times.

There are many advantages of studying a broad range of subjects. To begin with, a broad range of subjects would provide a well-rounded education, which is very important for the holistic development of the students. In addition, students could find out what their real interests are as they would be exposed to a variety of fields of study. Just after passing out of secondary school students really don't know what they would be good at. Moreover, it is ideal for those students who have many interests. They will pursue education for education sake and not just learn a trade. Consequently, when they try to find out job after graduation, their versatility will allow them to apply for a wider range of jobs.

On the other hand, there are many advantages of studying a narrow range of subjects. Such courses are basically vocational in nature. Such students find it easy to find a job in their specific field of study. Naturally, companies will be more interested in job applicants who have superior knowledge and so can make better contributions. What is more, these students enter the job market earlier and start earning. This helps them to support their families. This also allows students to focus on their interest and the subject relevant to them. A physics or chemistry student may feel out of place if he has to study ancient poetry or western literature. Finally, such students have lesser burden and so more time for hobbies.

I believe that students should study all subjects at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. A narrow range of subjects focusing on a specific vocation such as carpentry or plumbing are good for those who need to step in to work early on because of their family needs, but on the whole, studying a broad range of subjects makes the students all-rounders.

To conclude, both systems have their own merits. But, on the whole studying more subjects is more beneficial in the long run.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: advantages of a broad range of subjects
Para 2: advantages of a narrow range of subjects
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

51. University students often focus on one subject. However, some people think that universities should encourage students to learn a range of other subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Studying a broad range of subjects is needed nowadays, as the competition is very stiff nowadays. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that students should study a range of subjects at university and not focus on only one major. In the following paragraphs, I shall provide arguments to support my opinion.

There are many advantages, for students, of studying a number of subjects. The first and foremost advantage is that if they don't get a job in their field, they will be able to get any job related to their other subjects. They will not suffer unemployment and they will not be stuck to menial jobs despite being highly qualified.

Moreover, a well-rounded education is very important in today's time. Without a diverse background, a graduate will not be competent in any job. For example, excellent communication skills are very important while looking for a job. For that you need a basic English class. Most jobs require problem-solving skills which you get from basic knowledge of math and science. For instance, a doctor specializing in MRI scan, needs to have a good knowledge of physics – magnetism etcetera.

Another advantage is that learning a range of subjects can add spice to the students' studies. Students may be fed up with study when they concentrate on one subject constantly. Finally, it is well known that most of the subjects are linked to each other, to some extent. With a range of knowledge, students can find different solutions to approach the problems they encounter either at work or in life, which will definitely make them more creative and innovative in the field they specialize in. Clearly, the students with all-round knowledge have an apparent advantage over those specializing in only one subject.

Opponents claim that studying only one subject at university would make you a master in that field and you stand a chance of getting a high-paid job in that field. However, I still believe that that studying a range of subjects has an edge over specializing in just one.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion by saying that studying a variety of subjects is beneficial to the university students. By doing so, not only can the students better themselves, but also become adaptable and flexible in the increasingly challenging and competitive world.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: advantage of studying a range of subjects – more choices of job
Para 2: another advantage -
Para 3: learning a range of subjects can add spice to the students' studies
Para 4: Opponents view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

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52. In some countries, schools arrange work for students without any payment, so that students get experience. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages to the company or institution?

Unpaid internships are a part of many degree programs nowadays. I believe this trend has many advantages, along with a few disadvantages for the student as well as the places they work in.

The main advantage of working in companies for free as part of course is to the students themselves. Students gain valuable experience, which can help them in deciding the career of their choice. An internship can also give them the possibility of securing a job upon graduation or shortly thereafter. Former interns have a competitive advantage over other job seekers since the company knows them.

These internships also benefit the employers in several ways. They get services at no cost. They can screen trainees and get acquainted with their quality of work. They can always hire employees who show good progress when performing duties assigned by them. In this way employers can convert interns to full-time employees seamlessly, which reduces or eliminates any training-related costs.

There are benefits to the educational institutes also. Their student interns tend to bring their real-world experience back to the classroom, which helps keep courses relevant and curriculum up-to-date with the current trends. This results in a richer learning experience for everyone.

On the other hand, unpaid internships also have a downside. Those who do unpaid internships can be exploited and made to work longer hours, which may affect the current employees. They may find these younger counterparts a threat. Secondly, many students can't afford to take an internship if it doesn't pay anything, which can contribute to social inequality. Finally, it has been seen that doing a free internship does not actually increase employability. Employers start thinking that such unpaid interns may also be willing to work for lesser money than their regular employees.

To sum up, unpaid internships have advantages to interns, employers and educational institutes. There are a few disadvantages, but the advantages overpower them.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages to students
Para 2: Advantages to employers
Para 3: Advantages to educational institutes
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

53. Fewer and fewer people today write by hand using a pen, pencil or brush. What are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?

Writing by hand using a pen, pencil or brush has come under a serious threat. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this phenomenon. I firmly believe that this is a negative development.

The decline in handwriting is mainly because there is little place for it in the average modern life. Today, people need to be able to reach many people and edit documents quickly. In the competitive era of today, business matters require speed and clarity for reaching a wide audience. Therefore, a technology-based solution is always better. Technology has put everyone on one level when it comes to the ability to communicate clearly. Handwriting may be beautiful or just a scrawl, but typing will always be uniform.

Secondly, the tablets, smartphones and laptops have come within the pocket of most individuals. The earlier traditional writing tools such as the pen and pencil have been replaced with the stylus. Some schools in developed countries have spent enormous amounts to equip all classrooms with tablets. For some courses each student has a tablet equipped with specific educational programmes. The teacher can see the students' work while they are actually working on the exercises. In place of the blackboard, a projector displays the image of the tablet from the teacher.

Despite the various advantages of digital writing, I believe the slow death of handwriting is a negative development. Research shows that when children learn how to write, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought.

Moreover, handwriting is a complex skill that affects cognitive development of children. When they write, they build hand-eye coordination and practice fine motor skills. Good handwriting can lead to better grades, too. Studies show that pre-kindergarten kids with fine motor skills scored higher years later in reading and math than those with poor handwriting. In short, there's a direct link between writing skills and academic success.

To conclude, the traditional methods of writing with a pen, pencil or brush are dwindling because of the ease, which technology is bringing in, but this is indubitably a negative occurrence.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for the death of handwriting
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why it is negative
Para 4: Why it is negative
Conclusion:

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54. Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society; handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately, this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Handwriting is important because research shows that when children learn how to do it, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason, it is said that "Writing is a secondary power of speech, and those who cannot write are in part dumb." Scrawls that cannot be read may be compared to talking that cannot be understood; and writing difficult to decipher, to stammering speech.

Handwriting is also important because kids are required to use it daily in school from kindergarten on. Children who struggle with the mechanics of handwriting may have trouble taking notes or tests or completing their schoolwork. This can affect both their self-esteem and their attitude toward school. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

What is more, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. The more children practice a skill such as handwriting, the stronger the motor pathways become until the skill becomes automatic. Once it's mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Furthermore, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Writing is a method of communication
Para2: Handwriting improves grades
Para3: Improves confidence and memory
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

55. Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Education is very important for everyone. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age (4 years), whereas others opine that the age of seven years is the best for young people to commence educational studies. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that both approaches have their merits and drawbacks, so parents have to make the choice according to the situation of the family.

Advocates of sending the child to school at the early age of 4, cite a host of benefits. They say that children who begin to study at a very early age have more chances to succeed in the future. It is a well-known fact that the younger the individual, the easier it is for him to acquire new knowledge and information. Such children get a head start in learning, which definitely gives them an advantage in their later school years. Secondly, if children remain at home till 7 years, they while away time in unproductive activities. But, when children attend school, they are purposefully engaged in activities that stimulate their minds and encourage them to develop and improve.

On the other hand, those who say that children should begin schooling at the age of 7, say that playing and communication with parents is very important. Childhood comes but once in life and should be spent as much as possible with parents. Basic qualities, such as kindness, self-confidence and a good sense of humour cannot be gained from studying. Secondly, in their early age children need more exercise, because at this age the development of their body is a very essential aspect. The stress of school and homework stifles the growth of many children. As it is, there are many years of schooling for children even if they start at seven.

I believe that if families are nuclear, and both parents are working, then the age of 4 is better, otherwise parents will have to leave the child under the care of a nanny. One parent may even have to quit job to take care of the child. In joint families, the age to begin schooling can be deferred to 7 years, as children are being looked after by other members of the family.

To conclude, both approaches have their own sets of merits. Parents have to see what suits them best and decide accordingly.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: why some people say that a very early age is better to start school
Para 2: Advantages of later age (7 years)
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: Give opinion

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56. Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

A well-known adage from India says "Acharyadevobhava," which means teachers are next to God. It is a highly debatable topic whether teachers should be concerned with only academics or also teach manners and etiquettes to children. In this essay I intend to discuss both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view.

Those who say that teachers should only concentrate on teaching course material, argue that competition is stiff and if children lag behind in curriculum, they will never be able to catch up with their counterparts in other parts of today's global village. As it is teachers find it difficult to complete the syllabus in the given school hours. If they have to impart moral education also, it would be an added burden on them.

On the other hand, the main reason why some people think that teachers should impart moral values also, is that a teacher is like a potter, who can mould the children in whichever form he wants. A child's mind is like raw clay and is very much ready to be moulded in the shape it is guided to. A good teacher has the potential to become a friend, philosopher and guide for his students. Students always try to imitate his actions or implement his teachings, so he can impart moral education without taking out special time for that, by just having good behaviour. Therefore, in that respect a teacher has a much more role than just teaching academic subjects.

Furthermore, teachers convey many good things to parents and society through students in many parts of the world. For example, in Nepal, where illiteracy rate is very high, teachers convey many valuable messages such as of personal hygiene through students. When a student goes home and tells his parents that his teacher says everyone should wash hands before meals, then parents listen. In such areas, teachers are playing a much greater role than just being academicians.

In conclusion, I believe that teachers have a much bigger role than just covering the syllabus.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: One view – teachers should teach only academic subjects
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: More of the other view
Conclusion: teachers have a much bigger role than just being academicians.

57. Some people think it is better for children to begin to learn a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school. Do you think the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

Language is the best means of communication. I strongly support the idea that teaching a foreign language at primary school has an edge over teaching it at secondary school. Children become familiar with a strange language faster, improve their hearing ability to understand new words as time goes by and learn new words. In the following paragraphs, I will provide some arguments to support my opinion.

There are many reasons why learning a foreign language at primary school is better than learning it at secondary school. Firstly, there is no doubt that a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention, that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. In this way, a younger child is in a better position to learn the new information associated with a new language.

Secondly, primary school goers are not afraid of making mistakes, whereas senior students often have a fear of making mistakes when they are speaking in a new language. This fear is one of the biggest barriers for a person in their efforts to speak freely. Primary school children are not afraid of making grammatical mistakes because basically they just repeat words and sentences in the way they hear them. So, they also have a better chance to get used to the right pronunciation of the language.

Admittedly, there are some negative effects of adding a foreign language to the primary school curricula. Adding an additional subject adds to the stress of the students. As it is, their school bags are heavier these days than their own weights. That is perhaps why some people advocate adding a foreign language in secondary school syllabi. Despite these arguments, I believe that primary school is a better place to learn a foreign language.

To sum up, I think that it is very essential for children to begin learning a foreign language in their early ages. It brings many benefits such as great pronunciation. Also, it helps a child develop and gain more knowledge, which is good for the long run.

Plan followed

Intro: I strongly support the idea that children should begin learning a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school
Para 1 – a young mind readily absorbs new information
Para 2 – Primary school children are not afraid of making grammatical mistakes because basically they just repeat words and sentences in the way they hear them
Para 3 - Negative of teaching a foreign language in primary school.
Conclusion: it is very essential for children to begin learning a foreign language in their early ages

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58. The advantages brought by the spread of English as a "global language" will outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

Many languages have put forth their interest to be labelled as a global language. However, I believe that the increased use of English as an international language will have more pros than cons. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, English is already the lingua franca in many parts of the world. It is already spoken in 86 countries. So, spreading it as a global language, would be accepted by so many people who already know this language. Secondly, English is easier to learn than any other language. Unlike Chinese, for example, English has only 26 alphabets, which are combined to make words and sentences. It is easy even for non-native speakers to read written English. In addition, a number of English words have been borrowed from many other languages, and many English words have been adopted by many languages and are used as part of their own languages. Therefore, many people in different countries already know some of the English. So, it could be the easiest language to learn.

Furthermore, it is the language of global business and also jobs. It is the language of technology. You can make the best use of internet if you know English, as many websites are written in English. Knowledge of English makes travel easier. There would also be no need of expensive translations. Finally, English will be the most promising language. Since English is used in many fields such as economics, politics, and academics, more and more people will study English in the future. If you have an international meeting in any field, it will probably be done in English. The demand of English will never stop.

On the other hand, the spread of English as a global language, could be opposed by those who want their language to be the global language. For example, Chinese people might want their language to be the global language. Esperanto is another language, whose supporters want it to be an international language. They say that it is an invented language and not based on any culture. However, despite all these claims made by contenders of other languages, I still believe that the spread of English as a global language is more beneficial.

To conclude, there are more advantages than disadvantages of English as a global language. Its popularity and demand will increase more and more in the future.

Plan Followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages of English as a global language
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: opposite view
Conclusion:

59. Some people say that it's better to teach language students in small classes, whereas others think the number of people does not matter. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Extensive research has been done to show the best conditions to learn languages. Class size is one such fiercely debated topic. Some people opine that small classes as being better for students. However, others say that large classes are better for teaching languages. In this essay, I shall discuss both views. I believe that for a language class to be effective, it should neither be too big, nor too small.

Advocates of smaller classes cite a host of benefits. First, there is better student achievement in smaller classes. This is because teachers can pay more attention to fewer students. They can employ numerous innovative classroom strategies that a smaller class makes possible, and at the same time have more discipline in the classroom. This gives more time for teachers to focus on instruction than classroom management. Secondly, smaller groups can enjoy better peer interaction. This is because everybody knows everybody. Everybody knows if someone is absent or off-track, and the smaller groups help the low-performing students achieve better.

On the other hand, there are reasons why some people are in favour of bigger classes. Primarily, the cost is less if the classroom is bigger. Fewer teachers are needed to handle bigger class size. What is more, if class size is made smaller, many new and inexperienced teachers are put into the job, which reduces the efficiency of teaching. Therefore, with fewer, but more experienced teachers, there is more effective teaching in bigger classrooms. Moreover, students learn independence and self-motivation, because teachers don't have time for one on one interaction with students. Finally, students learn to work in groups, because group work becomes a necessity in large classrooms.

In my opinion, there is no one right answer when discussing classroom size, and advantages and disadvantages exist for both approaches. Many people do not favour smaller classes for many reasons. In a survey it was found that people preferred to go to bigger classes with more experienced teachers than smaller classes with inexperienced teachers. Secondly, the students may not have a sufficient amount of peers to interact with if the class is small. So, the advantages of one approach automatically become the disadvantages of the other.

To sum up, in deciding the class size, the key for teachers and administrators is to strike a balance between too many students and too less students.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of smaller class size
Para 2: Advantages of bigger class size
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

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60. People believe that not all school children have the natural ability to learn a new language. This means it is not right to force all school children to study a foreign language. Do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that foreign languages should not be compulsory for all school students as all the students do not have the cognitive ability to learn a language. While forcing mentally slow children to learn foreign languages can have certain problems, I still believe that schools should teach at least one foreign language to every student.

There are a range of benefits of teaching foreign language to school students. To begin with, now there is a lot of competition and companies prefer candidates who are multilingual. So, learning foreign language at the young age may be difficult, but it would be very beneficial in the long run. It would also open education opportunities for these children in other countries and getting an education overseas can be beneficial for children in many ways.

Moreover, it has been seen that multilingual children perform better than monolingual children in academics. So, teaching foreign language might improve performance of these children in other subjects. Furthermore, forcing might also create some interest and these students will then put more efforts in learning the language and overcome their mental limitations.

On the other hand, there could also be certain drawbacks of forcing foreign language on young children. Firstly, if they are forced, they would become stressed. This would affect their other studies as well. Second, they would not concentrate, so it would be waste of time and money. They would also slow down the learning speed of other children. Therefore, forcing children to learn foreign language can be disadvantageous as well.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that although forcing a foreign language on children might cause certain negative effects on children's learning, I still cannot support the idea that foreign language should not be taught to weak students.

Plan followed

Intro: Although forcing a foreign language may have some drawbacks, a foreign language must be taught in schools
Para 1 - Benefits of teaching a foreign language
Para 2 – More benefits
Para 3 - Drawbacks
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Written by: Indroop Singh

61. In many countries, teaching a foreign language to primary school students is essential. Do you think the advantages of teaching a foreign language to young learners outweighs the disadvantages?

Language is the best means of communication. In the modern globalization era it is not enough to be able to speak one language to communicate with the outside world. That is why in many countries such as India, English is taught as a foreign language right from primary classes. I strongly believe that the pros of teaching a foreign language to young learners outweigh the cons. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, there is no doubt that a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. In this way, a child is in a good position to learn the new information associated with a new language.

Secondly, senior students are often afraid to make mistakes when they are speaking in a new language. This fear is one of the biggest barriers for a person in their efforts to speak freely. Primary school children are not afraid of making grammatical mistakes because basically they just repeat words and sentences in the way they hear them. So, they have a better chance to get used to the right pronunciation of the language.

Furthermore, it has been proved by many researches that bilingualism and cognitive development go hand in hand. In other words, children who are bilingual or multilingual have better IQ than those who are monolingual. Such children do better at other subjects also. Therefore, language study is a very fruitful course of action.

Finally, it is a well-known fact that language and culture are inextricably linked. Therefore, children who learn another language also become aware of another culture and their outlook of life broadens. They become part of the global village of today and can participate better in the global economy.

On the other hand, some people opine that it puts more burden on the students as already the school bags are heavier than the weight of the child. They also fear that it might take the children away from the roots of their own culture and tradition. However, I still feel that the benefits are far more than the negative effects.

To sum up, I think that it is very essential for children to begin learning a foreign language in their early ages. It is brings many benefits such as great pronunciation. Also, it helps a child develop and gain more knowledge, which is good for a long run.

Plan followed

Intro –the pros of teaching a foreign language to young learners outweigh the cons
Para 1 – a young mind readily absorbs new information
Para 2 – Primary school children are not afraid of making mistakes
Para 3 – Bilingualism and cognitive development go hand in hand.
Para 4 - language and culture are inextricably linked
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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62. *Some people think governments should spend money on measures to save languages with few speakers from dying out completely. Others think this is a waste of financial resources. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The United Nations estimates that approximately 6,500 languages are spoken in the world today. By the end of this century, many linguists estimate that over half of those 6,500 languages will be gone. Some opine that efforts should be made to save these languages, but others believe it would be wastage of money. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both views. I, however, side with the latter view.

The main reason why the sociolinguists want to save a dying language dying is that language is directly related to culture. It is said that, "When a language dies, a culture dies". Secondly, these languages are a significant part of their speaker's identity. Another very practical reason for wanting to save a dying language is that archaeologists and anthropologists can get a lot of information about a society from its language.

On the other hand, those opposed to saving a dying language say that those languages that lose their communicative purposes and are abandoned by speakers should disappear from the public arena. The truth of "when a language dies, a culture dies" does not imply the truth of when a language is saved, a culture is also saved. They say that change of culture is a normal part of the law of change and we should welcome this change. They believe that the only thing that can be achieved by saving a language is for intra-linguistic studies and nothing more.

Furthermore, they feel that what actually kills languages is the choices of the speakers. In today's global village, it is far more convenient to have a few languages. There is better communication and also better job prospects worldwide with fewer languages. Even the technology of today is more comfortable to learn with fewer languages. So, such languages that do not have any use, should better die. There is no need to preserve them.

To conclude, it could be said that, the idea of saving threatened languages sounds good but it is difficult to sustain because the speakers have a right to shift to another language. This trend is not likely to abate. Therefore, it is a waste of resources to save endangered languages.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss both views before forming an opinion
Para 1 – Why some want to save languages
Para 2 – Why people are opposed to saving a dying language
Para 3 – More reasons for not saving a dying language
Conclusion: it is a waste of resources to save endangered languages

63. Some people think that we should invent a new language for international communication. Do the benefits of this outweigh the problems?

There are so many languages around the world, thereby discouraging people from different regions or cultures to communicate with each other. To overcome this obstacle, some people propose to invent a new language, which will be used as an "international language" among people who come from different areas. Although this proposal seems reasonable, I personally see more disadvantages than advantages of inventing a new language.

First of all, many people would not accept a new language because it would be artificial and not based on any culture. In addition, people would have to spend time to learn the grammar and the words of the new language.

Secondly, promoting a new language would require financial support and a lot of time. For instance, in some countries such as China and India there are many languages because it is financially unrealistic to teach everyone in poor areas the same language. Although this might be achieved finally, it will take as long as a hundred years or even more.

Another reason against having a new language is that it may be divided into dialects, and so the whole purpose of having one language would be lost. For instance, in Punjab, a small state of India, the mother tongue Punjabi has two dialects, which are quite different from each other. So it would be unrealistic to expect one language without different dialects in the whole world.

Finally, we all know that variety is the spice of life and language is related to culture. So, if we have one language spoken in the whole world, then it would be a dreary and dismal place to live in.

To sum up, although there would be benefits such as easy trade and travel, inventing a new language for the international communication is not a good idea because of the various reasons given above. In my opinion it is totally a waste of time and money to invent a new language because its advantages cannot outweigh its disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: I personally see more disadvantages than advantages of inventing a new language.
Para 1 – Why new language would not be acceptable
Para 2 – Another reason
Para 3 – final reason
Conclusion: inventing a new language for the international communication is not a good idea

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64. *In order to learn a language well, we should also learn about the country as well as the cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak this language. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

Language and society are as inextricably linked as a chicken and an egg. Language is the verbal expression of culture. I strongly agree that in order to learn a language 'well' you must also know the culture and lifestyle of the people who speak that language. In the following essay I intend to support my views with my arguments.

It is true that some successful language learners have never learnt about the culture and lifestyle of the native speakers. Such learners probably have a gift for learning languages and would be successful under any circumstances with regular effort. For most people, however, learning in a social context is the key to learn the language well.

Language is much more than just a means of communication. It is an art, a science, a culture, an identity and a vision. It is a lifestyle. It is like seeing the world through different eyes. For instance, the Eskimos have 24 different words for snow like - 'aput' means snow on the ground, 'gana' means drifting snow. Snow has a greater impact on their culture than ours and so on their language. So definitely learning about their culture and lifestyle would help understand the value of these meanings.

There are dialects, nuances and idioms of a language, which can only be learnt if we learn about the culture and lifestyle of the people. For example, Punjabi is the mother tongue of people who live in Punjab. It has two dialects, which mean ways of pronunciation and speaking. The two dialects are quite different and can only be learnt if you spend time with those people or learn about their culture. Then there are the nuances in a language, which means subtle shades of meaning, which can also not be learnt without knowing the lifestyle of people. Finally, it is more enjoyable to learn a language if we learn about the culture and lifestyle. We are more motivated to learn another language.

To conclude, it could be said that it is definitely needed to know about the culture and lifestyle of people if you have to learn a language well. It makes learning fun and it helps to understand the dialects and nuances of the language.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1 – There may be some talented people but for most people, however, learning in a social context is the key to learn the language well

Para 2 – Language is much more than just a means of communication

It is like seeing the world through different eyes. For instance, the Eskimos have 24 different words for snow - definitely learning about their culture and lifestyle would help understand the value of these meanings

Para 3 – There are dialects, nuances and idioms of a language

it is more enjoyable to learn a language if we learn about the culture and lifestyle

Conclusion: it is definitely needed to know about the culture and lifestyle of people if you have to learn a language well

65. Some languages are increasingly spoken in different countries, while the usage of others is rapidly declining. Is this a positive or a negative development?

Today, we do not belong to a big planet called Earth. We are part of a global village and there is more interaction among people of different parts of the globe than ever before. Therefore, some languages are being spoken more, and the use of a few languages is declining. This is both – a negative as well as a positive development.

On the positive side, the increasing use of some languages is easing communication among people. For example, English is now spoken in more than 86 countries of the world and French in around 33 countries. In fact, English has become the lingua franca in many parts of the world. Because of this people do not face difficulty when they travel from one country to the other. What is more, if people speak the same language then they also find it easy to do business with each other. Global trade is based on good communication. Businesses cannot flourish if for every small communication an interpreter is required.

Nowadays, we belong to a 24/7 society. Many multinational companies have opened in different parts of the world. The rich nations who own these MNCs provide jobs to millions of people worldwide. Naturally, a person who knows their language is better placed in these companies. The pay package is also better and chances to work abroad also go up. In a way the widespread use of a few languages also helps to decrease the gap between the rich and the poor.

On the other hand, the decline in use of some languages is also something to be concerned about. It is a well-known fact that language and culture are interrelated. If languages die out then culture also dies out. Moreover, we all enjoy life on this planet because of its diversity. If diversity decreases, then boredom sets in and the earth becomes a dull and boring place to live in.

To conclude, it could be said that, the increase in use of a few languages and the decline of others is both a positive as well as a negative development. This situation is an inevitable sequel of globalization. If the governments take steps to protect the endangered languages, then the negative effects can be minimized.

Plan followed

Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development
Para 1 – Advantages of the increasing use of a few languages
Para 2 – More advantages
Para 3 – Disadvantages
Conclusion: restate your opinion

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66. In some countries, fast food restaurants and supermarkets give money to schools to promote their products. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

In the highly competitive era of today, marketers such as restaurants and supermarkets have realized the marketing opportunity offered by schools and so are giving money to schools. Even though the administrators of schools are using that money to raise funds for school activities, this is definitely disadvantageous for school children.

There are many reasons why the funding provided by fast food outlets and supermarkets is negative. To begin with, adverts of fast foods and their availability within school premises would help to develop children's taste for such foods. This can increase problems like obesity, which in turn is the root cause of many other health issues among children. As it is, children today have sedentary lifestyles, which makes it imperative that healthier food options should be made available to them. The welfare of students should be the top priority of schools and they should not fall in the bait of these companies for monetary benefits.

Secondly, such commercial intrusions within the academic environment can promote consumerism. For instance, if schools promote advertisements of any products like toys or computer games from supermarkets through educational materials, billboards or school television, children would think that they have the approval of teachers and school authorities. Consequently, these vulnerable children pester their parents to buy those products, which can upset the family budget. This is a very vivid example of how commercialization of schools can promote materialism in children.

Supporters of such practices claim that the money such companies give for promoting their products inside the campus, helps financially-strapped schools to buy library books or improve sports facilities. They claim that children benefit from the additional resources and facilities that schools can afford due to such funding. What they fail to see is that commercial intrusions are already present in children's lives these days and there is no scope for more.

To sum up, it is definitely a negative development to use schools to advertise their products as this may lead to unhealthy eating and a materialistic attitude in children

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Plan followed
Intro: It is a negative development
Para 1: It promotes unhealthy eating and thus obesity
Para 2: It promotes consumerism
Para 3: View of the supporters of such practices
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

67. Many people use distance-learning programs to study at home, but some people think that it cannot bring the benefit as much as attending college or university. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is undeniable that the distance learning mode is very useful, especially for those living in remote areas, for those who are physically challenged and for those who want to do a job while studying. However, there are many advantages in actually attending a university, which would not accrue to a person who prefers to learn through the mode of distance education. Let us see how going to a university scores over the distance-mode.

In the very first place, going to a university provides the opportunity of face-to-face interaction with the teachers. Classroom lectures are more educative and enlightening than mere reading of written courseware due to the direct interaction between the students and the teachers. The student not only masters the contents of the prescribed lessons, but also gains a deeper insight into the subject as the teacher elucidates from his own experiences. If there are any doubts in the mind of the student, the teacher can readily offer the necessary clarifications. If he has not been able to fully comprehend any particular aspect of the lesson, he can request that it be explained to him again. Students can also help each other through the exchange of ideas and information, after the class hours.

Secondly, one learns in a more disciplined atmosphere. One has to attend the classes regularly and in time. This results in a more focused and systematic study. This leads to better preparation for the examinations and consequently better results. Also, one can easily access reference books and other valuable reading material from the University Library.

Apart from the academic curriculum, the student also gains by useful participation in other extra-curricular activities like sports, competitions, contests and the like. All this helps in the sharpening of his communication skills and the overall development of his personality. He develops better team spirit and learns the art of working with others in a group. Another great advantage is that of campus placement opportunities. Many reputed companies approach the good universities with offers of campus placements for their students. They are thus saved from the uncertainty and hassles of a later job hunt.

To conclude, a university education is certainly packed with several privileges.

Plan followed

Intro: going to a university scores over the distance-mode.
Para 1: 1st argument
Para 2: 2nd argument
Para 3: 3rd argument
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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68. Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I definitely agree with the statement that once children get admission in school, teachers have more impact on them than even their parents. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, children spend quality time with teachers. Although they spend more time with parents at home but this time is not as productive as the small amount of time spent with teachers. We all know that parents are busy with their work most of the time and even if children are around, they hardly pay any attention to them. Teachers, on the other hand are in school for the students. All the time they are either teaching the students or guiding them in extra-curricular activities. They keep children focused on study and as a result have more intellectual impact on them.

What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only influence intellectually but socially. Students inadvertently follow their teachers' behaviour too. They observe how the teacher walks, talks and tackles difficult situations. At home they have parents to guide them socially, but it is seen that in nuclear families, parents hardly find time for this. Whatever social skills children learn are from TV or other activities they do at home. So definitely teachers have an edge over parents even as far as social skills are concerned.

Teachers also guide students for their future careers. Students follow teachers more than parents because they feel that teachers are more aware of the world around them and they have better capability of guiding them. So, they depend on teachers more than parents.

To conclude, it can be said that once the schooling starts, teachers and parents both have influence but teachers influence children more.

Plan followed

Intro: once children get admission in school, teachers have more impact on them than even their parents
Para 1: how teachers are more important than parents for intellectual development
Para 2: how teachers are more important than parents for social development
Para 3: how teachers are more important than parents for career counseling
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

69. Some students take one year off between finishing school and going to university, in order to travel or to work. Do you think advantages outweigh disadvantages?

A gap year is a year after high school when a student takes time to explore his or her interests, which usually entails some type of travelling or working. After the gap year is over, the student begins his or her career. It has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay. I, personally believe that the benefits of 'gap year' outstrip the drawbacks.

There are many benefits of taking a year off. Firstly, the student can explore his interests before deciding on a major. Just passing out of secondary school, a student does know what his real interests are. A gap year gives him time to introspect and he may also find something he has never considered studying before. Secondly, he can save money to finance his education and ease some burden off his parents' shoulders. Higher education is very expensive and some parents cannot afford the full cost of students' university fees.

Furthermore, during this year, the student meets different people and experiences different cultures. As a result his personality develops and he comes to know about the outside world. Finally, a well-planned gap year is attractive to some admissions tutors and to future employers. For example, a student can add his activities of the gap year in his resume when he applies to the university, or for some job after completion of his education. This is taken in a positive light by the admissions committee and some job providers.

As every garden has weeds, similarly a gap year also has a downside. A student may find it difficult to get back to study. A year is a long time and once that tempo of attending classes and doing home-work etc. is lost, a student may not feel like studying again. Secondly, if he starts earning enough, education may seem unimportant. Finally, if a student doesn't plan it properly, it may end up as a wasted year.

To sum up, a gap year has a lot of advantages provided it is planned well.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of gap year
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: Gap year has many advantages if planned well

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70. After completing high school and before going to college or university, some students take a year off either to work or travel. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. What do you think is better – travelling or working.

Taking a gap year to travel or work is in vogue in some countries, resulting in a whole market being built around providing travel and work services to these youngsters. This essay intends to explore the pros and cons of working or travelling in this year and to find out which approach edges over the other.

There are several benefits and drawbacks of travelling in the gap year. Firstly, travelling broadens the mind giving young people skills they can use later on in life. For example, they learn how to be independent, manage their budget, improve their social skills, and enhance their geographical, cultural and general knowledge. The main disadvantage of travelling is that it requires a lot of funds. Some families are unable to fund their child's round-the-world trip.

On the other hand, if students choose to work, they get a taste of the working world and know what to expect when they complete their studies. This is especially helpful in cases where they are uncertain about their study choice. Work experience gives them time to introspect and decide on what they want to actually do in life. They also earn enough to partly fund their higher education. or working before embarking on further studies. However, the negative side of working is that their earning may deter them from going back to study. Also, when young people are out of a study mind frame they might have difficulties getting back to study.

Having analysed the pros and cons of both approaches, it is clear that both have their own set of pros and cons. A well-planned gap year may provide the opportunity of working while travelling. For example, they may work in local farms or local hotels. This may be a win-win situation for them because they may get the opportunity of mingling with the local people and getting know-how of their culture.

To sum up, a gap year is a good idea for the youngsters of today and the choice to travel or work is a matter of personal choice as there are advantages and disadvantages of both. If planned well, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro
Para 1: Advantages and disadvantages of travelling
Para 2: Advantages and disadvantages of working
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

71. Students today can access information online, so libraries are not necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that we can do away with traditional libraries because technology has given us the facility of virtual or online libraries. I, however, believe that even though technology has reduced our need to go to the libraries, our traditional libraries can never become redundant.

With the advent of new technologies in the field of computers and telecommunications, revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of Library and Information Science. The shape of traditional libraries containing a large number of printed documents is in the process of being transformed to paperless libraries containing a large number of digitized documents. The facilities offered by networking have not left libraries untouched. Modern libraries are not only digitized but networked also. This has led to the creation of virtual libraries i.e. libraries without walls through which the user has access to information at anytime, anywhere in the world by using the modern tools of communications, such as computers and Internet facilities.

However, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books, but also to sit and study there. The ambience and the peaceful and scholarly atmosphere of the library helps one to concentrate more on one's work and study. Thus, libraries will never become unneeded. They will always be there to indicate the presence of a well-read and educated society.

Another important point is that it is very difficult to always read books from the computer monitor. Traditional books can be issued from the library and read in the comfort of your bed. Virtual libraries can be accessed only by those who are computer literate. The access to virtual libraries can be affected by power cuts and network failures. Moreover, in a traditional library you are guided by the librarians if you need any help in searching for the book.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Every library should have its digital segment also so that more and more people can access them. This will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: How technology has brought about virtual libraries
Para 2: Advantages of libraries
Para 3: Advantages of traditional books vs high tech media
Conclusion: Every library should have its digital segment also, but libraries should be there.

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72. The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn't waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never-ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that libraries should only provide books and not other hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. I, however, believe that such hi-tech media should be there in libraries in addition to books.

It is easy to see why some people say that libraries should not have CDs and DVDs. They fear that the traditional book will lose its appeal. Because of technology, books are now being converted into disc forms such as CDs and DVDs. Even the availability of books in the form of electronic media on NET is putting in danger the importance of the traditional libraries, which house only traditional books. Here, my argument would be that libraries have to keep in stock many copies of a single book. CDs and DVDs occupy less space and so the availability of CDs and DVDs in addition to books seems very practical because of the shortage of space in most libraries.

Secondly, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books but also to sit and study there. Some books, which are out of print or not available in that particular area can be accessed through CDs and DVDs. What is more, many students cannot afford the expensive hi tech media and Internet connection in their homes. It is well known that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge and students need to access it for assignments. Therefore, they can access all this in the library. Therefore, computers and the Internet should be available in libraries.

Another important point why people oppose such hi-tech media is that they fear that instead of using it positively students will use it for chatting and surfing objectionable sites. They have a point, but this can be looked into by blocking such sites in the libraries. My final argument would be that with the help of computers the records of the books in the library could be maintained very efficiently. For example, most modern libraries can be maintained by just one or two librarians, whereas earlier they needed a lot of manpower.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Equipping libraries with high-tech media will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

Plan followed

Intro: such hi-tech media should be there in libraries
Para 1: why libraries should have CDs and DVDs.
Para 2: Other advantages of adding this media
Para 3: Another reason why people oppose high tech media
Conclusion: Equipping libraries with high-tech media will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

73. Some people think that the government should establish free libraries in each town. Others believe that it is a waste of money since people can access the Internet at home to obtain information. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the importance of free libraries in all towns. Some individuals hold the opinion that free libraries should be there in town, whereas others think that it is futile to have free libraries as all the information can be accessed from the computer and the Internet. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the former view.

Those who say that free libraries are not needed in today's era of technology, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, online resources can be obtained from all over the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while a library's publications cannot provide up-to-the-minute information, the way the web sites can. People can read newspapers, magazines, journals and encyclopedias, no matter when or where. Furthermore, the Internet offers a complete multimedia experience such as texts, video, audio, and graphics, all at once, but such advantages often cannot be expected from town libraries.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that it is very essential to have traditional libraries, which are free. To begin with, knowledgeable librarians can be of practical help when it comes to offering professional advice about where to find information on particular topics. Secondly, the reliability of information on the Internet is not guaranteed, as anyone can post anything on the internet. In addition, computers in libraries offer free Internet connection and other electronic resources, which all people may not have in their homes.

I believe that it is imperative to have free libraries because libraries have many other roles apart from storing books. For example, libraries are places, which provide the ambience to sit and study. Such places are needed to increase the reading habits among the youth of today. Additionally, the elderly, who are not so tech-savvy, can come and read magazines and newspapers and can keep abreast of what is happening all around.

To sum up, traditional libraries and virtual or online libraries should complement each other. We cannot do away with libraries just because of the online resources available today.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para 1: Importance of Internet for getting information
Para 2: Importance of traditional libraries
Para 3: More importance
Conclusion:

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74. Some children find some subjects such as mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Mathematics and Philosophy seek to find the truth behind the underlying workings and meanings of the universe. Mathematics teaches the formulation of proofs and concepts and Philosophy teaches the theoretical basis of our social organisation and social relationships. It is difficult to agree or disagree with the entire statement. I believe that maths should be compulsory in schools even if students find it difficult, but philosophy can be made optional. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many reasons why mathematics should be a mandatory part of school curricula. Firstly, maths is the basis of all other subjects. Children need to be taught numeracy from early childhood. Secondly, the knowledge of maths makes children smarter as it teaches them to think critically. If maths is not taught, then the phobia some children have of maths will be even more pronounced when they are older.

Moreover, if maths is studied in school, then it opens doors to many interesting subjects and careers. Many good universities and colleges in Canada and USA, require the knowledge of maths till Senior Secondary level. Many high paid jobs require analytical thinking which only those children have who have a good mathematics base. Therefore, maths should be compulsory in schools. The onus is on the teachers to make it interesting for the students.

On the other hand, philosophy can be made optional because of many reasons. Firstly, school children are too immature to learn about the complexities of human relationships. They can learn such social skills from parents and teachers in an informal way by just observing them. Secondly, philosophy, as a subject, would be too boring and would only add to the burden of the students. As it is, today's children are over-burdened with tough academic subjects to make them competent enough to be a part of the global village of today. So, only those who are really interested to study philosophy should be given the option of studying it.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that maths should undoubtedly be compulsory but philosophy should be optional as maths is needed to survive today in this era of technology where as philosophy can be left for college or university studies. That is why, perhaps, in our Indian school curricula, maths is compulsory but philosophy is optional and that too in the senior secondary classes.

Plan followed

Intro: Maths should be compulsory but philosophy can be optional
Para 1: Importance of maths
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: why philosophy should be optional
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

75. Teachers think that international student exchange would be beneficial for all teenage school students. Do you think its advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

International student exchange programs involve exchanging students of one country or place, with those of another country or place to complete part of their education there. A lot of people find these programs very beneficial, while there are some people who do not approve of these. I believe that the educational, personal and long-term advantages of these programs, to the teenage students, outstrip the disadvantages.

There are many educational benefits of these programs. Because of international learning and knowledge, students accept and understand different cultures and their perspectives. Secondly, as the students mingle with the local people in another country, they get to learn a new language. They also become aware of, and adopt alternative, multi-faceted approaches to learning. They develop analytical and problem solving skills. Students have enhanced interest in global issues, as well as a broader general knowledge.

At the personal level, the most noticeable change in returned exchange students in their enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem. They become mature, as they get to confront challenges outside a familiar comfort zone. They develop life-long friendships and also appreciate their home and family even more than before.

In the long run, students who go for such exchange programmes find themselves more comfortable in 'foreign' environments. They have better job opportunities. This is because, prospective employers in almost every field look favourably upon experience gained while living overseas and knowledge obtained of another language and culture.

On the other hand, the most obvious disadvantage of a student exchange program is the cultural shock that any student has to go through. For instance, if a student from India has to shift for an exchange to China and the vice-versa, it is going to be a big challenge initially. The student needs to be acquainted with at least one of the official languages of the host country otherwise it would be difficult to stay there. Next, the student has to adjust or compromise with the habits of the homestay family. Finally, the time zone difference is a big problem during the initial days in the guest country.

To sum up, there might be a lot of problems in another place for the teenage student, but it is an opportunity that can change the students' life for the better. It is altogether a good blend of educational benefits along with personality development.

Plan followed
Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages
Para 1: Educational benefits
Para 2: Personal benefits
Para 3: Long term benefits
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:
Similar essay: As part of education, students should spend a period of time studying and living in a different country to learn language and culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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76. Students at schools and universities learn far more from lessons with teachers than from other sources (such as the Internet and television). To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that students can learn a lot nowadays from Internet and television and these have become an indispensable part of education, but I firmly believe that teachers play a more significant role in the classroom. I believe that no amount of technology can ever undermine the importance of the teacher. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, teachers can stimulate interest, and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself through Internet and TV, may get bored and stop studying. Secondly, teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. In addition, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

Furthermore, there are many practical subjects, which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry, are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step. What is more, teachers give assignments and regularly check them. This helps the teachers to recognize the weak points of students and guide them accordingly. All this cannot be done by the Internet and TV.

On the other hand, it is also true that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. You can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. But there is no authenticity of this information. What information to get and from where to get, requires a lot of expertise. The television also has a lot of educative programmes but students still need the guidance of the teachers at all stages of learning. Teachers can make even the dull and boring subjects seem interesting. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To conclude, it can be said, that no doubt TV and the Internet are very educative these days but students definitely learn more from the teacher.

Plan followed

Intro: no amount of technology can ever undermine the importance of the teacher.
Para 1: Advantages of teachers as compared to the internet and TV
Para 2: Advantages of teachers
Para 3: advantages of internet
Conclusion: Teachers are always better

77. Computers are increasingly used in education. In which areas do you think are computers more important and in which areas are teachers more important?

"Yesterday's fiction is today's reality". Computers have revolutionized all the aspects of human life especially education. Besides teachers, computers have also become an indispensable part of education. They both are required for the holistic development of a person. Here, I am going to discuss the roles of both.

Computers have completely modified the criteria of examinations through the introduction of online examinations, online debates and online counseling. Computers are more important in those areas in which repetition is needed. For example, in elementary maths and elementary language learning. Computer can be programmed to provide answers to an endless number of simple questions.

There are certain areas in which computers supersede teachers and vice versa. For instance - computers help us simplify the topics through the audio and visual aids like working models, videos etc. Also they can teach us for 24 hours in a day. Laptops offer a unique feature of portability and act as teachers even outside the classroom. Moreover, teachers focus only on academic curriculum whereas computers, through internet, develop a general awareness about the various global issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, global warming etcetera and thus broaden our field of knowledge. Computers also enable us to be well within the range of any teacher around the world. Furthermore, being human beings, teachers have a limited knowledge whereas computers with a huge collection of e-books, reference books and dictionaries offer us a complete and thorough understanding of the subject.

Nevertheless, the role of teachers cannot be refuted. They are the actual scholars in action. Although computers remain in our service for 24 hours a day but the 8 hours spent with a teacher is the quality time. A computer can efficiently check the answers but the corrections can only be made by a teacher. Moreover, only a teacher can lend a practical hand to a student. For example- only a doctor can teach his students on how to perform a surgery? It cannot be taught by a computer in any way. There are other convincing evidences for teachers such as teachers help a student develop good communication skills and other social skills. The basic characters of a good human being are also inculcated by a teacher. Furthermore, a teacher also acts as the true guide, friend and philosopher. These are the teachers which encourage a student when he fails in studies.

To summarise, both computers and teachers are specialists in their own areas of education. They should be looked on as two angels supplementing each other for the betterment of our children.

Plan followed:

Intro: both are required for the holistic development of a person. Here, I am going to discuss the roles of both.
Para 1: Role of computers
Para 2: Role of computers
Para 3: Role of teachers
Conclusion:

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78. School teachers used to be the source of information; however, some people argue that teachers are not as important as before as the increasing variety of information resources. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the view that teachers have lost their importance in education because of the wide resources such as the internet. I firmly believe that teachers are as important as before and even more so. In the following paragraphs I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that computer and internet have made possible distance education and online education. In this regard, computers are a boon for the handicapped, those living in remote areas and those in job. They can study any time of the day or night because of the internet. This has made education approachable for many who cannot for some reason or the other attend a college or university.

However, I still feel that teachers can never lose their importance. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself may get bored and stop studying. Teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

To conclude, there is no doubt that modern resources have changed education from a teacher-oriented one to a student-centered one, but teachers will always hold their importance and can never be replaced by any technology.

Plan *followed*

Intro: I firmly believe that teachers are as important as before and even more so
Para 1: Some benefits brought by computers and the internet
Para 2: Advantages of teachers as compared to the computers
Para 3: More advantages of teachers
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

(Similar essay - The computers are widely used in education and some people think that teachers do not play an important role in the classroom. To what extent do you agree?)

79. In the past, lectures were used as a way of teaching large numbers of students, but now with the development of technology for education, many people think there is no justification for attending lectures. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the view that technology has reduced the need to attend lectures. I firmly believe that going to college or university and attending lectures is as important as before and even more so. In the following paragraphs I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that computer and Internet have made possible distance education and online education. In this regard, computers are a boon for the handicapped, those living in remote areas and those in job. They can study any time of the day or night because of the Internet. This has made education approachable for many who cannot for some reason or the other attend a college or university.

However, I still feel that technology cannot replace the need for going to the classroom. When students attend lectures, they learn from teachers. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself may get bored and stop studying. Teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills. Finally, when students attend lectures, they have interaction with other students, which gives them a sense of competition to study more.

To conclude, it can be said that, there is no doubt that modern technology has added many new ways to reach education to students, but attending lectures will always hold its importance.

Plan followed

Intro: I firmly believe that going to college or university and attending lectures is as important as before and even more so.
Para 1: Some benefits brought by computers and the internet
Para 2: Advantages of teachers as compared to the computer
Para 3: More advantages of teachers
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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80. Some people think computer and Internet are important in children's study, but others think students can learn effectively in schools and with teachers. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the way children receive education. Some individuals hold the opinion that students can learn better with the help of technology such as computers and the Internet, whereas others think that schools and teachers can impart better education. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the latter view.

Those who say that computer and the Internet are significant in children's study, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. One can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. The information is also updated regularly and is always up to date. Students can study at any time of the day or night according to their convenience.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that children can get effective education only in schools from teachers. To begin with, teachers can stimulate interest and can keep students focused on study. They can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. There are also practical subjects which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step in the school setting. Moreover, schools are places where students learn many social skills apart from academic education.

I believe that schools and teachers have an edge over technology as far as educating children is concerned. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Also, it can tell if the answer is right or wrong, but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Moreover, there is no authenticity of the information on the internet. What information to get, and from where to get requires a lot of expertise. Students still need the guidance of the teachers at all stages of learning. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To sum up, it is definitely worthwhile to study in schools from teachers, even though the computers and the Internet have become great sources of knowledge.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: View of those in favour of computer
Para 2: View of those in favour of teacher
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Teachers are always better

81. Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace in the future. Others think the true function of a university is to provide access to knowledge for its own sake. What do you think are the main functions of a university?

As university education is the last stage before the starting of career, many people believe that it prepares students for employment only, but the fact is that it serves a lot many purposes. In this essay I shall discuss the various functions of a university.

Universities provide specialised education in fields such as medical, engineering, commerce etc. They provide library facilities, which support the curriculum. They provide laboratory facilities for science and technology related subjects. They send students to factories and industries so that they get practical experience. This job-oriented training helps them to understand the working conditions and also gives them an idea about competition in the market. They also create job opportunities for the students by arranging campus interviews.

On the other hand, universities also perform other functions, which help the students in their personal life. They organise co-curricular activities such as cultural programmes, sports, debates, fairs etc. Students gain many qualities such as self-confidence and positive attitude, which help them in their future life. Moreover, some people just go to university for gaining knowledge just out of interest for the subject. For example, a doctor may want to learn French language just for interest in the language.

Furthermore, a university is a place to know more about the world because there are students from across the globe in a university. For many, who may never travel abroad, this may be a chance of a lifetime for them to broaden their horizons and know more about the different cultures of the world. For example, in LPU (Lovely Professional University), there are 200 students from Malaysia, Korea and other parts of the world.

To conclude, universities do not simply prepare a person for employment, but also have many other functions.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the various functions of a university.
Para 1: Universities provide professional knowledge and jobs
Para 2: Other functions
Para 3: a university is a place to know more about the world Conclusion:

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82. Some people believe that everyone has right to university education. Therefore, government should make university education free for everyone, no matter what their financial background is. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

People have different views about who should pay the fee of university education. Some believe that the government should totally fund tertiary education, as the society benefits the most if the youth are highly educated. However, I disagree with the notion. I firmly believe that the student himself benefits the most from tertiary education. Therefore, the tuition fee should be borne by the students.

Proponents of free tertiary education cite a host of benefits. They say that if higher education were made totally free, then the whole society would benefit. That is why in all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Developing countries cannot move ahead without enough educated professionals such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers. Governments in such countries provide scholarships or free education to as many students as they can fund, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

On the other hand, there are many credible arguments against free tertiary education. Firstly, the individuals themselves get so much benefit from tertiary education that they should themselves pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest earnings in most societies. So, it is justified that the government, and therefore the taxpayers, should not pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else. Moreover, most students come from the middle classes and their parents can afford to pay for their fees.

Furthermore, it is also a well-known fact that if a person gets something for free, he doesn't value it that much. Because of free education, the university classes would be full of non-serious students, who would spoil the decorum of the classes. Many students would also not complete their education and drop out mid way. In such cases a lot of government money would be wasted. As it is, the government has a lot on its shoulders. Therefore, it would be wrong to put the entire burden of university education on its shoulders.

To conclude, it would not be wise to put the cost of tertiary education on the government and so the cost should probably be paid for by the student himself, or through some loans, which must be paid back later.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why some say that university education should be free
Para 2: Why it should not be free
Para 3: More reasons for not making it free
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

(Another version of the same essay – The government should pay the university fee for all those who want to study at the university. Do you agree or disagree?)

83. Students should pay their full university fees themselves as they benefit from having university studies and not the society as a whole. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

People have different views about who should pay the fee of university education. Some believe that students should pay the full tuition fee as they benefit the most from university education. I disagree with the notion. I firmly believe that along with the student, the society also benefits from tertiary education. Therefore, the government and the student should share the tuition fees equally.

There is no doubt that the whole society benefits if majority of people receive higher education. In all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Without enough educated professionals, such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, developing countries cannot move ahead. Governments in such countries provide scholarships or free education, to as many students as they can fund, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

However, there is also a strong argument that individuals benefit so much from tertiary education that they should be expected to pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest incomes in most societies. People argue that the government, and therefore the taxpayers should not have to pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else.

Moreover, most students come from the middle classes and their parents can afford to pay for their fees. There are, of course, some students who cannot afford to pay. This problem can be overcome by a system like the one being used in Australia, for example. The government gives the students a loan to pay for their fees, and later, when they are earning a good salary, they repay the loan.

To sum up, as the modern world is becoming increasingly complex and knowledge is becoming more and more specialised there is no doubt that tertiary education is necessary both for the whole society and for individuals who want to ensure that they have a good profession. It is probably impossible to decide whether the individual or the society benefits more from tertiary education, but since both benefit, the costs should probably be paid for by both equally.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages to society of higher education
Para 2: Advantages to individual. Example of Australia
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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84. *Higher education can be funded in several ways including the following three: 1. All costs are paid by the government. 2. All costs are paid by the student. 3. All costs are paid by the student using loans from the government that must be repaid after graduation. Discuss the benefits of each option. Which is the best one?*

The rising cost of higher education is a significant issue facing governments around the world. Three ways are there to fund higher education and each has its own merits. This essay shall discuss the benefits of each method and identify the best one.

To begin with, if the government pays for higher education it would contribute to a prosperous and civilized society. It is true that human resource is of great importance to every nation. Investing in higher education, therefore, helps establish high-quality labor force with great expertise in the future. Moreover, it gives students from all walks of life the equal chance to further their education.

If the student has to cover the full fees of his tuition then naturally he would be more serious in his study. The onus of getting the full value for money spent on higher education would be on the student and this would result in better graduates, which would benefit the nation as a whole.

The third option in which all costs are paid by the student using loans from the government that must be repaid after graduation is the best one in my opinion because even the have-nots would get equal opportunity to get higher education and as the students would know they have to repay the loan after they have finished education, the universities would not be flooded with non serious students. Such a method is being followed in Australia and is benefiting the society and the individual both.

To conclude, it can be seen that each of the above methods has its own pros but the third method in which all costs are paid by the student using loans from the government that must be repaid after graduation is the best.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss the benefits of each method and identify the best one.
Para 1: benefits if govt. funds higher education
Para 2: benefits if students pay for their higher education
Para 3: benefits of the third approach
Conclusion: Third approach is best

85. Students from poor background such as rural areas often find it difficult to access to university education, so people think universities should make it especially easy for them to study at. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I agree with the statement that universities should take a step forward and provide access to education to those from rural backgrounds and those who cannot afford it. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss why this needs to be done and suggest ways how universities can help.

The main reason why universities should help the disadvantaged sections of the society is that this would help to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. It is a well-known fact that higher education raises the level of people both socially and economically. The students of rural backgrounds may not be able to compete with their urban counterparts for entrance to universities. Competition is very stiff nowadays and cut-off rates for engineering, medical and commerce courses is very high.

Another well-known fact is that university education is very expensive and is out of the reach of many. Many students from poor backgrounds do not get tertiary education for want of money and so join some job after secondary school. This is very detrimental for their future because they remain at the same level of earning for their whole lives and so cannot progress in life. Even their future generations remain underprivileged.

Universities can help in many ways. Firstly, they can introduce a rural quota which can help the deserving rural students. Moreover, funding can be provided to poor deserving students. Interest free loans which can be returned after the completion of education can be provided to the students. Many leading universities are already doing all that for the needy students. Universities can also provide online and distance education courses at very nominal fees to such students.

To sum up, universities should help the poor and rural students because it will reduce inequality among the people and raise the level of the nation as a whole.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Why should universities do so

- *it will help bridge the gap between the rich and poor*

Para 2: Another reason

- *University education is expensive*

Para 3 : How universities can help

- *they can introduce a rural quota*
- *funding can be provided to poor deserving students*
- *Universities can also provide online and distance education*

Conclusion:

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86. *Memorization of information by frequent repetition, namely rote learning, plays a role in many education systems. To what extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

There are different methods of learning. Two such methods are 'rote learning' and 'meaningful learning'. Both have their own pros and cons. It is essential to look at the advantages and disadvantages of rote learning to reach a conclusion as to which approach is better.

There are many advantages of rote learning. To begin with, it is very helpful where quick memorization is required, such as learning one line in a play or memorizing a telephone number. It is also needed where verbatim recall of definitions or numbers is required. We all know that we need to remember phone numbers, mathematical formulae and definitions as such. If we don't cram them, then we will not be able to reproduce them when needed, and if any small part is changed then the whole thing goes wrong. Rote learning is the only way to learn certain things like irregular verbs and the vocabulary of a foreign language. There is no logic behind irregular verbs, and so we need to memorize them by heart. Finally, many students use the rote method to pass exams.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of rote learning. Firstly, the knowledge acquired by rote is not retained for long. If a person does not repeat information learnt by rote for few days, then the whole thing can be forgotten. Moreover, information learned by rote, cannot be applied in a wide variety of new problems or concepts. For example, if we learn something by rote in math, then we cannot apply it in other subjects like physics. In meaningful learning, the transferability of knowledge is high. Finally, it can be very boring to learn everything by rote.

Definitely, rote learning should not be the only method of learning. Meaningful learning is a must if we want to progress in life and apply our skills in varied fields. However, rote learning has its own importance in some situations. So, the education systems should incorporate both - rote and meaningful learning.

To sum up, it can be said that rote learning has its own advantages, which cannot be overlooked. It should be coupled with meaningful learning, so that its disadvantages can be minimized.

Plan followed

Intro: It is essential to look at the advantages and disadvantages of rote learning to reach a conclusion
Para1: advantages of rote learning
Para 2: disadvantages of rote learning
Para 3: Rote learning should not be the only method of learning. There should be meaningful learning and the rote method should be applied only where needed.
Conclusion:

87. Nowadays education quality is very low. Some people think we should encourage our students to evaluate and criticize their teachers. Others believe that it will result in a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

There is a great need to improve the quality of education, which is deteriorating day by day. Some individuals hold the opinion that students should be allowed to assess their teachers, whereas others assert that it will lead to indiscipline in the classrooms and teachers would lose their respect. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the former view.

Those who say that students should be made to rate their teachers, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, this kind of feedback can be used to improve teachers' performance. Teaching methods can only be successful if they are student-centered. Therefore, listening to the students' constructive suggestions, teachers will have a better idea of what students' needs are and can then adjust their teaching to meet them. Secondly, the process of writing evaluations will help the students think in their own way independently. Students should be encouraged to learn by even challenging their teachers' thinking. Thirdly, it would help the administrators. Teachers who provide good educational services could be retained and others could be laid off. So, all teachers would strive to do their best. This would be a win-win situation for all.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that if students assess their teachers, it would lead to chaos in the classroom. First of all, students are very young and, compared with their teachers, are less knowledgeable both in theory and practice on a subject. Therefore, they are unable to evaluate their teachers' performance in a sound way. Secondly, student assessment would lead to poor discipline in the classroom. If each of the students is allowed to comment on the teacher's performance, then there would be chaos in the classroom. Thirdly, in order to gain a better evaluation, teachers would seek to please the students and not bother about the content of their lectures. This would harm the students' academic performance in the long run.

I believe that student evaluations of teachers would be beneficial to both teachers and students. Of course, the evaluations must be done responsibly and when the students feel that their views are important and are listened to, they will do their best to contribute to the improvement in education. This approach is being followed in many schools in the US and has brought positive results without creating any indiscipline in the classrooms.

To sum up, it is definitely worthwhile for students to rate their teachers, as it would benefit the students, the teachers and also those who run the schools.

Plan followed

Intro: - Discuss essay template
Para 1: First view
Para 2: Second view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Evaluation of teachers by students has more pros than cons

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88. *Some people say that schools should reward students who show the best academic results, while others believe that it is more important to reward students who show improvements. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

People are divided on the issue of rewarding students for academic achievements. Some support the idea of rewarding pupils who are the toppers, whereas others opine that it is better to reward those who show major improvements. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, believe in encouraging both categories of students with rewards.

Those who say that the toppers should be rewarded, give their reasons as follows. They say that the students with the best academic performance should be recognised, because rewarding them will motivate all other students to study hard and achieve the best results. Exams are like a competition, and the winners deserve to be recognized.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that the students who have shown marked improvement in their grades should be rewarded. The mediocre students, despite spending lots of time and effort, are still incapable of competing with those having higher IQ. Therefore, it is imperative to acknowledge their effort also. The policy of rewarding them would encourage a wide range of students who persevere and make improvements in their results.

I believe that encouraging all achievers is a must. The achievement of the toppers is visible to all, and should be remunerated with reward. But, the onus is on the teachers to identify the students who show the maximum improvements and encourage them also by bringing them into the limelight. For example, if a student gets 40% marks in first trimester exams, but manages to reach 60-70% in second trimester, then he should be given due recognition for his hard work. This would be a better motivation for a wider group of students.

To conclude, it is necessary to reward all achievers – the toppers, as well as the ones showing good progress in their study.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: benefits of rewarding toppers
Para 2: benefits of rewarding those who show progress
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

89. Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both points of view and provide your own opinion.

People are divided on the importance of the study of literature. Some individuals hold the opinion that studying literature is significant for developing a person's personality, whereas others think that it is futile to study literature. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the former view.

Those who say that studying literature, such as poetry and prose, is useless give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they say that studying the practical skills such as business and technical education is what is needed in today's era. Moreover, today there is cut-throat competition, and so students should not waste time on the study of literature. They should focus on subjects, which would help them earn a better livelihood today.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that it is very essential to study literature. Firstly, literature has cultural value. Cultures are built on stories and these stories form the literature. Historical stories illustrate how it would feel to live through famous battles, famines, times of prosperity and times of depression. For example, a book 'Pinjar" by Amrita Pritam, can help us understand what women faced when India was going through the freedom struggle. The second advantage of the study of literature is that it expands our horizons. When we read a piece of literature, we get to read about a life experience through the eyes of someone other than ourselves. We get to walk in the shoes of a character whose life is different than our own. Such reading offers us the opportunity to feel the feelings of the characters described, allowing us to understand things through a fictional world.

I believe that the study of literature is very necessary. Apart from the above-mentioned benefits, literature expands our vocabulary. The larger our vocabulary is, the easier it would be to understand other subjects also. The best way to become exposed to new words is to read. For example, any novel we read will include plenty of words we have perhaps never seen or heard before. When we see those words in context, we learn their meanings passively and don't have to work hard on learning them. We probably don't even realize we are building our vocabulary.

To sum up, the study of literature is very essential even in the practical world of today. We need to study literature to understand the world and its people better and also to develop our vocabulary.

Plan followed

Introduction:
Para 1: Reasons of those against the study of literature
Para 2: Reasons for the study of literature
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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90. *Some people think it is important for children to take lessons outside classroom, for example, by visiting places such as local companies or public buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Many individuals believe in providing more innovative learning experiences to children by taking them to local commercial establishments or public buildings where they are exposed to a great deal of practical knowledge. I agree with their perspective. This essay shall discuss, how such practices have an edge over mere classroom learning.

To begin with, classroom learning can sometimes be monotonous, and therefore, such outings can make learning creative, fun-filled and more effective. Museums, galleries, zoos and farms can be of great interest and can provide learning experiences that won't be forgotten fast. There are even some evidences to show that pupils' grades improved if they spent more time learning outside the classroom.

Furthermore, field trips to local businesses can introduce pupils to the practical component of learning, which is not available in schools. This can give students the real hands on experience of the world of work. All students should have the opportunity to participate in internships and programs to enrich their education. This should not be separate from their education at school, but an extension of their academic learning.

Finally, relationships between teachers and students are often transformed by field trips. The absolutely critical aspect of such outdoor learning experiences is the development of the relationship between the young students and the teachers they are with. That can be life-changing, and a bond can form with a particular teacher or all the teachers.

To conclude, most children benefit greatly from such educational tours. Therefore, school authorities should encourage children to visit local businesses or public buildings in order to make education more creative and interesting.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion:

91. Some people believe that teaching children at home is best for a child's development, while others think that it is important for children to go to school. Discuss the advantages of both methods and give your own opinion.

From homeschooling statistics, it's clear that homeschooling is becoming a more accepted method of education. However, some people still believe that nothing can be better for children than actually going to school. This essay intends to explore the benefits of both approaches. I, personally, side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people favour homeschooling. Firstly, when homeschooled, the child has the undivided attention of the teacher. Moreover, lesson plans can be tailored according to the ability of the child. Homeschooling also helps parents incorporate subjects that might not be included in the local school's curriculum, such as foreign language. Moreover, when a child is homeschooled, there is the guarantee of his safety. Bullying, fights and other school violence become a non-issue when the child is educated from home. What is more, homeschooled children get more time for their much-needed sleep.

On the other hand, those who oppose homeschooling give their reasons as follows. Firstly, keeping the child out of a traditional school environment greatly inhibits his/her access to other children. Learning to make friends and exist within a group are important life lessons that children could miss out on through homeschooling. Homeschooled children may be less inclined to share, may demand personal attention, or become socially awkward and anxious. Additionally, school life is filled with plenty of extracurricular activities, which help children better adjust in society. While these cultural and other opportunities can be provided while homeschooling the child, these are not the same as the child would experience in a group of his or her peers.

Finally, homeschooled children are generally not provided with competitive opportunities. Traditional schooling events such as team sports and spelling bees encourage the child to do his very best. These things give children something to strive for, and to uncover natural aptitudes that might go untapped in homeschooled environments.

To sum up, even though homeschooling has its merits, nothing can be better than sending the child to a traditional school.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: for homeschooling
Para 2: for homeschooling
Para 3: for traditional schooling
Para 4: for traditional schooling
Conclusion

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92. Some people think it is not necessary for adults to receive education in class. Self-study is a good way for them to study more effectively. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

When adults choose to study, it is mostly for self-enrichment, for enjoyment or self-improvement, and not to work toward a vocation or degree. They have two options in front of them. One is to do self-study through various resources such as the Internet or libraries and the other is by enrolling in regular classes. While I agree that self-study is more convenient for adults, a more effective approach would be to do major part of the study on one's own and top it up with a few days in the classroom.

With the help of the Internet self-study can be a very useful way to learn anything nowadays. There are thousands of resources available on the Internet that can help one to traverse the ins and outs of any subject. Many sites also offer video tutorials. By utilizing the vast amounts of teaching resources as well as authentic materials, such as official online sites of some universities, one can really develop one's skills independently. Besides the Internet one can purchase textbooks or borrow books from libraries that can help in learning about any subject.

Furthermore, self-study is considered better because many adults find it difficult to return to a classroom setting after spending years in the workplace. Many adult students also struggle to find the time to pursue education alongside their obligations at work and at home. In addition, self-study requires very little finances and one can also look after family commitments.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of self-study. To begin with, it is difficult to remain focused on study and one can get bored or distracted very soon. The teachers in the classroom setting can keep one focused on study. Secondly, while doing self-study, there are chances that one can study incorrectly. Nonetheless, for adults self-education is much more convenient as the classroom may not be in an approachable location or the timing may not suit them.

On balance it can be concluded that, as there are many barriers to adult education such as time, money and family commitments, I agree to quite some extent that self-study is a good way for them. However, I would also like to say that the ideal approach would be to have a blend of self-study and classroom learning.

Plan followed

Intro: I do agree that self study is more convenient for adults; however, the most effective approach would be to do major part of the study on one's own and top it up with a few days in the classroom
Para1: how self-study is good
Para 2: More advantages of self-study
Para 2: disadvantages of self-study
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

93. Some people believe that courses of performing arts (e.g. dance, music, drama etc.), should be funded by government. Others believe that these should be funded through other ways (e.g. businesses or student's family). Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the source of funding for courses of performing arts. Some opine that government should provide financial support to talented students who intend to pursue a career in performing arts such as dance, music or theatre. However, many people believe that taxpayers' money should not be wasted for this purpose, and students should look for sponsorship from other sources like corporates or their own families. This essay intends to examine both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The major reason why some people favour state funding for students of performing arts is that these courses do not have any surety of a stable career. So, the private companies and even the student's family do not wish to fund these courses. Consequently, students choose other streams. These performing arts are very important for the preservation and spread of our culture and tradition, and so to keep these performing arts alive, state funding is very essential.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to state funding contend that since it is mostly students themselves who benefit from art education, they should seek aid from other sources such as corporate funding and their own parents. For instance, like any other professionals, musicians, dancers and actors also earn large sums of money from stage shows and other public performances. They also believe that since enormous amounts of money is required to fund art education, it would become an unnecessary liability for government, as it has more important priorities to deal with.

Looking at the convincing arguments put forth by the proponents and opponents of government funding for arts courses, I believe that a middle approach could be the solution. For instance, the government could provide interest-free loans for those wishing to pursue such courses. With this approach only the serious candidates would pursue these courses. Repaying these loans would also not be difficult for the serious candidates as they would have more chances of doing well in these fields later on in life also.

To sum up, funding of performing arts courses, should be done by government, as these courses keep our culture and tradition alive, but these should be through loans which have to be repaid later. Funding of such courses should not be on businesses or families of students.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Why government funding

Para 2: Why private funding

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

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94. In many countries, more and more people are competing for a place to study in universities. Why does this happen? Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

More high school students than ever are competing for seats in the freshman classes of universities. This essay shall analyze the reasons for this phenomenon. I believe this is largely a positive occurrence.

The first explanation for why it is harder to get into four-year colleges now than ever before seems to be supply and demand. The number of students graduating from high school is rising steadily each year. For example, in 1997 there were 2.6 million high school graduates in USA, but today, the number has grown to 3.3 million.

Secondly, a university education is increasingly seen as key to economic success in our society, as a result of which more students are seeking to attend four-year colleges, including students from under-represented minority groups whose college participation rate used to be low.

Another major reason is the marketing efforts made by the universities. Colleges want to attract talented, and diverse groups of applicants from which to select their freshman class, and they often go to great lengths to do it. This, coupled with the ease of application process through the Internet, enables more students to apply.

This is a positive development because students plan well in advance for getting into the university of their choice. They focus on doing well in school to get good grades. Secondly, more students going for higher education can never be a negative development. The universities also make efforts to better their standard so as to lure the top cream of students. More and more universities are coming up which are hiring the best faculty. For instance, in my small hometown, Lovely Professional University opened about a decade ago, and today it has about 30,000 students from across the globe. It is also true that it is hard for students to get into colleges because they only want to get into colleges that are hard to get into. As word spreads about the competition for college admission, students respond by applying to even more colleges to increase their chances of acceptance. In doing so, they end up contributing to the very problem they are trying to solve for themselves.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the increasing competition for university entrance, and it is advantageous for students in the long run.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: 1st reason
Para 2: 2nd reason
Para 3: 3rd reason
Para 4: why it is a positive development
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

95. It is more important for school children to learn local history than world history. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

History is the witness of the times, and acts as a torch for the present and the future. It is very important to study history, whether it is local or world history. However, I agree that priority should be given to local history.

There are profound advantages of teaching local history to the students. The study of local history provides the student with increased interest in the larger subject of history. This information is relevant to the students' own surroundings. Once they study their local history, they would be even more enthusiastic to learn the world history and compare it with their own. Therefore, the syllabus of today's schools should include local history, and teach it before going on to teach world history.

Secondly, the knowledge of local history may encourage preservation. As it is, today we are living in a global village, where social and geographical mobility is more than ever in the past. As people move away, all the roots, which bind them to their local area, are forgotten. The people tend to tear away the familiar buildings and the local communities. If they study local history, they might wish to preserve the local areas. It would make them aware of their own links to their past.

On the other hand, the study of world history cannot be undermined in today's era of globalization. World history helps prepare young people for college studies, international experience, and active participation in civic life. It helps get them become global citizens, who know and care about the world issues and problems. World history is a shared knowledge that citizens, whatever their country, need, to function on our planet in the twenty-first century.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the study of history is important in toto, but local history must be taught before teaching the history of the world.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Importance of local history
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: World history importance
Conclusion

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96. *Some people think that schools should teach students according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have students with different abilities study together. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

It is a matter of intense debate whether children should be segregated according to their intelligence level in schools. Some people feel that there should be separate teaching for intelligent students and weak students. However, others believe that it would be better to teach all children together. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

Those who favour teaching intelligent students and weak students in separate sections, say that the intelligent and weak students can be taught at their pace and the sessions can be made more interesting for them. Moreover, different teaching tactics can be adopted in each group to give students the maximum benefits. In a mixed group, many times weak students cannot cope up with the pace of studies and so come under high pressure. However, when they are separated, teachers can handle them tactfully and bring them back their lost confidence. Furthermore, it has been seen that sometimes the more intelligent students show disruptive behaviour. They can grasp things very soon and then can be disturbing elements in the class. It can become very difficult for the teacher to maintain discipline in the classroom.

On the other hand, the main reason for teaching students of all abilities together is that otherwise the weak students would develop an inferiority complex if they were separated. In addition to that, the other group might tease them for being weak at studies, which can have a direct effect on their psyche. On the contrary, when students study in a mixed group, a sense of competition develops, and weak students are motivated to study. The intelligent students can help weak students in studies and the bond can be strengthened. This way, even weak students would not feel belittled.

In my opinion, children should not be separated, as only academic abilities are not enough to judge the intelligence of the students. A student who is not good at studies, may have some other qualities, which he may pass on to the other students. I would rather suggest what I had in my school, and that is extra coaching to weak students. It serves the purpose best as teachers save their time and energy and yet maintain the effectiveness.

To sum up, although there are merits of both approaches to teach students of different abilities, it would be better to teach them in a mixed class.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Benefits of teaching intelligent and weak students separately.
Para 2: Advantages of teaching together.
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: Children of all abilities should be taught together.

97. Some people think the main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

I definitely agree with the statement that the primary aim of schools is to turn the pupils into good inhabitants and personnel rather than benefit them personally. I feel that schools have to fulfil both things but the primary aim is towards the welfare of the society, and the benefit to the individual automatically ensues.

Schooling can do a lot for shaping children. Firstly, school is a system with so many possibilities for a child to grow into what he or she actually is. For example, teachers are able to mould children by identifying their hidden strengths, and the same strength may later make the child what he actually is in this world for.

Secondly, since children spend a sizeable amount of their time with teachers and a community of boys and girls from different faiths, statuses and family values, therefore, there is great possibility for a child to undergo a transformation into a good human being. Teachers are a great force to influence children.

Of course, learning academic subjects is the main aim for what students go to schools. Definitely, the job market requires professional knowledge the most. But it is also true that if students become good citizens and workers, they are themselves equally benefited too.

To conclude, raising children into real human beings involves several factors. Among them, the prominent one is good schooling. Schools' main function is to make students good and responsible workers and the personal benefit to students also takes place simultaneously.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree.
Para 1: Teachers can bring out the hidden strengths of the child by which he can become a good citizen
Para 2: As children spend quality time with teachers and other children they learn to become good citizens because of that influence.
Para 3: Schools give academic education, which helps them to get good jobs and hence they become good citizens and workers.
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

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98. In some countries, university students live away from home and in another city while studying. Do you think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages of living in another city?

It is a highly debated issue, whether it is better for university students to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. There are pros and cons of both approaches. However, I believe that the advantages overweigh the disadvantages.

There are definite benefits of staying at home. To begin with, it is much more economical to stay at home than to stay near the university. If you choose to stay at the university, then you either stay at the university dormitory or rent your own apartment. Both university options are more expensive as compared to home. Then, you have to do your own cooking and cleaning, which is not the case if you stay at home where your mother looks after all these things. You do spend some time commuting to and from the university, but then you save your time on cooking and cleaning. The disadvantage of staying at home is that you may be disturbed by siblings, and you may have to help in household chores.

There are many advantages of staying near the university. University education is a time for you to mix with people of different backgrounds and cultures. This culture exchange usually occurs after class hours. If you have to return home then you miss out on this golden opportunity. Secondly, there are good study facilities such as libraries, computer labs etc., if you are on or near the campus. You also get to experience some independence. The downside is that it is expensive, and to cut the cost you may have to share your apartment with someone you don't like.

In my opinion, it is definitely worthwhile to live at the university than with your parents even if you have to shell out some extra money for that, because it is a golden opportunity to interact with people of different parts of the world, and you get to enjoy the benefits of facilities like the library and sports stadiums and gyms.

To sum up, it can be said that there are benefits and drawbacks of both approaches, and the decision is purely subjective. However, in my opinion staying near the university has more benefits than drawbacks.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages of living near the university are more
Para1: advantages of staying at home
Para 2: disadvantages of staying at home
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: decision is purely subjective. Staying at university has more advantages

99. Money offered for postgraduate research is limited; as a consequence, some people argue that financial support from the government should only be provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

With limited public funding, many countries tend to give priorities to research for "hard sciences" rather than "soft sciences." Research on both can benefit the society as a whole in different ways. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement that government aid should only be for scientific research.

Government funding for postgraduate research is limited, so clearly decisions need to be made with regard to the research that receives priority. Our modern global system relies a lot on science and technology. So I think that this is where the majority of funding should go. Countries that are in the lead as far as scientific development is concerned are the ones most likely to be successful. If we rank countries by their level of scientific development and then by their economic success, the two lists will look very similar. Scientific developments will most probably result in work opportunities, including chances for those without science backgrounds.

The role of science and technology in promoting the development of a country is widely acknowledged. One prominent example is the prevalent use of computer technology, which has significantly improved the efficiency of our work and changed our lifestyle. Technological achievements are attributed to the advancement of scientific theories and their application. The government ought to provide financial support for the teaching of science, such as building new laboratories, purchasing advanced equipment and awarding outstanding scientists. If the government gives priority to scientific subjects, it would encourage more students to devote themselves to science, which would benefit the country and the world as a whole.

However, I do not think that all of the government money should go towards scientific research at postgraduate level. Science is important, but it is not everything. Other subjects, for example, arts, also deserve the attention and support of the public and the government. Philosophy and literature prompt students to reflect on the significance of life and develop a positive attitude towards the world. History and geography help to broaden the horizon of students and make them wise and open-minded. Therefore, we should not ignore the status of other subjects in our education system.

For these reasons, I think that government funding of postgraduate research should focus on science, but include some share of funding for non-scientific research too.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of spending on scientific research
Para 2: Importance of scientific research
Para 3: Advantage of spending on other research
Conclusion:

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100. It has been observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects at university. What do you think are the causes of the problem? What are the effects on society?

It has been seen that very few students select science stream for their tertiary education. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this trend, and also discuss what effects this development has on societies.

There are many reasons for the lack of interest in science subjects. The first reason is that in most schools the sciences that are taught, are outdated and have a curriculum that is irrelevant. Most of the education is theoretical and leaves little room for enjoyment. On top of that, most primary school teachers are themselves not very interested in science, and so are not good teachers, who can stimulate children's interest in science. So, the base of students in science stream is weak, and therefore they do not opt for science in higher classes. Learning science often requires hard work and considerable intellectual effort, which is not present in the contemporary youth culture. What is more, students who choose to study science are perceived as boring and somewhat crazy.

Furthermore, a white-coated, hard-working and not very well paid scientist in a laboratory, is not a role model for many of today's young people. Football players, film stars and pop artists receive global publicity and earn fortunes. The lives of journalists and others working in the media seem interesting and challenging. Young people also know that lawyers, and some of those trading in the financial markets earn ten or a hundred times more money than the physicist in the laboratory. The social climate, especially in developed countries, is not one, which it is easy to convince young people that they should concentrate on learning science at school or beyond.

A shortage of scientists and technologists can be very detrimental for the societies. Our societies are dominated by ideas and products from science and technology, and the influence of science and technology on our lives will continue to increase in the years to come. Scientific and technological knowledge and skills are crucial for most of our actions and decisions, as workers, as voters, as consumers, etc. In short, modern societies need people with scientific and technological qualifications at the highest level. If there will be less of these scientists, then societies will stagnate and further progress will stop altogether.

To sum up, there are many reasons for students not taking up science subjects at university and this phenomenon shall definitely be detrimental for society.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para 1: reasons for not opting to study science
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Effects on societies
Conclusion:

101. In developing countries, rural children have less access to education. Some people say that the problem can be solved by providing schools and teachers. Others say that computers and internet should be provided. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Education and technology are instruments for accelerating development in the developing countries. The issue of debate is whether new technology should be provided in developing countries, or education should be offered. I believe that a combination of education and technology has to be given.

Those in favour of providing free education say that these countries need schools and teachers before anything else. A good educational system should focus on laying the best foundation of knowledge and skills that are laid during the first years of education. It is very imperative that swift steps be taken to bridge this knowledge gap without which the economic and social disparity will widen even more rapidly. What these countries need is good education and training that can match today's times.

Supporters of technology say that if these poor countries were provided access to technology they would catch up with the rich and this would definitely bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. They also opine that it would be almost impossible for these countries to setup efficient educational systems without the availability of multimedia and information technology. Cultural development will also benefit as knowledge bases of art, culture and history can be easily created, made widely accessible and easily updated.

I believe that a combination of schools and technology are needed in the developing countries. Schools and teachers would not be able to provide quality education without technology. Good teachers may not like to go to those areas to teach, but with the help of technology their lectures could be made available to those children. However, schools and teachers would still be needed because children would not be able to assimilate that information on their own.

To conclude, the best possible thing to do would be to provide both education and technology simultaneously. Education without technology and technology without education would be futile.

Plan followed

Intro: I believe that a combination of education and technology has to be given.
Para 1: Views of supporters of providing free education
Para 2: Views of supporters of providing technology
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Both together would be much better

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102. The best way to remove poverty in developing countries is to provide 6 years of free education to all children so that they can read, write and use numbers. Do you agree or disagree?

Education plays a key role in alleviating poverty. That is why, providing six years of free education to children seems to be a good solution to reduce poverty. However, I disagree that it is the best solution. I believe that primary education alone is not enough, and steps also need to be taken to maintain the quality of free education provided.

There are many reasons why 6 years of free education is a good way to lessen poverty. Admittedly, the basic skills of reading and writing, throws open many doors. Building a skilled workforce can lift many households out of poverty. Many economists around the globe have proposed that if all students of low-income countries left school with basic reading and writing skills, it could eradicate 12% of the world poverty. It has been seen that the direct cost of sending a child to school, as well as the indirect cost of losing a source of labour, deters the poor from sending their children to school. Therefore, providing 6 years of free education seems a viable solution to eradicate poverty.

However, delivering six years free access to education alone is not enough, and so it cannot be considered as the best way to lessen poverty. All children need the chance to complete not only primary school, but also secondary school. For instance, in a survey in El Salvador it was seen that 5% of working adults had only primary education, compared with 47 % who had secondary education. This data clearly shows that only 6 years of primary education will not land all people into jobs.

Furthermore, just providing six years free education would not be enough, if steps were not taken to ensure the quality of such education. It should be ensured that children actually learn. The quality of this education should be equitable to that of other premium educational institutes. Faculty recruitment, infrastructural maintenance and pro-learning programs should be effectively monitored by the authorities. Otherwise, all the government funding can prove futile.

To sum up, six years of free education can go a long way in eradicating poverty, but I reiterate that six years education is not the best solution, as it is not enough, and also steps need to be taken to ensure the quality of this education.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why 6 years free education can help to decrease poverty
Para 2: Why six years is not enough
Para 3: Other steps, which are needed
Conclusion

103. Unemployment is getting increasingly serious in many countries. Some people think students only need to get primary education, while others think secondary education is necessary. Discuss both views and opine.

Joblessness is an issue of concern in many countries. Some people argue that if students receive 'only' primary education, the problem of unemployment could be lessened. However, others believe secondary education is necessary. Both views will be discussed in the following paragraphs. I firmly believe that 'only' primary education is insufficient for the holistic development of students, and the value of secondary education cannot be challenged.

Those who say that only primary education should be there, feel that education has little influence on finding a job. To begin with, the competition for jobs is increasingly tough, since there are more and more job seekers. Definitely, no matter what level education a person receives, he or she has to go to find a job finally, facing some competition. Therefore, the earlier one goes to find a position, the better for a person. Furthermore, they think people can acquire the technique through work instead of school. In other words, higher education does not provide practical technique for factories. It is unnecessary for people to receive more education than primary courses.

On the other hand, there are reasons why some people believe that only primary education is insufficient to get a good employment. Firstly, secondary education definitely enhances the chances for work. The more education one receives, the more opportunities for jobs he will have. Secondary education is the barest minimum education every child should go through, before stepping into the world of work. Moreover, receiving secondary education widens one's horizons. Some students may even set up their own business, creating a new approach to unemployment.

I believe that students should get at least secondary education before stepping into work. If students step into the job market immediately after primary education, they will remain at the same level of earning for years and years, even if they start earning early. What is more, primary education is complete at the tender age of ten and this is far too early to think about getting to work. In contrast those who step into the job market on the basis of their academic qualifications may be late in starting their jobs, but once they do so, they are better placed than those with 'only primary qualifications.

To summarise, although 'only' primary education is sufficient for a few kinds of work, I firmly believe that people should receive higher education before they go to work.

Plan followed

Intro: Secondary education is a must
Para 1: Views of those who say only primary education is good enough
Para 2: Benefits of secondary education
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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104. Some people think that the government should decide which subjects, students should study at the university, while others think that students should be allowed to apply for the subject they prefer. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

University education is very much needed nowadays to compete in the global village of today. Some people are of the opinion that government should choose the disciplines that students have to study at university. Others opine that the choice of subjects should be given to the students. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that the government should decide the subjects for the students. Firstly, if the government chooses the subjects it would naturally be taking into account the job sector. There would be lesser unemployment, as the government knows which sector has job vacancies, and would suggest only those subjects. It has been seen that there are many job vacancies without qualified people, and many qualified people without jobs. Therefore, the number of people working in various job sectors will be balanced and it would be more efficient for students to find jobs after graduating from the university. Secondly, it would help those students who find it difficult to decide what career to pursue.

On the other hand, those who say that the choice of subjects should be lift on the students, give their reasons as follows. If students choose their major, then they do well in it because it would be of their interest. They would excel in their field and when they enter the job market they would do well in their field. Moreover, there would be fewer dropouts of universities, which is common if students are forced to study what they don't like. This also instills a sense of responsibility in the students when they make a decision about their subject because they know that their whole future rests on that decision.

I believe that the subjects should not be forced on students and the choice of what to study should be left on them. However, career counselling centres should be set up by the government, which should be compulsory for the students to attend. These centres should check the aptitude of each student and advise subjects accordingly. If students are enlightened about the long-term benefits of each subject, they would make better choices of their career path.

To conclude, I believe that there are merits of both situations, but on the whole, it would be better to leave the choice to students to select their subjects as there would be lesser dropouts and they would excel in their field.

Plan followed

Intro: discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages if the government chooses the subjects
Para 2: Advantages if students choose the subject
Para 3: Own view – students should choose subjects
Conclusion:

105. It is generally believed that education is of vital importance to the development of individuals and the wellbeing of societies. What should education consist of to fulfil both these functions?

It is indubitable that education is of great significance to the progress of people and societies. Education is a companion, which no future can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, and no nepotism can enslave. This essay intends to analyze what all should be there in education, so that it can uplift the societies and its people.

First of all, education should impart professional knowledge. Such knowledge enables individuals to earn a livelihood. In this way they are benefited themselves and also they can look after their families better. This leads to better societies because an educated society is a crime free society. People are self-sufficient and so do not need to go on the path of crime.

Physical education should also be provided by a well-rounded education. It is a well known fact that healthy individuals would make a healthy society. Good health is a basic human need and for the holistic development of individuals, physical education should be incorporated in school curricula.

Education should also teach moral values. This makes us adaptive to society. There is less violence and less crime in society if people are educated. They become more open minded and live in harmony with each other. Moral science should be a compulsory subject till high school level.

Finally, today, environmental education is the need of the hour. All schools should have mandatory lessons on saving the environment. Small steps can go a long way in saving energy. Energy saved is energy generated. We all have to do away with some luxuries, if we want a better tomorrow.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that education should have professional, physical, moral and environmental components. After all, 'Education is not the filling up of a pail but the lighting up of a fire'. A well-rounded education consisting of all the above components would benefit both the individual and the society.

Plan followed
Intro: (vital – crucial) (irrefutable)
Para 1: Academic education – jobs – vocational education
Para 2: Physical education – healthy individuals – healthy society
Para 3: Moral education
Para 4: Environmental education
Conclusion

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106. Some people say that the best way for children to learn to read is by using online materials. Others say that printed materials should be used. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Today, there is much more emphasis on reading than in the past. Some individuals hold the opinion that online materials are better for teaching the skill of reading to children, whereas others opine that printed materials should be used. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I believe that traditional books are better than online materials.

The main reason why some people are in favour of the traditional, printed, reading materials is that reading skills develop in a sequence. First, children develop a love for books. They read more when they have access to engaging, age appropriate reading materials. Next, they acquire tracking skills (the ability to follow words and pages from left to right through a book). Then, children begin to recognize individual letters, and later they learn words. In this way their reading ability continues to improve. This is hard to achieve in the case of online material.

On the other hand, those who say that online reading materials are better to teach children the skill of reading, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, today's children are exposed to technology and they find it boring to read from books and other printed materials. So, they don't read at all. In such cases, online materials prove to be very helpful. Studies have shown that, new multimedia such as electronic books and stories enrich students' interest and help them be prolific readers. In another research it was found that online-reading texts used in a language classroom prepare students to become lifelong users of the language.

I believe that reading habits should be instilled in children right from preschool years. At that stage printed materials are better because it is not advisable to expose children to the computer screen. It might strain their eyes. Moreover, it is difficult for parents to keep a check on the material their children access online. Parents should surround children with books. Children will be more likely to pick them up and get absorbed in them. Parents should also set an example. If a parent regularly picks up a book, the child will do the same. Parents should read out to children. They will get excited in stories and begin to read on their own.

To conclude, it is important to teach children how to read and in my opinion during early years (when it is the time to teach reading), printed materials prove better than online materials.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Benefits of traditional reading materials
Para 2: Benefits of online reading materials
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

107. Schools should stop using books for teaching children as they find them boring, and use films, TV and computer instead. To what extent do you agree with this?

I definitely agree with the given statement, which says that the use of books should be replaced by computer and TV in schools, as students find them uninteresting. I believe that films, TV and computer are better educational tools, and are more engaging for the students.

There are many reasons why multimedia tools have an edge over the traditional book. To begin with, the most important job of every school is disseminating knowledge, which can be done by multi-media or by written form through the traditional books, but the absorption of written material is insufficient and lackluster in today's scenario. Children need something, which can stimulate their interest and keep them engaged. The computer can stimulate and educate students better than books or speech alone ever could. Electronic search mechanisms can help students find passages instantly, which would be hard to find in a book, unless they remembered precisely where to look. Multiple windows allow students to keep multiple passages in front of them simultaneously. Further, through such media there could be immediate exchange of ideas with other students across the globe, which could be very exciting for the students.

Furthermore, such a practice of using these computers and TVs in classrooms would ensure that students all over are receiving the same education in the same way, and this could prove very useful especially when there is lack of good teachers, such as in remote areas. Nobody wants to go to the remote areas to teach. As a result, the children are taught by local teachers, who have themselves not received a very good education. So, those children can never shine and compete with children of big cities, even if they have the ability in them. This situation can be fought with, by the introduction of computer, TV and films in schools. Very few good teachers could cater to a wider network of schools in remote areas with the help of these tools. Finally, it would be good for the environment because paper would be used less.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that it is the need of the day to familiarize students with multimedia gadgets in schools right from school days and definitely these AV aids have an edge over the printed book as far as piquing the interest of today's students in concerned.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantage of computers and TV over books
Para 2: More advantages of computers and TV over books
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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108. Everyone should stay in school until they reach the age of 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In many countries, school attendance is mandatory for all children up to a specific age. In India this is 14 years of age. In the UK and many other countries it is 16, although the UK government now has plans to raise the school leaving age to 18. I agree that children should be in school till the age of 18. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason for raising the school leaving age to 18 is that the age of 14-18 is the most impressionable age of a child's life. During this period of adolescence, the children undergo physical and hormonal changes, because of which they are under a lot of pressure. Therefore, lengthening compulsory schooling helps protect childhood. While at school students will be protected from some of the pressures in life. They have the rest of adulthood to work, make budgets and make choices. Providing them with space to grow for as long as possible can make them better prepared for adult life.

Secondly, more education provides the opportunity to acquire more skills and therefore more options. It has been shown many times that those with more education find it easier to find work, and that they are more likely to find that work satisfying. What is more, raising the school-leaving age is a crucial investment in society's future. Doing so increases the economic potential of the future workforce, and so will bring increased tax revenues in the long term.

However, the opponents claim that extending the period of compulsory education requires a huge investment in teachers, books and new school buildings, which would be very expensive. They also say that many families need their children to make an economic contribution to the family income, and working early can help these families to survive. Finally, just being in school does not guarantee that a student is learning. Unwilling students become disruptive and damage the education of others in their class.

To sum up, even though compulsory schooling till 18 has some drawbacks, these are nothing as compared to the vast benefits this approach would bring and the cost needed to implement would be negligible if compared to the huge economic potential of the future workforce. Therefore, I believe that everyone should stay in school until the age of eighteen.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: advantage of this approach
Para 2: other advantages
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion: restate opinion

109. Some teachers say students should be organised into groups to study. Others argue that students should be made to study alone. Tell the benefits of each study method. Which one do you think is more effective?

Nowadays, many educationists are advocating the group study approach to make students successful learners. However, some students prefer to study alone at their own pace. Both approaches have their own advantages, and the choice is a matter of personal preference.

Promoters of group study method cite a host of benefits. First, it provides learners the opportunity to share their ideas among group members, so that they can broaden their knowledge in much lesser time than they would be able to do while studying alone. Secondly, when students study in groups, they develop negotiation skills, like making a contribution, agreeing or disagreeing with someone and asking a person to give examples of their point. Finally, we can put forward working in groups as an example of what happens in real life, in work situations, and say that studying in groups in class prepares us for this.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people say that children should be made to study alone. Firstly, when students study alone then they have no distractions and they can concentrate on study in a much better way. This is especially helpful in subjects like mathematics and physics. Studying alone also increases the confidence and ability to solve problems on one's own. Students become more competitive which is a necessary virtue in the competitive era of today. Teachers can promote solo study by giving different assignments to all students, so that they complete them on their own.

I believe that teachers should mix and match both these methods depending on the subject and the situation. For boring subjects like history and philosophy, students should be organised into groups, but for subjects that need concentration, individual study should be encouraged. Both methods have their own importance and should complement each other rather than being treated as rivals.

To sum up, there can be no clear-cut demarcation in deciding whether to organise children into groups to study, or to make them study individually. Teachers can use their discretion depending on the situation.

Plan followed

Intro: -
Para 1: Benefits of group study
Para 2: Benefits of studying alone
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

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110. Some people think students should learn more practical courses like computer, but others think they should learn more about theoretical courses like geography and mathematics. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people opine that students should focus on practical courses, whereas others hold the view that theoretical courses should be studied. This essay shall analyze both perspectives. However, I believe that practical knowledge and theoretical knowledge, both are important phases of learning. Perfect combination of both practical and theoretical methods is necessary for holistic learning.

There are many reasons why some people say that students should do theoretical courses. Firstly, theoretical knowledge is the base of doing anything practically. Theoretical knowledge explains the 'why' factor at the back of any situation and technique of working. To be practically successful students need to have a strong and solid theoretical foundation. For example, medical theories help us combat diseases, economic theories explain inflation and unemployment, and gravity theory explains the presence of planets. Even marketing, which was once thought to be purely practical, is based on statistical data, which require the knowledge of mathematics.

Those who advocate practical courses say so because today practical courses have more job opportunities. Practical knowledge and application skills are essential to survive in this competitive world of today. It is important to understand how things actually work. Sometimes, there are some intricate lessons, which are not easy to understand if done only theoretically, so practically demonstrating the things will be helpful in proper understanding. That's why practical training is beneficial to both the trainer and the learner.

In my opinion, both practical and theoretical subjects go hand in hand and, each has their own significance. Theory and practical are interrelated. Especially in the professional education scenario, practical knowledge helps in the deep understanding of the concepts along with the origin and the importance of the facts learned through theoretical knowledge. Theory is the basis of all practical knowledge. For example, a person becomes a doctor in five and a half years, which has four and a half theory plus one year practical. So, for the overall development of the students, a mix of all subjects should be there.

To sum up, it can be said that both theory and practical subjects have their own importance. Both should be incorporated simultaneously in the school and university curricula.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss both issues.
Para 1: Advantages of studying theoretical subjects
Para 2: Advantages of studying practical subjects
Para 3: Own opinion – both go hand in hand
Conclusion: Both should be incorporated in the school and university curricula

111. Some people think typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050. Do you agree or disagree?

Technology is progressing at an exponential pace, and this makes it very difficult to predict what the schools and the teacher-taught relation of 2050 will be like. However, I do agree with the given statement, that the trend of education in the future would be very progressive and technology driven.

To begin with, education will be driven by technology, and learning will be able to happen anytime and anywhere. Technology will serve as a means to the resources that students will be able to utilize in order to broaden their learning. Students will also be able to make choices in how they learn the content. Learning will be based on individual interest and need. It will be student-centric, and not teacher-oriented.

Furthermore, teachers will become facilitators of knowledge and no longer the only experts, because of the rapid and constant changes and additions to information that can be found. For example, the amount of medical knowledge doubles every eight years. It is said that half of what an engineering student learns in their first year, is obsolete or revised by the time he/she graduates. The teacher will still guide students through learning, but it will be impossible for teachers to have all the knowledge. The teacher will still be needed to help students learn where to locate information, and help students evaluate sites and resources for validity.

Specialists in technology will need to be part of the educational environment to constantly enrich the learning environment for students. Each child will have a portable computer, and textbooks will not exist. Teachers will use tablet PCs and projectors to call up images at the front of the classroom at the touch of a button, with the old sound of chalk on a blackboard being replaced by the hum of desktop computers.

To sum up, despite all the new technology in 2050, school would still remain a social occasion and teachers would still be there even if their way of imparting knowledge would be driven by technology.

Plan followed

Intro: agree
Para 1: Education will be driven by technology
Para 2: Teachers will become facilitators of knowledge and no longer the only experts
Para 3: Specialists in technology will need to be part of the educational environment to constantly enrich the learning environment for students
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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112. Pressure on the school and university students is increasing and students are pushed to hard work when they are young. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is irrefutable that the burden on school and university pupils is burgeoning and they have to work very hard at a young age. This situation has both positive and negative effects. A balance needs to be created in which parents and teachers have a big role. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss the issue in depth.

Pressure on students is increasing because of many reasons. Firstly, today we belong to a highly competitive era. Students need to get good scores to get into a good college. To add to it, higher education is very costly and students need to do part time work to fund their education. What is more, sometimes parents push children to adopt those subjects in which the child has no aptitude. This also creates tension on the mind of the students.

This is a positive development because the habit of working hard right from early years makes them realise the dignity of labour and they are better placed in life later on. Secondly, they do not indulge in any violence and crime and drugs. This is because they don't have time for such activities. Finally, if they work hard in early years they will develop a sound career and will have a happy and contented later life.

It is a negative development because it leads to stress and strain. Sometimes, students cannot strike a balance between work and leisure, which may result in boredom. Secondly, when students face failures or can't cope with the pressures they can have suicidal tendencies. Students also face stress if they are forced to choose a course against their wishes.

On balance, I believe that being pushed to hard work is a positive development. However, parents and teachers need to do proper counselling and guide them properly. Aptitude of the student needs to be given consideration. Alternate career choices should be explained to both parents and children.

Plan followed

Intro: situation has both positive and negative effects
Para 1: Why is the pressure increasing
Para 2: How it is a positive development
Para 3: How it is a negative development
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

113. Schools offer a wide range of courses such as physical education, music, economics, philosophy, math, English, geography, physics and history. Among all these subjects, which one do you think is the most important and which one is the least important?

To decide which subject is the most important and which is the least important is a daunting task. Each and every subject has its own importance which cannot be underestimated but if I have to choose one I would choose physical education as the most important one and philosophy as the least important one.

Physical education is the most important for all students at school level. These classes improve students' health, now and in the future. They burn calories, and this helps them to maintain a healthy weight. The classes' regular exercise develops good habits for the present and the future. People who exercise as children are more likely to continue exercising when they're adults. This reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other serious illnesses.

Physical education also improves students' mental health. It can be difficult to sit in class all day. Students can exercise and then relax after their physical activity. This helps them to feel happier and more comfortable at school. The classes also include activities that help with stress reduction. Walking, stretching, and yoga are just a few of the exercises that reduce stress. When they have good mental health, they can do well in other subjects also.

The students' favourite part of physical education classes may be the opportunity to communicate with their classmates. They enjoy talking to their friends while they play games. The students also learn how to work in teams. Teamwork is an important skill that they will use when playing sports or even at their jobs in the future.

As for the least important course, I have to say that I think philosophy is not so important after all. This is a subject which can be there at the higher level for those who want to study it. That is why, perhaps, in our Indian school curricula philosophy has no place.

To conclude, it can be said that, although all subjects are important, I believe that physical education is the most important and philosophy is the least important.

Plan followed

Intro: if I have to choose one I would choose physical education as the most important one and philosophy as the least important one.
Para 1: advantages of physical education – improve physical health
Para 2: advantages of physical education – improve mental health
Para 3: advantages of physical education – learn teamwork
Para 4: Why philosophy is least important
Conclusion: although all subjects are important, I believe that physical education is the most important and philosophy is the least important.

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114. Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I do not agree with the idea that universities should fix equal number of seats for both genders in all subjects. In my opinion, men and women should have the same educational opportunities.

Firstly, it would be unrealistic to have the same number of men and women in all courses. Many courses are more popular with one gender than the other, and it would not be practical to aim for equal proportions. For example, nursing course is more popular among female applicants, whereas mechanical and civil engineering are more common among the male applicants. This would lead to many seats remaining vacant and many deserving candidates would not get the course of their choice.

Secondly, universities should select the best candidates for each course according to their qualifications. In this way, both men and women would have the same opportunities, and applicants would know that they will get in a good university if they achieve good grades at school. Quota systems are not fair. A deserving male student may be left out, but a female with lower grades may get admission in the same course. The main reason why some people say that universities should have equal numbers of both genders in all subjects is that they want to remove discrimination against women who have lesser chances of higher education in many societies. However, taking such a step could lead to negative discrimination against the men.

Finally, it could be argued that such a step could lead to unwilling students in a few courses. What sort of graduates would the society have of students who have studied half-heartedly just because of the fact that they could not get into the subject of their choice. What is more, the numbers of drop-outs would also increase and many would not complete their higher education.

In conclusion, the selection of university students should be based on merit, and it would be both impractical and unfair to change to a selection procedure based on gender.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: it would not be practical to have the same number of men and women in all courses.
Para 2: universities should select the best candidates for each course according to their qualifications
Para 3: such a step could lead to unwilling students in a few courses.
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

115. Full time university students spend most of the time studying. They should be doing other activities too. To what extent do you agree or disagree.

I agree with the statement that students who are enrolled full time at the university should participate in a range of extra-curricular activities besides studying. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, participating in extracurricular activities benefits students academically. One of these reasons is that students learn character-building lessons, which they can apply to their study habits and to their lives. Activities such as athletics, music, and theater teach students how to discipline themselves through drills, practices, or rehearsals. What is more, by participating and persevering in any of these activities, the students gain a sense of self-respect, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Through extracurricular activities, students learn life skills such as time management that benefit them a lot. These activities take time out of the students' schedules, therefore the students must plan their time wisely and efficiently to complete the assigned tasks. In addition to organizational skills, extracurricular activities in the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem-solving skills, since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Furthermore, education is not solely learned by reading the textbook, for students can learn an incredible amount from their peers through extracurricular activities. Students learn how to compromise and work in a group. Extracurricular activities also allow students to meet and interact with peers that may not be within their close group of friends. In addition, extracurricular activities help to enhance these social skills and teach lessons not learned in a classroom. Although these social aspects of a student's life do not directly affect his or her grade point average, they do affect the overall well-being of the student. Finally, it is well known that nowadays, even recruiters look for social skills in addition to academic qualifications while looking for employees.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that students at university should not just be engrossed in their books, but also do many other activities because these help students to receive better grades by teaching them character building lessons, teaching them lifelong skills, and helping students develop social skills.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: participating in extracurricular activities benefit students academically
Para 2: Through extracurricular activities, students learn life skills such as time management that benefit them a lot
Para 3: students can learn an incredible amount from their peers through extracurricular activities
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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116. Many people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning. Why does this happen? How to solve the problem?

It is a harsh reality of today that many students are not satisfied with their education at school, and have a negative attitude when they leave or dropout of school. In this essay I shall discuss some reasons for this phenomenon, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first and foremost reason is that students see examples of their seniors around them, who are still struggling to find jobs, and even those who have found jobs are being underpaid and exploited. So, they presume that even after graduating from school they may not get a suitable job. They cannot see any benefit of studying and getting some degree. So, their negative attitude to learning is well justified.

Another reason for the students' negative attitude towards learning, is that their course of study was forced upon them by their parents, and their aptitude was not taken into consideration. For example, if a student, who wants to make his career in the field of music, is forced to study commerce, how can he feel positive about his studies?

Another important reason is that the teacher-taught relation is very strained these days. The ugly claws of commercialism have crept into the field of education. Education has become a business and the student is the customer. Teachers are biased towards the rich or the brilliant students, and this is very detrimental for the education process.

There could be many ways to address this situation. Firstly, while selecting courses, the students' aptitude should be taken into consideration. Parents also need counseling in this matter. Secondly, the infrastructure of the educational institutes should be improved, which includes the faculty also. The pay scale of the teachers should be so lucrative, that the best people want to enter this profession. Finally, there should be more stress in teaching a wide range of subjects rather than a narrow range, so that when the student enters the job market there are a variety of choices for him to work in.

To conclude, there is no doubt that most students hold a negative attitude towards learning, but the problem can be addressed in many ways.

Plan followed

Intro: In this essay I shall discuss some reasons for this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward
Para1: Not sure of getting a suitable job
Para 2: Their aptitude was not taken into consideration while choosing the course of study
Para 3: Teacher-taught relation is very strained these days
Para 4: Solutions
Conclusion:

117. The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the authorities such as the government. Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. Do you agree or disagree?

In almost all parts of the world, there is a national curriculum decided by the government, which is followed in all schools. Some people, however, feel that teachers should decide the school curriculum. I disagree with the statement. I believe that the national curriculum should be decided by the administrators.

The main advantage of the government deciding the subjects and lesson contents is that a national curriculum standardizes what is taught across the country. Later on, while applying to different universities and colleges it would give equal opportunity to all. It would also give the opportunity to the authorities to compare and rate the schools. This would also make it easier for the authorities to provide quality education in the whole country.

Secondly, a national curriculum is decided after a lot of research. The government knows better what subjects and skills are needed in the society. It should be the one to decide what all choices to be given to the students as to their main subjects and optional subjects and how much syllabus should be covered per school year. Its goal is to ensure vocational and economic success for the individual and the nation. It is also less expensive to implement across the country. The teacher's job is only to deliver good teaching.

There are reasons why some people say that teachers should be given the liberty to decide the school syllabus. Firstly, they say that only the teachers can look into individual aptitudes and interests. Sometimes the authorities do not realise how much can be taught in a year. Only the teachers can do that well. However, leaving the whole choice of subjects and lesson contents on the teachers would bring a lot of confusion and inconsistency. Students would be taught different things in different schools. It would also mean that religious schools would teach only religion and ignore science, and therefore many students would not receive a well-rounded education.

To sum up, it can be said that a national curriculum should be there, and it should not be left on the teachers to decide the subjects and lesson contents.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para1: Why national core curriculum should be there

Para 2: second view

Para 3: Reasons in favour of teacher, with refutation.

Conclusion:

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118. Nowadays sending children to boarding school (either in other countries or in one's own country) is becoming increasingly popular. Why is it? Is it a positive or a negative development?

Boarding schools have been extensively debated. One group considers them great boosters of a child's all round development, whereas the other as instruments of neglect of children's emotional needs. Nowadays, boarding schools are becoming very popular. This essay shall probe into the causes of this phenomenon, and also discuss whether this trend is good or bad.

People send their children to boarding schools for a number of reasons. Some parents, who work overseas or travel frequently, choose to put their children in boarding school, because they know how inconsistent they will be in parenting or in providing for the needs of their children. Other parents choose boarding school for their children as a way for them to experience more of the world, and to learn how to interact with diverse people from a young age. Still other parents put their children and teens in boarding school if they are having trouble disciplining their kids or keeping them out of trouble. Finally, in this age of dual-income nuclear families, a child's life and development often takes place in rather unsuitable circumstances, and so boarding schools can be a great place for children to be in.

Seen in such a light, the option of a boarding school is very good. After all, these schools are not just about studies - they also give a child time and exposure to a lot of other things like sports and art. Also, children in such schools are more likely to have stronger bonds with their friends, since they spend a lot of time together.

Of course, there are drawbacks such as homesickness. Moreover, children in residential schools have fewer day-to-day interactions with their family, and significantly less time to spend with their parents during their formative years. As a result, many parents, who place their kids in boarding schools, fail to develop a close bond with their children.

To sum up, it can be said that we cannot say whether the trend is positive or negative. It depends on an analysis of the child's needs and the circumstances of the family. Also, it is generally advisable not to send a very young child to boarding school.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall probe into the causes of this phenomenon and also discuss whether this trend is good or bad.
Para1: Reasons
Para 2: The positives
Para 3: The negatives
Conclusion: we cannot say whether the trend is positive or negative. It depends on an analysis of the child's needs and the circumstances of the family.

119. Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Because of the IT revolution and the faster means of travel, we do not belong to a big planet 'Earth'; we belong to a small global village, which is very well connected and that is why there is a debate as to whether secondary school students should study international news as a subject. Some are in favour of having international news as a subject, while others are opposed to it. In this essay I shall discuss both views. I side with the latter view.

Those in favour of having international news as a subject, cite a host of benefits. Firstly, this would enrich their experience and broaden their horizon. From the news of any part of the world, students would become aware of the social, political and environmental problems faced by other countries. This could motivate them to do something for their own country, if they are lagging behind or even help the other nations by volunteering to help. For instance, when Tsunami struck Japan voluntary workers from all parts of the world reached out to help. Moreover, the significance of opening international news subject is that students can have a general view of the world, which could help them decide their career.

On the other hand, those who oppose adding international news as a subject, say that secondary school students face stiff competition nowadays. So, it would be unfair to add the burden of another subject. Moreover, 'international news' would have an ever-changing syllabus and so would be practically impossible to introduce as a subject. Finally, in the pluralistic society of today, some news may hurt the sentiments of any particular sect of people and could give rise to conflicts.

In my opinion, international news should not be introduced as a subject. However, steps should be taken by secondary schools to keep students abreast of what is happening in the world by having a short (5 minute) session in the morning assembly in which every day a student could speak the headlines. This would keep students up-to-date without having the tension of memorizing things.

To conclude, it could be said that international news should not be a subject, but students should be made aware of the international scenario in other informal ways.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: advantages of studying international news
Para 2: disadvantages of international news as a subject
Para 3: Own view – international news should not be a subject but a 5-minute news break in morning assembly can be there which would keep students abreast of the latest happenings of the world
Conclusion: Subject of international news should not be there

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120. In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?

It is generally seen that in secondary and tertiary educational institutes, girls opt for arts subjects whereas boys take up science subjects. This essay intends to look into the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that this trend should be changed.

There are many reasons why girls choose arts and boys choose science subjects. Firstly, right from early childhood, it is ingrained into girls that they are meant to become good housewives and mothers. So, they do not need to study difficult science subjects. They are encouraged to study arts subjects such as home science and social studies, which would later on help them in running the home. Secondly, career advice by parents and teachers makes girls opt for arts subjects. Mostly, women work as teachers, nurses and secretaries etc. Boys, on the other hand, go into technical fields for jobs and so need a background in science.

Furthermore, parents are also not ready to spend a lot on girls' education, especially in countries like India. It is well known that the fee structure of science subjects is generally higher than the arts subjects. Parents think that their daughter will get married and go to her husband's home. So, whatever they spend on her is expenditure for them whereas when they spend on their son, they consider it an investment. Their son will get a high paid job after studying science and this will definitely add to the family's income.

I believe that this trend should be changed. Choice of subjects should be on aptitude, and gender should not come in the way. Today, the gender differences are disappearing, and girls are going into space whereas boys are working as chefs and male nurses. To cite an example, Kiran Majumdar is the CEO of Biocon company and Sanjiv Kapoor is the most famous chef of my country, India.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the gender biased choice of subjects in schools and universities, but this trend should be changed as we are heading towards an egalitarian society.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why girls choose arts and boys choose science subjects
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: this trend should be changed.
Conclusion:

121. Some people think that students benefit from going to private secondary schools. Others, however, feel that private secondary schools can have a negative effect on society as a whole. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the importance of private secondary schools. Some individuals hold the opinion that studying in private secondary schools is better for students, whereas others think that these schools are detrimental for the society. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the latter view.

Those who say that studying in private secondary schools is beneficial for students, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, most private schools offer smaller classroom size, and so the child can receive more individual attention from teachers. Secondly, private secondary schools offer better academic and extracurricular programs. As a result, there are lower dropout rates. Finally, there is less on-campus violence in private schools as compared to government schools. This is because students realize that their parents are spending huge sums of money on their schooling, and so they are more serious in studies.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people assert that these private schools do more harm than good. Firstly, there is less diversity in private schools as compared to public or government schools. Only children from the higher socio-economic background get into such schools. As a result, children will meet fewer peers from diverse backgrounds. Secondly, private secondary schools don't conform strictly to educational regulations. For instance, they may not follow the national core curriculum and add or delete subjects according to their will. So, parent have to do a lot of effort to select the right private school for their child.

I believe that private secondary schools create an imbalance in society. Only the children from affluent backgrounds can afford these schools. The disadvantaged children of poor backgrounds find it very difficult to study in these schools. So, they cannot compete with children who have studied in these schools when they apply for university education. So, such schools increase the gap between the rich and the poor.

Summing up, private secondary schools provide quality education and have some advantages. However, their disadvantages to the society cannot be ignored.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people say these schools have more advantages
Para 2: Why some people say that the disadvantages of these schools are more
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Secondary schools are good, but their negatives cannot be ignored.

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122. More and more students choose to go to another country for their higher education. Do you think the benefits outweigh the problems associated with it?

There is no doubt that going to study in a foreign country, is becoming more and more common nowadays. While overseas study has its drawbacks, the difficulties are far outweighed by the advantages. Indeed, people who go abroad for study open themselves up to experiences that those who stay at home will never have.

The most obvious advantage of studying overseas is that many employers consider overseas experience a positive and enriching attribute for any employee. They believe that a person who has qualified from a reputed college or university in a developed country is capable of working in a diverse work space, and has the ability to adapt to change.

Secondly, on a university campus, the foreign student is not alone and he or she will encounter many others from overseas and it is possible to make friends from all around the world. This is not only exciting on a social level, but could lead to important overseas contacts in later professional life. Being alone in a foreign country, makes a student independent and self-reliant in terms of solving issues and making important decisions that would in turn influence the student's future.

One of the most rewarding advantages of studying abroad is the ability to see the world through a new and exciting lens. Living in a new country not only allows for a unique learning experience, but also provides a cultural immersion opportunity like no other. Nothing helps young learners understand the world around them better than spending time in the shoes of others.

On the other hand, there are some challenges faced by students going abroad for higher education. The most difficult situation can be the culture shock a student has to face. Everything is different, which leads to homesickness and loneliness. Secondly, the financial difficulties are always there and the student may have a tough time coping up with the part time job and the pressure of studies. Finally, many students may get placed in those countries where they go to study, which may cause brain-drain.

In conclusion, while any anxiety about going overseas for university study is certainly understandable, it is important to remember that the benefits offered by the experience make it well worthwhile.

Plan followed

Intro: while overseas study has its drawbacks, the difficulties are far outweighed by the advantages
Para1: good for getting job
Para 2: possible to make friends from all around the world
Para 3: seeing the world from a different perspective
Conclusion: benefits offered by the experience make it well worthwhile

123. Children find it difficult to concentrate on or pay attention to school. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?

It is unfortunate, but true that today, children find it daunting to focus on their studies in school. This essay intends to analyze the reasons for this situation, and suggest some solutions to ameliorate the problem.

Children have difficulty concentrating at school for various reasons. The most important is sleep deprivation, which plays an important role in lowering the attention of schoolchildren, according to a new research. Experts believe this is because of the increasingly technology-saturated culture children live in. Secondly, some children are not able to cope up with the tough academic competition, and consequently lose interest in studies. Additionally, noise and the activities of other children distract many. Finally, some children are affected by medical conditions, such as attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), in which children cannot concentrate on anything for long.

The solutions depend on the proper diagnosis of the causes of this lack of interest. First of all, parents and teachers must learn to be reasonable. One should not expect one's child to be able to concentrate for too long. Most adults need a break after about 30 minutes of concentration. The same applies for children. There should be some time gap that allows children to take a mental break before moving on to the next period. Then, parents should speak with their child's teacher to make sure that the schoolwork is not too difficult for their child.

Furthermore, parents should see to it that their child gets at least 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep. For doing so, it is mandatory that TV and computer should not be there in the child's room. The onus is on the parents to ration the TV viewing hours of their children. They should also meet the teachers and discuss the factors, which may be causing distraction. Sometimes, the right placement in the classroom might work wonders for the child. For example, a seat could be fixed for him where he is most likely to stay focused and be less distracted by other variables, such as activity outside a window. Finally, the parents should speak with their child's doctor and have a routine physical performed to rule out any illness or complications.

To sum up, children of this contemporary society have many distractions because of which they find it challenging to concentrate at school. However, this situation can be dealt with very nicely by the combined efforts of parents and teachers.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for lack of attention
Para 2: Solutions
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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124. Government spends much money for education. More money should be spent on free-time activities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is true that spending on education is top priority for many governments across the world, and in doing so they ignore the recreational activities, which are as important. Therefore, I agree that the government should allocate more funds for such leisure time activities. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, spending on education is very essential for the progress of any nation. Educated people get higher paid jobs and add to the economy of the country. To add to it, educated societies are crime free and peaceful societies. That is why literacy rate is an important factor in determining the status of any country in the world.

However, spending on free-time activities is equally important. Such activities benefit students academically. They learn character-building lessons that they can apply to their study habits and to their lives. Activities such as athletics, music, theater, and organizations teach students how to discipline themselves through drills, practices, or rehearsals. In addition, extracurricular activities in the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem-solving skills since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Furthermore, life is stressful and free time activities act as stress-busters. They break the monotony of hectic day-to-day life. They also build community spirit among people as during free time people meet each other and socialize. It is the responsibility of the governments to provide stadiums, playgrounds, gyms and community centres where people can do free-time activities.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that apart from education, spending on recreational activities is a must. These activities are as important as education for the overall development of any society.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Importance of education
Para 2: Importance of free-time activities
Para 3: Importance of free time activities
Conclusion:

125. It is neither possible nor useful for a country to provide university education to a high proportion of young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I completely agree with the given statement that providing tertiary education to a vast majority of youngsters would be neither achievable nor advantageous. There are a number of arguments to support my opinion, which I shall discuss in the upcoming paragraphs.

Undoubtedly, encouraging everyone to enroll in university would push more people towards lucrative professions, such as medical, engineering and law. These positions also provide great social status. Moreover, it would benefit the entire nation, not just the individual students who take advantage of it. A better-educated workforce would get high paid jobs and thus help the economy from growing faster.

However, it is easy to see why it would not be realistic for the government to provide higher education to a gigantic proportion of youngsters. If most youngsters go for higher education on government funding, it would be a lot of added burden for the government to sustain in the long run, and ultimately people would have to pay much higher taxes. Moreover, students may not take college education too seriously, if they don't have to pay for it. So, for the above reasons, it would not be achievable for the governments to coerce a massive bulk of young people to go for tertiary education.

Furthermore, it would also not be gainful for a huge number of young people to get higher education. It may seem surprising, but it is true that higher education leads to unemployment. The expectations from jobs increase with the level of education and so many fresh grads do not settle for jobs, for which they consider themselves over qualified. For instance, a specialist in plastic surgery would not be happy if posted in a small dispensary in a village and a PhD in chemistry would not settle for the job of a primary school teacher. Moreover, a balanced society needs all sorts of skilled workers like plumbers, electricians and carpenters, who do not need to go to universities.

To sum up, I reiterate my view that it would neither be realizable nor profitable for the government to send a majority of young people for higher education.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Benefits of higher education
Para 2: Why it would not be practical
Para 3: Why it would not be beneficial
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

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126. In many countries, sport and exercise classes are replaced with academic subjects. Why is it so? What are the effects on the children in their lives?

It is irrefutable that academic subjects are crucial in today's era of cut-throat competition. However, I believe that a well-rounded education including physical activities are needed for the holistic development of children. Axing sports and physical exercises can have a detrimental effect on children which shall be discussed in this essay.

There are many advantages of sports and exercise classes. To begin with, these break the monotony of tough academic studies. Participating in sports keeps children physically fit. We all know that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. World renowned scientific research suggests that children deliver optimum performance through a balanced approach to education. If a child devotes his entire time to academic subjects, without exercising, he becomes lethargic and dull. Participation in sports recharges the batteries of children and they can perform better in studies too.

Another important benefit of having sports in schools is that children learn important virtues of life through sports. They learn competition, cooperation, sportsman spirit and so much more from sports. These skills are important later on in life. Even recruiting agencies look for such skills apart from that piece of paper called the degree. So, such subjects are as essential as academic subjects. Finally, it would be worthwhile to add that sports classes in schools have given us players like Sachin Tendulkar and Dhoni who have won laurels for our country.

On the other hand, it is totally understandable point of view that education is so important that students must be pushed as hard as possible to achieve their best. It sounds a good idea to only expose the students to academic subjects as then they can spend all of their school hours on studying areas that will get them into university and good jobs later in life. I still feel that a more rounded education would produce a better individual. We must remember too that a lot of people, maybe even most people, aren't academically minded and would benefit more from a more vocationally based education. Forcing academic studies onto them would lead to failure and the student leaving school too early.

In conclusion, whilst it is important for a child to succeed academically, the chances of success are increased with a balanced approach that includes sports and physical education.

Plan followed:

Intro: I believe that a well-rounded education including physical activities are needed for the holistic development of children
Para 1: Benefit of sports and exercises – break the monotony of tough academic studies.
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Why some are in favour of replacing these with academic subjects and then refute it
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

127. We have three important parts of education: reading, writing and math. Some people think every child will benefit from a fourth skill added to the list: computer skills. Do you agree or disagree?

Some people propose that computer skills should be regarded as an additional part of education. However, I do not agree with this practice. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, computers play an important role in our life. They have become an indispensable part of our lives. In workplaces and even in the homes, they have made their presence felt. Computers, topped with the internet have brought many new opportunities in the lives of people. That is perhaps why some people opine that computer skills should be added in the school curricula.

Important as computer skills may be in today's world, I do not think it necessarily means computer skills should be taught to every child in the school. Most school children today are under heavy academic pressure and so, adding computer skills to their curriculum surely means an extra burden to them.

Besides, it has to be noted that today's computer technologies are ever-changing. Software is frequently updated. This means that the computer skills we learn today will probably become obsolete in a few months. Finally, the development of technologies has made most of today's computers user-friendly. Therefore, even a person who is totally computer illiterate can learn the minimum basics in a few hours and the rest is all practice. For example, many young children can proficiently use an I-pad to read or write. So, to those children who can already operate a computer well, it is obvious that there is no need to teach them a skill they are already good at.

To conclude, while it has to be admitted that computer skills are crucial today, the nature of computer technologies (ever-changing; user-friendly) has made computer skills an unnecessary skill for school children to learn. For this reason, I disagree with the opinion that computer skills should be added to the school curriculum.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of computer skills
Para 2: It would add to pressure on students
Para 3: Computer technologies are ever changing
Para 4: Children are born into homes where technology is being used, so they already know
Conclusion:

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128. Because computers can translate all kinds of languages quickly and accurately, so learning foreign languages is a waste of time? Do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays, the advancements in technology have made it possible to translate a text from one language into another language with reasonable accuracy. Therefore, some people opine that there is no importance of learning foreign languages. However, I disagree that acquiring the knowledge of other languages is a waste of time. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

First of all, even though computer translation programs can handle far more languages than what an individual can learn, when it comes to accuracy, humans are far better. This is because there are nuances in every language, which cannot be interpreted by any mechanical translation programmes. What is more, natural languages are largely idiomatic, which means that the literal meaning is far different from the actual meaning and to be able to cope with such situations, children should be encouraged to study foreign languages.

Furthermore, it has been proved by many researches that bilingualism and cognitive development go hand in hand. In other words, people who are bilingual or multilingual have better IQ than those who are monolingual. Children, who know more than one language, do better at other subjects also. Therefore, language study is a very fruitful course of action.

Finally, it is a well-known fact that language and culture are inextricably linked. Therefore, by learning other languages people become aware of other cultures and their outlook of life broadens. They become part of the global village of today and can participate better in the global economy.

To conclude, although the development of translation capabilities in computers has brought several benefits, this is not enough reason to stop learning foreign languages. A monolingual future generation would definitely be disadvantaged in many ways.

Plan followed

Intro – Disagree.
Para 1 – when it comes to accuracy, humans are far better.
Para 2 – more advantages of learning a language
Bilingualism and cognitive development go hand in hand
Para 3 – more advantages
Language and culture are interlinked so people learn about another culture also
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

129. Some children can learn efficiently by watching TV. Therefore, they should be encouraged to watch TV both at home and at school. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that TV is a very efficient teacher. However, I disagree that children should be motivated to watch TV both at home and at school. I shall put forth my arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

There is no doubt that TV can be a powerful mean of delivering information and a nice part of learning process. Being an audiovisual medium more effective result can be achieved. What is seen is retained longer in the minds of children. There are some things which can be very easily taught by visual illustrations. Even boring subjects like history can be made interesting with the help of TV.

However, if TV is to be used as an educational tool then very strict monitoring would be needed as to what children watch on TV. All those talk shows and soap operas we can see every day are a complete waste of time and can even have negative effects by distracting children from their studies. Moreover, the most of so called educational programmes like National Geographic cannot replace books and academic lectures because they tend to entertain people and do not have an aim to give deep and concentrated knowledge. It is highly unlikely that TV channel directors would abandon their profits and change talk shows to lectures and video lessons.

Furthermore, if children watch TV in school also then their interaction with the teacher would be limited. Teachers teach a lot of things apart from academics. They can come down to the level of the student and can also stimulate children to learn. What is more, children would read less when they learn everything from TV. Reading is an active activity as compared to TV which is a passive activity. So, it would be detrimental to the holistic development of children.

To conclude, although TV is a very good educational medium, it should be used within limits and whatever children learn from TV should also be carefully monitored by parents and teachers.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree
Para 1: How TV can be beneficial
Para 2: Disadvantages of watching too much TV at home
Para 3: Disadvantages of watching too much TV at school
Conclusion: although TV is a very good educational medium, it should be used within limits and whatever children learn from TV should also be carefully monitored by parents and teachers

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130. Schools are spending more time in traditional subjects like history etc. They should rather spend more time in teaching skills that can help them find a job. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

At the secondary education level, students are taught a variety of subjects that are supposed to help guide them in their future career and personal choices. Undoubtedly, in today's competitive era, job-oriented courses, such as communication skills and business courses are very important. However, I disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance than these subjects in schools. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

On the one hand, there is no doubt that today we belong to a global era, in which there is cut-throat competition in every field. To be successful, the most important skills needed today are communication skills. The study of business courses is also invaluable today. Eventually, all students will encounter the world of business, whether they work in urban or rural areas. They must be prepared to engage in business activity with confidence and competence. Young people need to understand how business functions, the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires, and the impact it can have on their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

On the other hand, traditional subjects have their own value. For instance, history is important for many educational, as well as practical, reasons. Through historical study, one can pursue a career in a wide array of fields. A student of history can go on to law school or delve into politics, because he will possess knowledge that will help him make invaluable choices that affect society. Although the practical side of it may not be noticeable to the student, it is true that every subject deals with history, and every inanimate object and every enjoyable pastime has a history behind it. For example, a student of medicine can't become a doctor without studying the history behind the profession, and most legends of Hollywood have studied the history of acting and film before obtaining their stardom in this field.

Furthermore, regardless of whether or not a secondary school graduate will ever take another traditional course later on at college or university, teaching these subjects to the student will help him or her acquire the skills necessary to continue on with education at the college level. Study of history, civics, geography will also make that student a better prepared citizen in society, capable of making informed choices about current issues and being able to follow up on events by using basic research techniques.

To conclude, although business and communication skills subjects are important in today's scenario, it is also important for people to have a basic understanding of what has driven, and what drives, the world in which we live in. That is perhaps why it has been rightly said that, "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything."

Plan followed

Intro: disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance
Para 1: Importance of the study of business and communication skills
Para 2: Importance of the study of history
Para 3: More importance
Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

131. Some people think that schools should concentrate on academic classes, because they are helpful for future career, and they think music and sports classes are not useful. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

What young people should study at school has long been the subject of intense debate and this is a question that certainly does not have one correct answer. While I agree with the first half of the statement that schools should focus on academic classes, I do not agree with the second half that music and sports are not necessary. I firmly believe that non-academic subjects are also very important for the holistic development of the children.

On the one hand, there are many reasons why schools should lay stress on academic classes. Firstly, academic education is very important and students must be pushed as hard as possible to achieve their best. It is necessary to expose the students to academic subjects so that they can get into university and good jobs later in life. However, forcing only academic studies onto them would lead to failure and the student leaving school too early. I feel that a more rounded education would produce a better individual.

On the other hand, there are many advantages of non-academic subjects. To begin with, non-academic subjects break the monotony of tough academic studies. Participating in sports keeps children physically fit. We all know that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Subjects such as music also have proved to be helpful in improving the IQ of children. Therefore, the importance of these subjects cannot be undermined.

I believe, a mix of academic and non-academic subjects should be there in schools. Young people should be given the best possible chance of doing well at school. In traditional curriculum there is a wide variety of subjects. There are academic and non-academic subjects. In this way a young person is formed with a rounded education. Non-academic subjects include sports, cooking, and music. I believe this is the best form of education. A young person should learn things other than academic subjects.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that non-academic subjects are as important as academic subjects in today's syllabuses.

Plan followed

Intro: non-academic subjects are also very important for the holistic development of the children
Para 1: advantage of studying academic subjects – holistic development of children
Para 2: advantages of non academic subjects – good for health and for breaking monotony
Para 3: advantages of mix of non academic subjects and academic subjects
Conclusion: non-academic subjects are important inclusions in today's syllabuses

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132. *With the increase in the use of mobile phones and computers, fewer people are writing letters. Some people think that the traditional skill of writing letters will disappear completely. To what extent do you agree or disagree? How important do you think is letter-writing?*

It is irrefutable that in today's era of modern technology, many people struggle to produce letters and often avoid writing letters altogether. Nevertheless, I don't agree that this skill will die completely. In this essay I shall put forth arguments to support my view, and also discuss the importance of letter writing.

Firstly, let us consider the reasons why writing letters is less frequent nowadays. This is because of modern technology. These days we are much more likely to email someone than write a letter. In addition, our business communications have become more informal than in the past. As a result, a less formal style of writing is more acceptable. Other forms of communication such as text messaging have reduced our need to write letters even more.

However, in my opinion, there are times when there is no alternative to writing a letter. Letters are generally more formal and carefully composed than emails. This makes them more suitable for occasions when they are likely to be kept and re-read, perhaps several times, by the recipient, as with formal letters of thanks or sympathy. Letters provide a written record, unlike telephone calls, so they are also a better way of setting out an important or complex argument, as in the official complaints or legal matters. Moreover, that time is still very far when everyone will have a computer and Internet connection. Till that time letter writing can never disappear.

So, it can be seen that letter writing is a very important skill to learn because there are many parts of the world where it is very important to be formal. This is particularly true if you are involved in international business. Because of globalization the business world is becoming more and more international, and it is not always possible to pick up the telephone to talk to people. Consequently, I believe that letter writing will never die out completely. And even though these letters may be written on computers rather than by hand, we still need to learn and practise this skill.

To sum up, there are fewer times when we need to write letters than in the past. On the other hand, I feel there are still some important occasions when a letter is the most appropriate form of communication.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why the traditional letter writing skill is declining
Para 2: Instances where the skill of letter writing is still important
Para 3: Importance of letter writing
Conclusion:

133. Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Reading stories in books is a basic way for children to obtain knowledge and open their minds. Although watching TV and playing computer games are also popular educational methods among children, I believe that reading books is better and offers more advantages than watching TV and playing computer games.

Learning by reading is more effective compared to TV and games because it is an active activity. Like any other skill, reading takes practice. To fully understand the content, children have to give all their attention to the text. Also, more than just understanding a certain topic, children tend to develop imagination, as they imagine the characters from the description they read, which helps them to learn more efficiently and deeply in the future.

Furthermore, reading stories also helps children master language development, as by reading stories, children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity

On the other hand, the knowledge disseminated by vivid pictures on screen is easier for children to imbibe, but too many moving objects and colorful images can distract children, especially some young kids, from other important tasks. Playing computer games also can be very addicting, as a result of which children fail to do their homework. Additionally, spending too much time before a computer screen or watching TV can lead to health problems such as short-sightedness. Therefore, reading is better for both efficiency and health purpose.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that reading stories in books is better than watching TV and playing on computers, as it is a more effective way to learn and is better for health.

Plan Followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages of reading
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Advantages of computer games and TV with reasons why they are not better than reading
Conclusion:

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134. Environmental problems are too big for individual countries and individual persons to address. In other words, we have reached the stage where the only way to protect the environment is at an international level. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

The 20th century was marked by a marked economic growth and at the same time an unprecedented increase in the environmental problems. However, I disagree with the notion that the only way to address the environmental problems is at global level. I firmly believe that this colossal problem can be handled only if all individuals and nations contribute to the efforts at the international level.

The belief that environmental issues are too big to be addressed at an individual level is not unwarranted (an easier sentence would be - There are many reasons why some people say that individuals cannot do anything for the environment). To begin with, as environmental issues are not restricted by boundaries, it is believed that the solutions also can't be constrained to local or national level. For instance, the whole Pacific Ocean has now been polluted with mercury due to release of industrial wastewater into the Pacific Ocean by Japan's industries. Similarly, the ozone hole is the biggest over the Antarctica, nowhere near the industrialized nations of US or Europe, which were the main polluters in the 20th century.

At the same time to say that nothing can be done at the individual country level would also be wrong. Firstly, countries have to make rules and laws at national level to be followed by people. In fact, countries can take the lead and take steps, which show the way for other countries to follow. To exemplify, many countries are now copying the Israel's desalination water model. Here a single country's efforts have resulted in a global solution to fresh-water concerns.

Moreover, both global and national level efforts have to be supplemented with efforts at the individual level. Laws are only successful if citizens abide by such law. For example, plastic bags use in some states of India is still rampant even after government has banned their use. Per person fresh water usage is rising, even after campaigns by the government and international bodies to promote its conservation. Thus individual participation is actually critical to the success of global and national level environmental efforts.

Summing up, individual citizens cannot sit back and say it is someone else's responsibility to protect the environment; we must all play our part - individual citizens and governments at the national and international level.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why international level efforts are needed
Para 2: Steps at national level
Para 3: Steps at individual level
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Similar essay: Individuals can do nothing to improve the environment. Only governments and large companies can make a difference. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

135. *Many people think it is important to protect the environment, but they make no effort on it themselves. Why is it so and what can be done about it?*

It is irrefutable that environmental damage is occurring at a very fast pace and people know that it is a global priority today to save the environment. However, when it comes to doing something, no one steps forward. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures, which can be taken at the individual level.

There are many reasons behind the indifferent attitude of people towards the environment. The main reason is that we people don't know that they themselves are the main cause of environmental damage. It is a simple truth that global warming is the result of billions of decisions. People are cutting down trees for their needs, using too many luxuries in the home, driving too many cars and are wasting resources like fresh water. If only awareness is brought about these things, then many people would take a step forward in this direction.

People are also not doing anything because they think that it is a global problem and only government action can solve it. What has to be made clear is that small measures taken at the individual level will take mammoth dimensions when mounted up. For example, in a country like India with a population of more than one billion, if each person plants a tree and nurtures it for the first few months, the result would be unimaginable. We can all take simple steps like recycling things such as newspapers, plastics and glass. We could also walk for short distances instead of using our vehicles and for long distances we could use the public transport.

Another reason why people do little about the environment is that people have become very busy in their pursuit of wealth and fame that they have no time to think about the environment. What they don't realize that if nothing is done today, it might be too late tomorrow. The rate at which global warming is occurring would soon transform the Earth into a boiling pot and it would be uninhabitable for us one day.

Summing up, the onus of saving the environment is not just on the shoulders of the governments and big industries. Each and every individual must come forward and do his/her bit to save the environment before it is too late. It has rightly been said – "little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the vast land"

Plan followed

Intro: I intend to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures, which can be taken at the individual level.
Para 1: People don't do anything because they don't realize that they are the cause of this damage
Para 2: People don't do anything because they think it is a big problem and can only be tackled by the government
Para 3: People don't do anything because they have no time
Conclusion:

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136. Some think that these environmental problems are too big for individuals to be solved, while others think that governments cannot solve these environmental problems unless individuals take some action. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is true that our small individual actions often seem insignificant compared to the scale and complexity of global environmental problems such as pollution, deforestation and depletion of natural resources. That is why some people hold the opinion that individual action can do nothing. Others say that governments can do something only if some action is taken by individuals. This essay shall discuss both views.

There are many reasons why some people say that people cannot do anything for the environment at the individual level. The first reason is the lack of professional knowledge needed to cope with serious environmental issues like soil erosion and salinity, which require a significant amount of investigation and research. Another obstacle which makes individual action almost impossible is when an environmental emergency or accident happens such as an oil spill near the border line, which would necessitate government or even international coordination.

On the other hand, those who say that even governments cannot do anything unless individuals cooperate, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, if government enacts laws for the betterment of the environment, and individuals don't cooperate, then there would be no results. For example, in India, there is a strict ban on the use of single use plastics, but people are still using them. So, the involvement of people is imperative for any government action to be useful.

I believe that individual actions, small as they may be, can prove more effective than we realize. We can avoid driving the car, and take public transit, walk, or bicycle instead. This will reduce the use of fossil fuels and cut pollution. Saving energy at home, like turning on the air conditioner only when we have to, or turning water heater down a few degrees, is also ultimately good for the environment. It has been rightly said that – 'Little drops of water; little grains of sand; make the mighty ocean; and the vast land'. Cooperating with the authorities and abiding be the laws can also help a lot.

So, in conclusion, when it comes to environmental problems, individual actions are indispensable in the problem-solving process. But the most pressing and complicated problems go far beyond an individual's capability and so require the concerted effort of the government as well as the people.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss both views
Para 1: View one
Para 2: View two
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: individual actions are indispensable but the most pressing and complicated problems go far beyond an individual's capability

137. Environmental problems such as pollution and climatic variations are increasing nowadays. The governments have taken some measures at a global level. But they got only few solutions. Why is it so? How can this problem be solved?

Saving the environment has become the top priority across the world. No country in the world disagrees with the fact that the Earth is at the brink of a climatic disaster, but the measures taken have neither legs nor the lengths to address the issue. This essay intends to look into why the measures have always fallen short of the mark, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first reason why global measures have failed is that the developed world is shying away from the burden it needs to bear for the damage it did to the environment in the first stages of industrial revolution. Hence we are stuck in a situation where the developing nations are on one side and the developed on the other. The compromises reached between the two have always been far from satisfactory. If we need to see a real positive change, the developed world has to do more than the developing world. It cannot just say that everyone should play an equal role. It can do so by providing wealth and technology related to renewable sources of energy to the developing and the undeveloped countries.

The second major reason of not being able to do for the environment is that our governments are acting in the interests of powerful lobbies and corporations. For example, the fossil fuel industries are trillion dollar businesses. If clean energy succeeds, these giants would lose. The clout of these is so strong that instead of acting with ambition and urgency, the governments are making feeble efforts. The solution, for this would be to create awareness that fossil fuel industries have to step down to let the greener energies succeed.

Finally, development and environment are always seen at loggerheads with each other. Environment always ends up taking a back seat to development. Thus, looking at the two as separate entities has delayed and brought us to our current position. The answer to this is sustainable development, which is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the environment.

To sum up, it can be seen clearly, why the steps taken so far have failed to save the environment. However, the time has come to do some soul-searching and take proactive steps for the environment.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: First reason of failure with solution
Para 2: Second reason of failure with solution
Para 3: Third reason with solution
Conclusion

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138. Environmental problems such as pollution and climatic variations are increasing nowadays. The governments have taken some measures at a global level. But they got only few solutions. Why is it so? How can this problem be solved?

Saving the environment has become the top priority across the world. No country in the world disagrees with the fact that the Earth is at the brink of a climatic disaster, but the measures taken have neither legs nor the lengths to address the issue. This essay intends to look into why the measures have always fallen short of the mark, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

Many reasons can be attributed for the failure of governments in finding solutions. The first and foremost reason is the difficulty in balancing the economic development and environmental protection. It is irrefutable that steps taken for the protection of the environment have some sort of adverse effect on the economy, albeit little. For instance, although solar power is renewable and non-polluting it is still considerably costlier than thermal power. This is a major reason why the world hasn't already shifted towards solar power completely.

Secondly is the problem of consensus when it comes to global issues. The domestic interests and concerns bind political leaders while signing international agreements. This stems from the fact that although environmental pollution is a global concern, its impact is not going to be same for every country. Hence for some countries environmental issues are not so high on the priority list and for others it is critical. For example the island nations of Pacific have been the biggest champions of environmental treaties because their very survival is at stake with global warming and consequently sea level rise. On the other hand, there are some countries like the Arctic countries, which might be benefited from global warming as it may lead to an increase in the growing season. Thus their indifferent behavior towards global warming is not surprising.

Solutions to environmental issues are not straightforward first because of the very magnitude of the problem and also for the reasons cited above. It requires a change in outlook towards environmental issues. Just as pollution is not bound by political boundaries, in the same way our solutions cannot be in silos. The world truly needs to come together as one to tackle this issue. Countries have to make compromises, for instance rich countries have to help developing countries with technology and financial aid. Developing countries also must balance their growth, keeping environment in mind.

To sum up, it can be seen clearly, why the steps taken so far have failed to save the environment. However, the time has come to do some soul-searching and take proactive steps for the environment.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: First reason of failure
Para 2: Second reason of failure
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

139. Some people say that industrial growth is necessary to solve poverty, but some other people argue that industrial growth is leading to poverty and it should be stopped. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The persistent problem of poverty in the developing world has put a question mark on the relation between economic growth and poverty. Some individuals are of the opinion that when economy develops, because of industrial growth, poverty comes down. Others believe that economic growth leads to poverty. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, agree with the former view.

There main reason given by those who say that industrial progress lessens poverty, is that rapid growth in manufacturing sector creates a lot of new jobs, which eventually increases the earning of people. It benefits nearly all citizens of a country, even if not equally, and therefore poverty comes down. For example, even in rural areas, when the country grows through agricultural exports, it benefits both poor farmers and the even poorer labourers they employ.

Secondly, history is witness, that industrialisation leads to improvement in the standard of people. Western countries began discovering the positive relation between economic growth and poverty reduction around 1820 and as a result the living standards in Europe and the United States improved manifold in the next years. Economic growth thus eliminated mass poverty in what is today considered the developed world. Even a short-term view confirms that the recent acceleration of growth in many developing countries has reduced poverty.

Those who claim that economic progress leads to poverty, assert that industrialisation leads to inequality between the rich and the poor. They opine that a handful of rich are getting richer while the poor are being driven to the wall. However, results have proved that such inequality is only short-lived and everyone has benefited in the long run. It is because of the high initial inequality that it appears as if economic growth is leading to poverty.

Summing up, industrial progress definitely reduces poverty. Sometimes, there is unequal distribution of wealth in the initial stages of economic development. Nonetheless, everyone benefits eventually.

Plan followed

Intro: when economy develops, poverty comes down
Para 1: View 1
Para 2: View 1
Para 3: View 2
Conclusion: economic progress definitely reduces poverty

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140. Some people say that economic development is necessary to reduce the poverty in the world. Others say that economic growth should be stopped immediately to stop damaging the environment. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

People are divided on the role of economic development. Some opine that it is essential in addressing poverty whereas others say that it should be stopped as it is causing irreversible damage to the environment. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally believe that we have to look into methods of economic development which are sustainable and do not harm the environment. Stopping economic development is not the way out.

The main reason why some people say that economic progress mitigates poverty, is that by the development of economy people can improve their quality of life. For example, in developed countries even the poorest of the poor have the basic amenities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. All the citizens enjoy high level of social welfare and they enjoy free medical care and free education. Even in countries like India and China, because of the increase in GDP, the quality of life of people has improved.

On the other hand, those who say that economic progress should be stopped, because it harms the environment, give their argument that in the name of progress industries are being set up, which require some kind of energy to manufacture, operate and maintain. Most of the energy that is used is polluting the environment. Effluents from large factories are being dumped indiscriminately and landfill sites are filling up with non-biodegradable wastes. So, they say that economic growth should be halted.

I believe that with economic development, the damage to the environment is inevitable. However, we cannot put a halt on economic progress because the status of the underprivileged has to be improved. Therefore, we have to look into methods by which we can achieve progress and also control the damage to the environment. For instance, we know that there are renewable sources of energy which are less polluting. So, the answer lies in the green technologies, which increasingly use renewable resources of energy. We should also remember the three "Rs" - reduce, reuse and recycle. In this way we can achieve an ecologically sustainable development. In order for progress to cause minimum damage to environment, sustainability has to be worked at.

Summing up, there is no doubt that with economic development, poverty is lessened. At the same time, it is also definite that development is leading to pollution. But, instead of stopping development we can work upon environmentally friendly development.

Plan Followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: How poverty is reduced by economic development
Para 2: Pollution due to economic development
Para 3: own view
Conclusion

Similar essay: *Pollution and other environmental problems are resulting from a country's developing and becoming richer. Some think this cannot be avoided. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

141. Some people think governments should focus on reducing environmental pollution and housing problems to help people prevent illness and disease. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is indubitable that people's health is influenced by the environment and housing conditions. That is why some people are of the opinion that governments should focus more on the environment and housing to avoid illness and disease. I, however, disagree with this notion. I believe that even though government should address environmental pollution and housing scarcity, there are many other things on which government must spend equally to prevent ill health.

Indeed, the environmental problems and housing conditions are two main sources for illness and diseases. For instance, in many parts of my country, India, people live in slums and do not have access to clean air and potable water because of air and water pollution. In these areas people suffer from diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrhea and so on. So, if the government looks into environmental pollution and provides basic housing, such problems could be avoided.

However, simply focusing on the environment and housing would not prevent all diseases. Government also has to allocate budget for other preventable diseases such as polio and TB, whooping cough, measles, mumps and so on, which need immunization. All over the world all governments are spending on pulse polio vaccine to eradicate polio from the world. Then, there are diseases such as cancers, which can be prevented by screening tests. Government should spend on tests like PAP smear and mammography, through which cancer of the cervix and breast can be diagnosed much before the actual symptoms appear. In such stages, these cancers are totally curable with very inexpensive treatment.

Another important area, which needs government action, is the awareness of people. Mass awareness campaigns are needed along with looking into the housing so that people can take steps to prevent themselves. For example, even if the government provides housing to all, but the people keep stagnant water in coolers and other areas, dengue can spread like an epidemic and all government efforts will go in vain.

In conclusion, I reiterate that simply giving priority to environmental pollution and housing will not prevent all disease. Government should allocate funds to other things such as screening tests and awareness of the people also to prevent disease.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of addressing environmental problems and housing
Para 2: Other areas to focus
Para 3: More other areas
Conclusion:

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142. The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Excessive traffic and increasing pollution are affecting every major city in the globe. To lessen such problems, some people say that governments should raise the price of fuel such as petrol and diesel. It may help to some extent, but I disagree that it is the best solution to solve the problem of environment.

To begin with, the number of cars in a country directly depends on the proportion of the population, affluent enough to own cars. As a result, raises in gas price could invoke hard feelings among this segment of people, but would not drastically change their behaviour in using cars. Even if the number of cars on road is reduced due to higher gas cost, this is not the best way to solve traffic problems. Such policy would hurt the auto industry, place higher costs on current and prospective car owners, and be detrimental to the economy of a nation. In the long run, the final way out could be the construction of better roads and more effective use of available public transport facilities.

Secondly, there is evidence that waste gas from cars is not the leading cause of air pollution. The culprit may be the discharge of polluting substances into the atmosphere due to the rapidly growing manufacturing industry. As a result, reduction of the number of cars would not return us a blue sky and fresh air. We could better handle this problem if we could increase control over industrial waste-discharge and adopt more environmental friendly materials and production equipment.

Finally, other measures like the application of cheaper and cleaner energy resources could also be a better solution. For example, we now have the ability to make cell-powered or even solar-powered cars. Such energy is completely clean and plentiful.

Summing up, it is not the best way to control traffic and pollution by increasing gas price because such action will hurt consumers and economy without achieving what it is aimed for. Measures such as construction of better transport facilities and development of new energy resources could be more effective solutions.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why it is not the best way
Para 2: Manufacturing industries are the main cause of pollution – better to have control over them
Para 3: Use of renewable (cheaper and cleaner) energy sources
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

143. The natural resources such as oil, forests and fresh water are being consumed at an alarming rate. What problems does it cause? How can we solve these problems?

It is true that the rate of consumption of natural resources like oil, water and forests is exceedingly high. There are many adverse effects of this problem, but if timely steps are taken, this problem can be addressed.

The main issue because of the fast pace of exploitation of fossil fuels like oil is the increase in pollution. Pollution has many harmful effects on the health. The increase in health issues like cancers, asthma, skin problems, lung diseases are mainly related to pollution. Pollution also reduces work efficiency. Moreover, the areas where the oil is taken out are facing my environmental issues like destruction of forests and noise pollution. Many earthquakes are also caused due to drilling of oil.

Furthermore, the increasing use of fresh water and deforestation also has many detrimental effects. To begin with, the fast use of fresh water is leading to water scarcity. Some areas do not even have enough water for drinking. Deforestation has led to destruction of animal habitats. As animal homes are being destroyed, there has been an increase in human animal conflicts. In addition, the destruction of trees is causing environmental problems like droughts as forests are rain magnets.

Although there are many issues caused by the overconsumption of these natural resources, I believe that governments can implement measures and tackle it. First, the use of oil can be reduced by promoting renewable sources like solar energy and wind energy. Governments can also levy taxes on oil and coal. Secondly, recycling of water and rainwater harvesting can be promoted to tackle problems like water scarcity. For example, few years back there was a water crisis in Chennai. However, after strict implementation of rainwater harvesting in home designs, Chennai has now started exporting water to other cities. Lastly, there should be strict fines and punishment for people involved in deforestation. Government can also promote planting of trees to counter deforestation.

In conclusion, although there are many negative consequences of the increasing use of natural resources, I believe this problem can be addressed by implementing some strong measures and policies.

Plan followed

Intro: I intend to explore the problems caused by the increased consumption of oil, forests and fresh water, and suggest some solutions.
Para 1: Oil – effects of overconsumption
Para 2: Fresh water and forests – effects of overconsumption
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

Written by: Indroop Singh

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144. Some people argue that companies and private individuals, rather than governments, should pay the bill of pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Environmental pollution is a burning issue these days and to save our planet Earth, it has to be tackled on a war footing. Some individuals are of the opinion that businesses and individuals should pay for the bill of pollution rather than the governments. Although it seems reasonable to ask them to do so, it would not be easy. Therefore, I disagree with the above statement. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

First of all, it may not be possible to say who is to blame. For instance, in my home town, there is a sugar mill, a starch mill and a textile mill. All are adding to pollution in their own way. It would be very difficult to pinpoint the extent to which each one has to pay for pollution. Such businesses will find loopholes to avoid heavy bills. Therefore, the government should take the onus of handling the pollution costs.

Secondly, the big companies may be unwilling to accept the responsibility of paying the additional bill of pollution by saying that they are already paying heavy taxes to the government. They could also argue that they are assisting the governments indirectly by aiding many charity organizations.

Moreover, in places where governments have tried this policy and successfully prosecuted the companies who violated the law, it took years to get the result. Therefore, it would be very unpractical to make companies and individuals to pay the bill of pollution. The governments could, however, make it mandatory for companies to set up effluent treatment plants and subsidize them greatly so as to increase compliance of the companies to set them up.

Summing up, pollution is a serious issue and the government should not leave it to the individuals and companies to pay its bill. It can however, make it mandatory for the companies to set up effluent treatment plants so that pollution is minimized.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: it may not be possible to say who is to blame

Para 2: the big companies say that they are already paying heavy taxes to the government.

Para 3: in places where governments have tried this policy and successfully prosecuted the companies who violated the law, it took years to get the result.

Conclusion:

145. Development in technology causes environmental problems. Some people believe the solution for these problems is that everyone should accept a simpler way of life, while others say that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is irrefutable that progress in technology leads to environmental problems. Some individuals are of the opinion that if people live a simple life and do not use the things that technology has brought us then these problems can be solved, whereas others opine that only technology can solve these problems. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss both viewpoints. I, however, side with the latter view.

The main reason why some people say that if humans stop using technology and lead a simple way of life, then only we can save the environment, is that it is the luxuries people use, which damage the environment. If people don't use air conditioners, automobiles and other such things that technology has brought us, then naturally there would be less pollution and natural resources like fossil fuels would be saved and all this would save the environment.

On the other hand, there are reasons why people say that technology alone could save the environment. Firstly, there are a lot of advances going on in technology, which are helping the environment a lot. One prime example is finding solutions to water problems in developing countries such as Africa. Here, desalination plants have been set up to get clean drinking water from sea water – an almost inexhaustible resource. Furthermore, Japan is working to build a working space solar power system by 2030. By drawing on the colossal energy of the sun, it could meet the entire world's electricity requirements indefinitely without nuclear or GHG emissions. If successful, the impact on the world would be monumental. It would mean energy for schools, hospitals, and homes. It would mean another industrial revolution.

I believe that the people of today's fast paced life, simply cannot take a u-turn to the age of the bullock cart. We have to look upto the technology to save the environment. For example, air conditioners are no longer a luxury; they have become a necessity because of global warming, but these air conditioners can be made in such a way that they use less energy and provide more cooling. The 5-star AC's of today are the eco-friendly technological creations.

Summing up, technology alone can solve the world's environmental problems. We are finally entering an era where engineering and technology are making the world a better place. It would be highly impractical to ask people to adopt a simpler way of life.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people opine that we should adopt simpler ways of life
Para 2: Why some people say technology alone can help
Para 3: Some examples of how technology is helping us
Conclusion:

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146. Most countries do not recycle their waste like paper, glass, and aluminum cans. Why does this happen and what steps can be taken to encourage recycling?

Many people opine that recycling is the most wasteful activity: a waste of time and money, a waste of human and natural resources. However, environmentalists vigorously refute this. This essay intends to look into the reasons why people don't recycle and also suggest ways to encourage them for recycling.

There are many reasons why people don't recycle. Firstly, people don't want to put in the extra effort. Some places have no pick-up and so they find recycling inconvenient. Secondly, the lack of space is an issue for many. People don't want to see garbage and with little storage space for recycling bins, the trash is an eyesore. Thirdly, people think that it does not make a difference, so they don't bother to do it. They also find it too hard to do. Since there are so many facets to recycling glass, plastic and paper. It's hard to decipher which kinds go where.

Furthermore, people feel that recycling consumes energy. They talk about the fuel needed to drive those recycling trucks around carrying old newspapers from place to place. The cost involved in the recycling industry is much more than trash disposal at times. What they don't know is that even taking this into account, there is a net benefit from recycling compared to landfill or incineration. The benefits to society from recycling compensate for any difference in cost. According to a current UK survey, the recycling of paper, glass, plastics, aluminum and steel was estimated to save more than 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year through avoided primary material production.

People can be encouraged in many ways. To begin with, they should be made aware about the benefits of recycling. Integrating recycling into the high school educational system could also help. An economic incentive to recycle should be there. In a study it was seen that offering reward for recycling can clearly contribute to increasing recycling rates, and almost a quarter of adults would be encouraged to recycle more frequently if they received a financial benefit. Moreover, some day could be dedicated to recycling. For example, America Recycles Day (ARD) is a day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy, recycled products. ARD is celebrated annually on November 15. Thousands of events are held across the U.S. to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and to encourage Americans to sign personal pledges to recycle and buy products made from recycled materials.

To sum up, recycling is the need of the day, but many people do not recycle for various reasons given above. However, effective steps could be taken to encourage people to recycle.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why people don't recycle
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

147. Some people think that the amount of noise people make has to be controlled strictly. Others, however, say that people should be free to make as much noise as they wish. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Noise pollution is a matter of great concern nowadays. Knowingly or unknowingly, every one of us contributes to noise pollution, because most of our day-to-day activities generate some noise. Some people are of the opinion that there should be some restriction on the level of noise from human activities. Others do not believe in such regulations. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The most important argument given by those in favour of noise control is that loud noise may adversely affect people in many ways. Noise above a certain level can cause hearing loss. Occupational noise exposure is the most common cause of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). For example, repeated exposure to noise pollution at a construction site can cause NIHL to construction workers, an effect that cannot be reversed.

Furthermore, there are the emotional or psychological effects such as irritability, anxiety and stress. Lack of concentration and mental fatigue are significant health effects of noise. It has been observed that the performance of school children is poor in comprehension tasks when schools are situated in busy areas of a city and suffer from noise pollution disturbance. Therefore, it is imperative that some check should be there on noise production.

On the other hand, those who oppose such laws against noise generation, give their reasons as follows. They assert that some amount of noise is inevitable. The sources may be domestic, natural, commercial or industrial. People believe that making noise at times is their basic right to express their emotions. They want to cheer and shout for their favourite team and dance to the beat of loud music when happy. They take any regulation on noise, as infringement of their basic rights.

To sum up, suitable action has to be taken to attenuate the noise levels and control noise pollution. It is high time we all realize that noise pollution is a slow poison.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why it should be controlled
Para 2: Why it should be controlled
Para 3: Why some people say it should not be controlled
Conclusion:

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148. In some cities, the government has tried to reduce traffic. For instance, they imposed a congestion tax during rush hours. Do you think this development is positive or negative?

The transportation system of any nation is an indicator of its progress. With the increasing number of vehicles on the roads, the traffic problems have also increased. In certain cities, these traffic-related problems, like congestion, are addressed by implementing taxes and other traffic rules strictly. I think such taxes have more benefits than disadvantages.

The first major advantage of imposing traffic rules and taxes is that more and more people are discouraged from using their private vehicles. It has been noticed in cities where the road taxes are high, most of the people prefer using the public transport, thus leading to less congestion on the roads. For example, in London, when the congestion tax was implemented, it reduced the traffic in the central parts of the city by around 15%. People start looking at other options of transport, like car-pooling, walking short distances and using the public transport more often. The added advantage is the reduced pollution, which has also become the need of the hour.

Moreover, the government can use the money collected from such taxes and use it for improving the public transport infrastructure. Government can invest in building new transport systems, like the metros and the subways, building more freeways, widening the existing roads, etc. For instance, in New Delhi, many people now prefer to travel by Metros rather than their private vehicles because of the comforts and the quality. The government has constantly maintained and improved the quality of this system over the years and more and more routes have been added. This has been a major factor in reducing the use of private vehicles.

Some people argue that there are already very high charges for buying a private vehicle, starting from getting it registered, paying road taxes and then further maintenance, when needed. They feel that such rules are inequitable and are not the answer to the congestion issues. Yet, we pay for all the other resources, like water, electricity, etc. according to their use. So, I believe that even for traffic there should be use-based charges, as it is also a service.

To sum up, the pros of implementing more road and traffic related taxes are definitely more than the cons. These benefit both the individuals and the nation.

Plan followed

Intro: Pros more than cons
Para 1: Advantages of such taxes
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: The other view with refutation
Conclusion:

149. Some people say that instead of preventing climate change we should find a way to live with it. Do you agree or disagree?

I completely disagree with the given statement that we should not do anything for the prevention of the change in the global climate, and that we should come to terms with it and live with it. I believe that prevention and adaptation have to go on simultaneously. There are a number of arguments to support my view, which I will discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The main reason why steps are needed to find ways to alleviate the problem of global warming is that the rate at which the climate is warming and changing, is alarming. Undeniably, global warming and the subsequent changes in climate are natural processes and are bound to happen. However, if this rate is not controlled soon, we may be looking at the doom of our planet. If we do not take measures soon to stop further changes in our environment and the global climate, there might be drastic changes in our ecosystem, leading to the extinction of many plants and animal species, including the human beings.

Secondly, the ways we may adopt to live with the climate change, may further hasten the process of global warming and we may complicate things beyond repair. For example, if we use more air-conditioners to fight the longer summers, then these luxuries may cause even more pollution and global warming, and the rise in temperature may go up exponentially. This may lead to even more extreme climatic changes than ever before. Only over the last decade, we have had the highest and the lowest ever recorded temperatures, the worst ever floods, the most devastating storms, hurricanes and tsunamis, and many other natural disasters, which are the direct result of the climate change. If these disasters continue at this rate, then that day is not far, when there will be little or no life on earth.

Unarguably, we have to do both, prevention and adaptation side by side. We have to adapt to these changes in the climate, which have already taken place, as these are irreversible. New building material is required to deal with these changes in the temperatures. For example, insulated materials can be used to make buildings in places where the temperatures have risen in the recent years. The design and architecture needs to be looked at and changed to deal with the extreme climatic conditions. We need to see that the methods we are using to adapt are environment friendly. We also need to change our lifestyle so that we can prevent further damage as much as possible.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the rate at with the changes in the climate are occurring needs to be controlled, but at the same time we have to adapt to these changes also. If we just focus on adapting ourselves and not do anything for preventing further damage, then it will not be enough.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Why adapting is also needed
Conclusion

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150. The responsibility to prevent global environmental damage is on politicians rather than individuals. Do you agree or disagree?

The extent of the damage to the environment has become an international issue, and needs to be tackled soon and effectively. Some people consider it as the sole responsibility of the governments to take steps towards solving this pressing issue. However, I disagree with this perspective. I believe that although this issue needs to be handled by policy makers at the national and international levels, every inhabitant of Earth also needs to do his/her bit and take small steps to contribute towards a cleaner environment.

To begin with, the major cause of the deteriorating condition of the environment is pollution caused by the use of vehicles. This can be easily dealt with in a better way at the individual level, than at the state level. If each person takes it upon himself or herself to use public transport more, to walk to short distances rather than using a vehicle or to use eco-friendly modes of transport, like bicycles, then this issue can be easily solved. The government should facilitate this by providing better public transport, good roads and separate walking and cycling lanes. However, ultimately it will work only if each citizen contributes.

To add to it, globalization and advancement in technology has led to a consumerist society, where the consumption of material goods has increased manifold. An adverse effect of such a society is the "throw-away culture", where people have stopped recycling and simply throw away things and buy new ones. If people start recycling things, the land and soil pollution will decrease greatly.

Also, people should be conscious about buying products with less packaging material used. Another important step that every citizen can take is to say no to plastic and use more eco-friendly materials. It's an easy step that needs to be taken at an individual level. The government can definitely help by making laws against the use of plastic bags and other environment damaging materials.

To sum up, I reiterate that even though the problem of environmental damage has escalated to a level that needs to be handled globally, by the politicians and environmentalists, every person also needs to make contributions to alleviate this situation. Only then will we be able to ensure a good quality life for the future generations.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Steps at individual action
Para 2: More steps
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

151. Nowadays in many countries household waste e.g. food packaging is increasing day by day. What are the causes for that? How can this problem be solved?

The statistics about the household waste being produced today are alarming. Roughly 50 tonnes of household waste is being produced every second, and this number is projected to double by 2030. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon and suggest steps to mitigate the problem.

To begin with, modern lifestyle has contributed greatly to the increasing amount of waste and garbage we produce every day. In other words, we have turned into a materialistic and mass-consumption society, where we use more and throw away more than ever before. Once new things are acquired, we dispose-off these "unwanted" things to second hand shops, or just in the trash cans.

Secondly, the markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items. Our houses and closets seem to be overflowing with goods that are more in quantity and less in value. Then, there is too much packaging done by the companies in a bid to make their things more attractive. Mostly this packaging is made from non-biodegradable products, such as plastic.

The solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible. We should not buy things with excessive packaging. This will deter companies from doing too much packaging. We can also bring our own personal shopping bags instead of using plastic bags provided by stores and shops. Besides, the government can enforce stricter laws on companies to use biodegradable packaging. Furthermore, plastics, metal, glass can be recycled. Companies can also contribute by developing new raw material, which is recyclable and will ultimately lead to less garbage.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the increase in household waste being generated. However, some simple steps can be taken to ameliorate the problem. If we do not take steps to tackle this problem on a war footing, our Earth will become uninhabitable very soon.

Plan followed

Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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152. Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) are the main sources in many countries, but in some countries the use of alternative sources of energy (wind energy and solar energy) are encouraged. To what extent do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is irrefutable that fossil fuels are the main source of energy in many parts of the world, but some nations are taking a step forward and using renewable sources like wind, solar and tidal energy. Definitely, it is a positive development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of using alternate sources is that the conventional sources like coal and oil are non-renewable. They take millions of years to make and we are finishing them at an alarming rate. This means that if we finish the existing resources they will be gone forever as far as our generation and the coming generations are concerned. Energy from the wind, the sun and the sea is an everlasting source of power. So, more and more governments should come forward in promoting these sources.

Another big advantage of these non-conventional sources is that they do not pollute the environment. We all know that global warming and damage to the protective ozone layer are caused by carbon-dioxide and other by-products of fossil fuels. If urgent steps are not taken towards the use of natural sources like sun and wind, then the time is not far when the whole earth will transform into a boiling pot.

Although the use of these alternative sources has some hurdles such as the initial cost of setting up solar panels and wind farms is very high and these are also dependent on the geographical locations. However, once the initial cost has been met with, their maintenance is practically negligible.

Summing up, the use of these alternative sources is a very positive development. It should be the global priority to invest in such research and development.

Plan followed

Intro: It is a positive development
Para 1: First advantage of alternative sources – renewable
Para 2: Second advantage of alternative sources – non polluting
Para 3: Some drawbacks of alternative sources
Initial cost high
Dependent on geographical locations
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

153. Nuclear energy is a better choice for meeting increasing demand. Do you support the use of nuclear technology for constructive purposes? Use your own knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

These days it seems like everyone is worried about how the world will meet its energy demands when we run out of oil and natural gas. Solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, nuclear energy and so on are being developed as alternative sources. In my view, nuclear power is not a good choice for meeting the increasing demand because it can be used to cause great human disaster by the use of nuclear weapons of mass-destruction, it is too expensive, the materials used are not safe and there is a possibility of accidents.

To begin with, nuclear technology could be wrongly used for terrorist activities and mass destruction. An increasing number of countries now have nuclear weapons or have the technology required to make such bombs. If life on earth is to continue, we must control nuclear weapons of mass destruction. To eliminate the threat of nuclear war, all the nuclear power nations of the world should agree to disarm as soon as possible.

Secondly, nuclear power is not economical. Nuclear fuel is expensive and on top of that nuclear power stations cost a lot to build and operate. People who work in nuclear power stations must be highly trained specialists and so their salaries also must be high.

In addition to being expensive, nuclear materials are not safe. When uranium is taken out from the ground, radioactive gas is released, which is not safe for miners. People who work with nuclear fuels also can get cancer. Moreover, as nuclear power stations run, they create a lot of nuclear waste, which is also dangerous. No town wants nuclear waste buried nearby and for good reasons.

Most significantly, there is always the risk of nuclear accidents. The power stations can fail when they get old. The machinery can malfunction or there can be human error. For example, there was an accident in the Tarapur Power Station in 1992 and who hasn't heard of the Chernobyl disaster in former USSR in 1986.

To sum up, it is true that oil and gas cannot supply all the world's energy needs, but we cannot replace them with a source which is expensive and dangerous. Therefore, I disagree that nuclear technology should be used for any purposes even though they are constructive.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Disadvantage of nuclear power – could be misused
Para 2: Disadvantage of nuclear power – not economical
Para 3: Disadvantage of nuclear power – not safe
Para 4: Disadvantage of nuclear power – risk of accidents
Conclusion:

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154. International community must act immediately to ensure all nations reduce their consumption of fossil fuels e.g. gas and oil. Do you agree or disagree?

Our future crucially depends on the long-term availability of energy sources, which are also safe and environmentally friendly. The present resources we use are the fossil fuels, which are neither going to last forever, nor good for the environment. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that the international community like the United Nations must take immediate actions to ensure that all countries lessen the use of such resources.

To begin with, a strong reason for the international community to intervene and see to it that all nations curtail their use of fossil fuels is that no individual nation would take this initiative on its own. Any country, which takes the step to reduce the use of fossil fuels, would have to invest in the alternative resources, which would raise the price of their goods and their economy would suffer. If there were pressure from the international community then all countries would have to comply with it.

The second major reason for the need of international mediation is that when any country uses oil and gas excessively, then the pollution caused affects the other countries. For example, cross-border pollution from China is causing serious environmental problems in Japan and South Korea as the Chinese continue to expand their economy at great environmental cost. It is well known that air and water pollution do not know any national boundaries. Pollutants can be carried by wind and water to places much away from their source of origin. Therefore, solving such problems is an international matter.

Finally, an urgent action needs to be taken for reducing the use of conventional sources like coal and oil because these are non-renewable. They take millions of years to make and are being used at an alarming rate. This means that if international action is not taken immediately, these resources will be gone forever, and there will be nothing left for the future generations. Energy from the wind, the sun and the sea is an everlasting source of power. So, more and more governments should come forward in promoting these sources. Here, an international organization's intervention is needed because individual governments can become complacent.

In conclusion, it is vital for international powerful organizations to pose strict regulations on consumption of oil and gas worldwide, and all nations must take part in reducing the usage of fossil fuels.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Reason 1 – no nation would take any step on its own
Para 2: Reason 2 - one country's pollution may affect others
Para 3: Reason 3 – these are non renewable
Conclusion:

Written by Indroop Singh

155. Some people think that the government should strictly control the supply of fresh water, as the resources are limited. While others think we can use as much water as we want. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Water is the hub of life, and the crisis of our diminishing freshwater resources has also become very severe. Therefore, many people feel that governments should impose restrictions on the use of fresh water, where as some people oppose the restraints on water use. This essay intends to look into both standpoints. I, personally side with the former view.

The main reason why some people are in favour of government control on the supply of fresh water is that fresh water is very scarce. Though 75% of the earth is covered in water, only 1% of it is fresh water with the rest being saline in nature. So, fresh water has to be used frugally. Any resource without restriction is bound to result in wastage of it. For example, in countries like India, where there is shortage of water, people from the upper strata misuse the fresh water in swimming and other water related sports. The main cause of water scarcity is water mismanagement. Thus, this clearly shows that the restrictions on water are required for it to be used in an efficient manner.

On the other hand, a limit on such basic amenity as water does not appeal to many people for the following reason. They say that it would make it an even more valued resource, especially for the underprivileged. For instance, some resourceful rich people could influence some corrupt officials to have more fresh water supplied to them. This would make the barely available water to be even more unaffordable for the people of lower strata. Thus, this clearly shows that restrictions on already less available fresh water would just worsen the situation.

I believe, that the government should have the control on the supply of fresh water, as it is a very precious commodity today. Water is essential for all dimensions of life. Governments should pay attention on freshwater consumption by restricting its mismanagement. There should be strict laws against those industries, which are polluting underground water by their effluents. The government should also educate and aware the people about ways in which to use water frugally.

To conclude, I firmly believe that fresh water supply should be in government's hands. Nevertheless, care should also be taken to ensure that the authority controlling water supply would serve all people equally and impartially.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reason in favour of government control
Para 2: Reason against government control
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

Written by Kiranpreet Kaur

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156. Some people think the main benefit of international cooperation is in protection of the environment, while others think that the main benefit is in the world business. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In the much-connected global village of today, there has been a lot of international cooperation in many fields. Some individuals are of the opinion that the main benefit of global cooperation has been in protection of the environment, but others hold the view that the main benefit has been in international trade. In this essay, I intend to delve into both views. I personally side with the latter view.

Those who say that the main benefit of international cooperation is towards environmental protection, give their reasons as follows. First of all, many governments have realized that it is a grave issue and have taken steps to aware the people of the simple steps they can take to save the environment. Besides educating people, many steps have been taken at the global level. For example, the World Environment Day, 2018 targeted plastic pollution and many countries including India pledged to give up single use plastics by 2022.

On the other hand, the main reason why some people say that the main role of international cooperation has been in world business, is that people can spread their business in any part of the world. As a result, brands like Reebok and Nike are available in every country. For example, an Indian brand like Videocon has touched the international market. This has brought the economy of developing countries quite close to the developed ones.

In my opinion, although a lot has been done in both areas, a lot more needs to be done in the field of environment. The steps already taken are not enough and the governments need to tackle this issue on a war footing. When countries step forward to do something for the environment, the issue of CDR (common but differentiated responsibility) comes in, and there are differences among the developed and developing countries. The developed world, which is mainly responsible for damaging the environment, should take more responsibility in saving the environment.

Summing up, although international co-operation has benefited the world business as well as the environment, the benefit to the business has been much more than to the environment.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: What has been done internationally for environment
Para 2: What has been done internationally for business
Para 3: own view – a lot more needs to be done for the environment
Conclusion: More has been done for trade than environment

157. The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of damaging these natural areas? (Against Drilling)

Drilling for oil and gas around the world is a source of significant income, but at the same time it is placing increasing pressure upon the global environment. There is a race for seeking these resources in remote and previously untouched areas such as Alaska and Antarctica. However, I firmly believe that the cons of tapping these resources outweigh the pros. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

It is irrefutable that fossil fuels helped to drive the industrial revolution and increase our luxuries. Their extraction has caused a terrible impact in the environment and continues to damage this planet. The main problem with the extraction of fossil fuels is that the transportation of these fuels can be very expensive. A lot of infrastructure is required, with pipelines and shipping routes stretching thousands of kilometres.

Furthermore, sometimes accidents can occur when these materials are taken overseas. These accidents are not only expensive to the human pocket, but also harm the environment in an immeasurable way. An example of this is the spill, which took place in 1989 in Alaska. This was the largest spill in the history of the United States. About 2,800 sea otters and 250,000 seabirds were killed by the spill. Harbor seals, bald eagles, killer whales, and salmon were also greatly affected.

The final problem would be the greenhouse effect. The extraction and use of fossil fuels is causing global warming. This is because when we use fossil fuels, it causes carbon dioxide, water vapor, ozone, nitrous oxide, halocarbon gases, and methane to collect in the upper layers of atmosphere, which causes the greenhouse effect. We have to use alternative sources of energy, which are non-polluting. Otherwise, the whole Earth will very soon transform into a boiling pot.

To conclude, there is no doubt that fossil fuels are a very important resource in these times, and because of them we have many luxuries such as cars, heating, electricity, running water, and many more. But, we cannot forget that our biggest luxury is our planet, and it is being damaged by the excessive extraction and use of these fuels. This is why people around the world should support the use of renewable resources. By doing this, we will not only have a chance to restore the environment, but can also still have a comfortable and much healthier way of life.

Plan followed

Intro: cons of tapping these resources outweigh the pros
Para 1: transportation of these fuels can be very expensive
Para 2: sometimes accidents can occur when these materials are taken overseas
Para 3: The extraction and use of fossil fuels is causing global warming.
Conclusion – people around the world should support the use of renewable resources.

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158. The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of damaging these natural areas? (For Drilling)

Drilling for oil and gas around the world is a source of significant income, but at the same time it is placing increasing pressure upon the global environment. There is a race for seeking these resources in remote and previously untouched areas such as Alaska and Antarctica. However, I firmly believe that the pros of tapping these resources outweigh the cons. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Oil drilling should be allowed in order to lower the fuel prices, which will play a significant role in the economic growth of any country. If it is banned in a particular region, it leads to a situation, whereby the dependence on other countries for oil increases. In simpler words, oil import increases and consequently, it affects the overall country's income.

Another benefit of oil drilling is that the process of drilling itself and development of land after the extraction will help in engaging people, thus creating jobs for hundreds of citizens. What is more, with the development of new technologies, it has been seen that oil drilling can be done without damaging the environment and disturbing the plant and animal habitat. In the last two decades there have been no accidents, such as oil spills.

Environmentalists oppose oil drilling and suggest that alternative sources of energy should be used. However, it is well known that the initial cost of setting up the solar panels and wind farms is exorbitantly high. Therefore, I reiterate my opinion in favour of drilling for oil and gas. Even if renewable sources of energy are tapped, still the demand for oil and gas will never lessen.

To conclude, I believe that drilling for oil in remote areas is the need of the day and therefore its advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: pros of tapping these resources outweigh the cons
Para 1: Oil drilling should be allowed in order to lower the fuel prices that will play a significant role in the economic growth of the country.
Para 2: Another benefit of oil drilling is that the process of drilling itself and development of land after the extraction will help in engaging people, thus creating jobs for hundreds of citizens
Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it
Conclusion – I believe that drilling for oil in remote areas is the need of the day and therefore its advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

159. On vehicle-free day, private cars, trucks and motorcycles are banned in the city centre while the public transport is permitted such as bicycles, buses and taxis. Do the benefits of vehicle-free day outweigh the disadvantages?

People are becoming increasingly aware of the problems caused by vehicular pollution. As a result, in many cities, vehicle-free days are observed, when the private vehicles are not allowed in the city centers. On these days, only the public transport and bicycles are permissible. In my opinion, the advantages of such measures are much more than their drawbacks.

There are numerous advantages of banning private vehicles from the city centers on certain days. The first and foremost is that the pollution, both noise and air, is drastically reduced. Use of public transport and no use of private vehicles on some days causes less air pollution and makes the Earth clean. No use of personal vehicles also means less pollution of noise and sound, which can save the Earth from noise pollution and one can hear voices of birds and various animals and can feel the nature. So, it's better to use public vehicles rather than personal car to make the Earth a better place to live. Most of the heat generated is due to vehicles, so it is imperative to tolerate some inconveniences and welcome such vehicle-free days.

Secondly, there is lesser traffic in the city centers, thus making it safer and easier for those on foot and bicycles to commute. The chances of traffic jams are minimized, and thus the productive time wasted because of traffic congestion can actually be utilized at work. It has been found in a research that many people adopt the public transport and use their personal vehicles less and less even on other days, when there is no such restriction.

Admittedly, there is a downside to banning private vehicles in the city centers. First, it affects the business and slows down the economy of that city. Secondly, vehicle-free days are a waste of effort. A single odd day here and there cannot solve the problem of pollution. Moreover, personal vehicles are extremely convenient, especially for medical emergencies or any kind of situation requiring quick response.

I believe that the positives of vehicle-free days outstrip the demerits. However, before taking such a major step, the authorities need to ensure that the public transit is comfortable, economical and convenient for the daily commuters. The government and the individuals can together take initiatives at their own levels, to make such measures truly successful.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the observance of vehicle-free days in city centers has more merits than downsides. Closing city centres to cars for even one day in a year would help people to address chronic problems like pollution by making the switch to alternative transportation gradually.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Para 4: Own opinion
Conclusion:

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160. Nowadays, people always throw the old things away when they buy new things, some people claim that the broken things should be repaired and used again. What factors cause this phenomenon? What effects does the phenomenon lead to?

Modern culture is a consumerist one. It is also known as 'disposable culture' or 'use and throw' culture. In this essay I shall deal with the causes and effects of this phenomenon.

The most important reason leading to this phenomenon is the consumerist society of today and the increase in the buying capacity of people. They are flooded with choices and want to buy the latest models of things and the latest fashion of clothes. So, the old things have to be discarded. Secondly, people don't have the time to get old things repaired. In order to buy more and more things, people have become workaholics and therefore they don't find time to get things repaired. Finally, the manufacturing companies are compromising quality when they are doing mass production of things. So, the things stop functioning very soon and sometimes the repair is costlier than the product. So, naturally, repair has taken a back seat.

The most serious effect of this use-and-throw culture is on the environment. The landfill sites are filling up with non-biodegradable wastes. Destroying used plastic is becoming a major problem everywhere. Even the recycling of plastic needs a lot of electricity. Conventional methods of generating electricity add to pollution. Disposing of a lot of waste materials also adds to pollution. The amount of energy used in manufacturing and disposal of consumer goods is leading us to a brink of energy crises.

Another effect is that these discarded things are being dumped in the oceans and are being consumed by marine life which may ultimately end up on our plates. This waste is also acting as a sponge for oil spills in the oceans which makes it even more difficult to clean the oceans. There is also the question of e-waste. The technological gadgets we use and throw, add lead, cadmium and mercury to soil and water. This makes it clear how disastrous the consequences of this use-and-throw culture are.

To summarise, there are many causes and effects of this use-and-throw culture and steps must be taken on a war footing by the individual and government if we want to save our environment for our coming generations.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Causes
Para 2: Effects – on environment
Para 3: More effects
Conclusion –

Similar essay: Nowadays, we are living in a throw-away society. What are its causes and what are its problems?

161. Many people say that we have developed into a "throw-away" culture, because we are filling up our environment with so many plastic bags and rubbish that we cannot fully dispose of. To what extent do you agree with this opinion and what measures can you recommend reducing this problem?

Environmentalists today are campaigning for "reduce, recycle and reuse" in a bid to save the world, but we as a nation, have adopted "replace" as our mantra. This and many other factors are leading to a throwaway society. In this essay, I shall discuss some steps that can be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, modern lifestyle has contributed greatly to the increasing amount of waste and garbage we produce every day. In other words, we have turned into a materialistic and mass-consumption society where we use more and throw away more than ever before. Once new things are acquired, we dispose-off these "unwanted" things to second hand shops or just in the trash cans. The solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible.

Secondly, the markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items. Our houses and closets seem to be overflowing with goods that are more in quantity and less in value. Then, there is too much packaging done by the companies in a bid to make their things more attractive. Here too, the onus lies with us. We should not buy things with excessive packaging. This will deter companies from doing too much packaging. We can also bring our own personal shopping bags instead of using plastic bags provided by stores and shops. Besides, the government can enforce stricter laws on companies to use biodegradable packaging.

Furthermore, plastics, waste metal, glass can be recycled. Companies can also contribute by developing new raw material which is recyclable and will ultimately lead to less garbage.

To sum up, individuals, business and the government can share the responsibility to reduce the amount of waste material and to save the earth. If we do not take steps to tackle this problem on a war footing, our Earth will become uninhabitable.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: modern lifestyle - materialistic and mass-consumption society - solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible

Para 2: markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items - there is too much packaging – suggest solutions

Para 3: The answer lies in recycling

Conclusion – individuals, business and the government can share the responsibility to reduce the amount of waste material and to save the earth

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162. The best way for the government to solve the problem of traffic congestion in cities, is to provide free public transport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic congestion is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. I, however, beg to differ. I believe that free public transport could help in solving the traffic problem to some extent, but it definitely is not the best solution, as it would lead to many other problems.

There are many reasons why free public transport would be a good method to solve traffic congestion. Undoubtedly, many people, especially daily commuters, would benefit from free public transport. But such a service would be a big burden on the governments, as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted, as these would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economic grounds to run free public transport. So, it would not be the best method to solve traffic problems.

There are numerous other, equally good or better, ways to solve the traffic problems. The most effective would be to encourage people to use public transport. This could be done by decreasing the fare, increasing the comfort and increasing the frequency of public transport. Obviously, if people do not have to waste time waiting for the bus or train, get comfortable seats and have to pay far less than what they would have to spend on their own personal vehicle, then they would willingly choose public transport, and would not mind paying for it. So this step would prove better than giving a totally free public transport.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people from using their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance, if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. This would be a win-win situation for the environment and the people.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement, as it would not be economically viable for the government. Therefore, it would not be the best method. The better methods would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Points against free public transport
Para 2: Better methods to reduce traffic congestion
Para 3: Better methods
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

163. Nowadays, some countries are spending a lot of money to make it easier to use bicycle. Why is this so? Is it the best solution to transport problem?

It is true that many countries, most of which are developed countries, have started investing in the bicycle industry. There are more than a billion bicycles in the world, twice as many as automobiles. In recent years, bike production has climbed to over 100 million per year (compared to 50 million cars). This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that although it is a good solution to the traffic problem, it is not the best solution.

The main reason is that these countries realize that cycling is a clean alternative to motorbikes and cars, and so investing in facilities for cycling will help reduce congestion and pollution. Problems related to congestion in the cities of the emerging world continue to grow, and will grow faster than any investment in new roads could match. Secondly cycling is cheaper and healthier than other forms of transport. Bicyclist commuters are generally healthier than those who drive motor vehicles to work. They also remain unaffected by OPEC decisions about crude oil production or the price per barrel.

Another very important reason for investing in this industry, is the potential of this industry to provide jobs. Every cycle lane which is made, and every cyclist who is created, contributes to job growth. In Europe alone, more than 6 lac people are employed in the cycling industry - more jobs than in mining and quarrying, the steel industry, and even any other automobile industry. The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland and many more countries have started investing in a big way and have seen many positive effects.

As far as the best solution to transport problem is concerned, I still feel that cycling comes second to public transport. There are a few limitations in the use of bicycles. First, these need to be balanced by the rider in order to remain upright. Not everyone can ride one. Second, there is reduced protection in crashes, in comparison to motor vehicles. Another disadvantage is that there is longer travel time (except in densely populated areas). Cycling is also vulnerable to weather conditions. Finally, a basic level of fitness is required for cycling moderate to long distances. Public transport, on the other hand, caters to all segments of society. There are children, the elderly, the sick, the disabled and pregnant women, who cannot ride a bicycle.

To summarise, there are many motives for countries to invest in making cycling easier, which have been explained in the above paragraphs. However, cycling is not the best solution to transport problem. Investing in public transport takes the lead in this arena.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Why investment in cycling is not the best option.

Conclusion:

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164. People are encouraged to get rid of things in order to get the newest fashion and the latest technology. Do the disadvantages of a throwaway society outweigh the economic advantages?

It is irrefutable that consumerism is promoted in many nations of the world. This essay intends to analyse the positive and negative effects of this use-and-throw culture. I personally believe that the disadvantages outstrip the advantages.

On the positive side, consumerism leads to mass production, which is something good for the employment sector. Mass manufacturing definitely leads to mass employment. This is undoubtedly beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, because of consumerism, people get choices. When there is demand, more and more manufacturers come in the market. For instance, about two decades ago, there was only Kissan tomato ketchup in the market; but today we have Heinz, Del Monte, Cremica, Maggi and so many more varieties of tomato ketchups in the market.

On the downside, consumerism promotes a use-and-throw culture, which is very bad for the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely harmful to the environment.

Secondly, consumerism makes people work more and more to afford these products. This workaholism makes them forget to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family. The desires never end and consequently over-working becomes a part of life. This leads to stress and strain in life. Another negative point is that when children or youngsters are lured by these things and their parents cannot afford them, then they resort to petty crime such as pick-pocketing and chain snatching, which is certainly not good for any society.

To sum up, a throwaway society has both merits and demerits, but the cons are definitely more than the pros.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Positives of consumerism
Para 2: Cons of consumerism
Para 3: More cons of consumerism
Conclusion:

165. An increase in production of consumer goods results in damage of the natural environment. What are the causes and possible solutions?

Today we live in an era of continuously increasing consumer demand. This rate of consumption is increasing at an alarming rate. This essay shall deal with the causes of increase in production of goods and how it affects the environment and suggest some ways forward.

The first and foremost reason for the increase in production of consumer goods is the burgeoning population of today. More people lead to more demand. Secondly, because of globalization people are flooded with choices. When they see a new product they want that too. What is more, the buying capacity of people has gone up because of developing economies. Finally, the manufacturing industries are producing cheaper consumer goods by compromising with quality. These are affordable by the common man but the quality is so bad that they cannot be repaired. Mostly they have to be discarded after some time of use.

The most serious effect of this phenomenon is on the environment. Our landfill sites are filling up with non-biodegradable wastes. It is also leading to pollution. Destroying used plastic is becoming a major problem everywhere. Even the recycling of plastic needs a lot of electricity. Conventional methods of generating electricity add to pollution. Disposing of a lot of waste materials such as heavy metals like lead and mercury and poisonous gases also adds to pollution. It is said that the earth can satisfy everybody's need but not everybody's greed. The amount of energy used in manufacturing and disposal of consumer goods is also leading us to a brink of energy crises.

The solutions are not easy. Steps have to be taken on a war footing. People have to be made aware of the disastrous consequences of consumerism. People should buy only what is absolutely necessary. As far as possible biodegradable materials should be used as raw materials and excessive packaging should be avoided. Industries should be encouraged to use alternative sources of energy during production. Quality should not be compromised with. This would definitely help in reducing the use-and-throw culture. Finally, waste disposal methods should be very good. Strict action should be taken against those industries, which dump their effluents indiscriminately.

Summing up, consumerism is rampant nowadays and it is having a detrimental effect on our environment but steps can be taken to minimize the bad effects of excessive consumerism.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall deal with the causes of increase in production of goods and how it affects the environment and suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: Causes of increased production of consumer goods
Para 2: How it damages the environment
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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166. Nowadays, people live in the society where consumer goods are cheaper to buy. Do you think its advantages outweigh disadvantages?

Globalization has ushered in an era of consumerism and we are flooded with choices. Certainly, this phenomenon has both pros and cons. However, I believe that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages. I shall present arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

On the positive side, cheap consumer goods means they can be afforded by the majority and this in turn means mass production, which is something good for the employment sector. This is definitely beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, it reduces the gap between the rich and the poor to some extent because everyone can afford the things. For example, the market is flooded with cheap mobile phones from China, which can be seen in the hands of every Tom, Dick and Harry.

On the downside, cheap consumer goods means there is a compromise with the quality and more often than not, we bring home things, which become useless after one or two uses. This promotes a use-and-throw culture because the repair is sometimes costlier than the actual cost of the product. These products also do not carry any guarantee with them. So, in the long run the consumer suffers.

Another big disadvantage of cheap consumer goods is to the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these cheap goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely detrimental to the environment.

To conclude, cheap consumer goods do have their advantages but these advantages come at a heavy price to the consumer and the environment.

Plan followed

Intro: I believe that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: Disadvantage to environment
Conclusion:

167. Some people feel that manufacturers and supermarkets have the responsibility to reduce the amount of packaging of goods. While others argue that customers should avoid buying goods with a lot of packaging. Discuss both views and give your opinion. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

In the highly competitive era of today, a lot of packaging is done to attract customers, who are often lured by such products. This excessive packaging is detrimental to the environment and so has to be reduced. Some people say that the onus is on the supermarkets and manufacturers to cut off excess packaging, whereas others say that the customers should say no to products with excess packaging. I shall discuss both perspectives. I personally believe that a joint effort is needed by all.

The main reasons why some people say that the manufacturers and supermarkets should not do much packaging is that it would be a win-win situation for both – the manufacturer and the customer. For example, if the multinational company 'Colgate' gives up expensive packaging of its toothpastes, it could reduce its cost and pass on that profit margin to the customer, which would in turn increase its sales also.

On the other hand, those who say that customers should show greater interest towards items in simple packing, give the following reason. They say that companies would not take the risk of reducing packaging for fear of losing their market share. So, customers have to step forward. If customers start giving preference to materials with little or no packaging, then this would motivate producers to pack their products using the minimum packing and that too of biodegradable materials.

I believe that, both manufacturers and customers should take a step forward and save the environment. As it is the excessive packaging only adds to the trash generated in the homes. Only the barest minimum packaging should be there to ensure the durability, safety and freshness of products. For instance, most instant foods have to be packed in several layers using aluminum foil and superior plastic, with the purpose of longer shelf life. In such cases, the packaging could be allowed.

To summarise, manufacturers, supermarkets and customers have a collective role in reducing the amount of packaging of products.

Plan followed:

Intro: Manufacturers and consumers both should go against excessive packaging
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Second view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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168. Some people say that the best way to improve road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that the ideal way to ensure road safety is to raise the minimum age for getting a driving licence. I believe that this may help, but it is certainly not the best method, and other solutions should be considered as well.

Proponents of the given statement say that an experienced and highly skillful driver usually needs long training and practice. Therefore, drivers who are under the age of 18, in most cases, fail to have sufficient time to perfect their driving techniques. Moreover, teenage drivers are more likely to have collisions on the road, compared to drivers in other age groups because they like to take risks to get the excitement of driving. This is because young drivers, especially those who are in adolescence, tend to overestimate their driving abilities and underestimate the dangers on the road. Nevertheless, apart from controlling the legal age strictly, I believe that other measures must be taken to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

Firstly, the government should set higher standards for testing drivers' ability to drive and prolong the training time since better prepared drivers and riders can reduce the number of mishaps on roads. Besides, eating, drinking or talking on the phone while driving should be strictly prohibited as these activities might distract the driver's attention and cause some untoward consequences. Additionally, for those disqualified drivers, who have caused some accidents, a retest should be mandatory.

Finally, the stricter age limitation for drivers is especially suitable for those senior drivers who have a failing eyesight or problems with night vision. Although senior drivers might be adept at driving a car, their energy, eyesight and reaction time sometimes cannot make them cope with some unexpected traffic conditions.

In conclusion, although raising the lowest legal age can prevent some road mishaps, other considerations are equally important in tackling the issue.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Proponents view
Para 2: Other methods
Para 3: Other methods
Conclusion

169. The only way to improve the safety on our own road is to have stricter punishment for driving offenders. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that careless driving and violation of traffic rules certainly result in a large number of accidents and stricter punishments are necessary to reduce them. However, I disagree that stricter punishment for those violating the law is the only solution for ensuring road safety. I believe many other steps can be taken to improve the situation.

There are many other factors which cause road accidents. To begin with, poor road condition is considered a major reason for road casualties. For example, narrow roads and sharp curves often force even law-abiding drivers makes mistakes. Therefore, it should be noted that drivers alone cannot be blamed for such mishaps and giving them stricter punishments in these cases is no solution. It would be better for the government to straighten accident prone curves and widen narrow roads. Larger number of road signs and proper traffic signals can also be effective in reducing accidents on roads.

Furthermore, poor climate condition can be a major cause of accidents. For instance, poor visibility due to dense mist and rain, slippery roads on account of snowfall cause make driving difficult and cause serious accidents in many countries. Stricter punishment for drivers is a futile exercise in handling such problems. Modern technological innovations should be used to deal with such emergency situations.

On the other hand, reckless driving, speeding and breach of traffic rules by careless drivers have caused many accidents. Moreover, drunken and drowsy driving have also resulted serious traffic mishaps. While we admit that more stringent punishment for drivers would be an effective measure to an extent, it should not be considered the only way towards road safety.

In summary, there are certain situations where drivers are not responsible for a particular accident. Hence apart from punishing drivers with heavier penalties other effective measures should also be taken.

Plan followed

Intro: I disagree that stricter punishment for those violating the law is the only solution for ensuring road safety. I believe many other steps can be taken to improve the situation

Para 1: poor road condition is considered a major reason for road casualties – also suggest other solutions

Para 2: Furthermore, poor climate condition can be a major cause of accidents – suggest solutions

Para 3: Driving offenders should be punished but that is not the only solution

Conclusion: Hence apart from punishing drivers with heavier penalties other effective measures should also be taken

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170. Some people believe governments should spend money on building train and subway lines to reduce traffic congestion. Others think that building more and wider roads are the better way to reduce traffic congestion. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is indubitable that traffic congestion is a growing concern in many parts of the world. In order to mitigate this problem, some individuals suggest that motorways should be made. Others, however, believe that trains and subway lines should be constructed. Both of these methods will be analysed below. I personally believe that a combination of both approaches is the ideal solution to ameliorate the problem of traffic congestion.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of expanding the road network. First, it could naturally ease traffic jams. Obviously, more and more private vehicles would be accommodated, and commute time would reduce. This strategy would also be good from the economic perspective. The cost of road construction would be much lower than that of subway lines. The money thus saved can be used for other key sectors, such as healthcare and education.

On the other hand, those who are for the construction of mega rail systems, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, it is a more effective method to improve traffic condition. There are compelling evidences to support the investment in such public transportation. In countries where subway systems have been made up to standard, the number of private vehicles has come down. Trains can carry a much larger number of passengers than any other form of transport. Additionally, city dwellers can save time and also money on traveling expenses. For instance, in New Delhi, many people now prefer to travel by Metros rather than their private vehicles because of the comfort and the quality.

I personally believe that in places where the budget of the governments is constrained, a combination of both approaches is needed. For example, in India, the road networks are being expanded in almost all places, but subway lines are also being added slowly and steadily in many cities. In the foreseeable future, the expanded road networks are also going to prove inadequate, and so subway lines would remain the only solution.

To conclude, both methods discussed above can provide relief to traffic congestion. However, it is my opinion that the method to build trains and subways, would definitely prove better in the long run.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Advantages of road network
Para 2: Advantages of subways and train network
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

171. It has been suggested that everyone in the world wants to own a car, a TV and a fridge. Do you think the disadvantages of such a development outweigh advantages?

Today we belong to an era of materialism and everyone wants to have more and more in life. Things like a fridge, TV and car were the luxuries of yesteryears and have become the necessities of today. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon but the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, the quest for material possessions is what keeps the society going. People work hard to fulfil their needs and achieve their goals. It is everyone's right to own the comforts of life. Secondly, because of the demand for such things, the national economy is boosted. Manufacturing units provide round-the-clock employment to thousands of people to produce things in bulk. Mignon McLaughlin has rightly said that, "Be glad that you're greedy; the national economy would collapse if you weren't." What is more, when demand is more and mass production is done, then the cost of the things is cut down and the consumer is ultimately benefited.

On the downside, this is leading to stress and strain in the lives of people. People have become workaholics and are missing out on the joys of family and social life. Sometimes, people even adopt unethical means to get these things and this leads to crime and violence. There is no harm in owning things such as a car, TV or fridge, but things turn bad when this simple materialism turns into over-materialism and people start wanting a TV in each and every room of the house and a car per person of the family. Our neighbours have a triple storey house and there is a refrigerator on every floor just for their comfort. People fail to draw the line between necessity and indulgence and this creates all problems. They fail to realize that - "If you live for having it all, what you have is never enough."

The most significant disadvantage of excessive materialism is on the environment. Manufacturers promote their products through ads and people are lured into buying new things even without need. It is a bitter truth that a society in which consumption is artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand. For example, new models of TVs and refrigerators are introduced every other day and people just go and buy them even if they do not need those things. The disposal of old ones is adding to global litter and is destroying our environment.

To sum up, there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge, a TV and a car but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family.

Plan followed

Intro: the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages of materialism
Para 2: Disadvantages of materialism
Para 3: Disadvantages of materialism
Conclusion:

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172. In some countries the number of people using bikes as main transport mode is decreasing, even though it is so beneficial. Why is this so? How can people be encouraged to use more bicycles?

It is indubitable that the bicycle is being used less and less as a preferred mode of transport, despite the fact that it is advantageous. This essay intends to analyze some reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest ways to motivate people to use more bicycles.

There are many reasons for not using the bicycles in today's world. The first reason why people have abandoned the bicycle for the faster modes like car and motorbike is that life has become busy and everyone has so much to do and so little time. Other modes of transport are more time effective. Secondly, the roads are so full of heavy traffic that bicycles are not safe. If it were safer to ride bicycles, many people would commute short distances on bike. Another reason for not using the bike is the unfavourable weather. The hot and humid summer months make it impossible for anyone to use the bike. Of course, no one wants to reach the office smelling of sweat. Last but not least, people want to show off their status, and riding a bike does not solve this purpose.

There are many ways to motivate people to use the bike. The onus is on the government to make cycling safer and more inviting. Investment needs to be done in a vast network of cycling paths. For example, in Denmark, there are 19000 km of cycle tracks, as a result of which many people ride bikes. These cycle tracks are clearly marked, have smooth surfaces, separate signs and lights for those on two wheels, and wide enough to allow side-by-side cycling and overtaking. Perhaps, that is why, there are more bicycles than the number of people in Denmark.

Furthermore, people could be made aware of the benefits of cycling. Bicycle is a cheap and green mode of transport. Media, such as the TV, could be used for this purpose. Our celebrities, who act as the role models for many, could be a lot of help. If they start using the bicycle, many youngsters would follow them and do the same. For example, a few months ago, Vidya Balan, India's famous film star, was seen on TV saying that whenever she has to gift something, she gifts a sapling. Since then, I have started giving a sapling to my friends on their birthdays.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people do not use the bicycle now, but some effective steps could be taken by the governments to promote the use of bicycles.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: ways to motivate people
Para 3: More ways
Conclusion:

173. In some cities people are choosing cars instead of bicycles, while in other cities riding bikes is replacing cars. Why is this the case? Which development do you think is better?

Advancements in technology have brought many changes to various parts of the world. In the fast paced life and ever-changing world of today, in some cities, people are switching to cars from bicycles as a popular means of transport, whereas in some other cities the reverse of this trend is seen, with bicycles gaining more popularity than cars, among the masses. There are many reasons why such trends are being observed. In my opinion, in the present scenario, the shift towards more eco-friendly modes, as bicycles is a better development.

There are many reasons why people prefer motorized means of transport, like cars, to bicycles. This is mostly observed in developing cities and towns, which are experiencing a progress in technology, more job opportunities and thus new facilities, like in transport, education and in healthcare. So, in these places people are adopting modern means of transport, like private cars. It is a sign of progress in such places. Moreover, people have moved their residences from crowded urban areas to the quieter suburbs, because of which cars have become a necessity to commute daily for work to the cities. They are more comfortable, faster, safer and more convenient than bikes. Cars are also better for the elderly, the handicapped and the sick people.

On the other hand, as we are becoming more aware of the damage being caused to the environment, many developed nations and cities are moving towards more eco-friendly modes of transport, like bicycles. The major cause of the degradation of the environment is the pollution caused by the vehicles. People have started realizing this fact and to prevent further damage, switching to bicycles has become a solution. Governments in many parts of the world are working towards promoting this trend by making special lanes for cyclists, so that they can ride safely. It would be worthwhile to cite the example of Denmark, where the government has provided 19000 km of bicycle tracks, which has encouraged many people to switch from cars to bicycles.

Another very important reason for investing in the cycling industry is the potential of this industry to provide jobs. Every cycle lane, which is made, and every cyclist, who is created contributes to job growth. For example, in Europe alone, more than 6 lac people are employed in the cycling industry - more jobs than even the automobile industry. The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland and many more countries have started investing in a big way and have seen many positive effects. The overall economy of these countries has been boosted.

To sum up, I would reiterate my view that even though the car has some advantages over the bicycle, the use of bicycles is better, as it is not only a step towards saving our environment; it is also an economical way to remain fit and healthy.

Plan followed:

Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons of choosing cars over bicycles
Para 2: Reasons of choosing bicycles over cars
Para 3: More reason in favour of bicycles
Conclusion:

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174. In many cities and towns, the high volume of road traffic is a problem. What are the causes of that and what actions could be taken to solve the problem?

In recent times there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon, and also suggest some solutions to alleviate the situation.

There are many reasons why traffic has increased in towns and cities. One is that cars have become more affordable for the average consumer. For instance, Tata Motor's Nano car, is now called the poor man's car. Secondly, the personal vehicle is something, without which most families feel handicapped, as most of the people have to commute to work. Even the shopping malls and multiplex cinema houses have opened out of towns in the suburbs, which have made them even more inaccessible without the personal vehicle. Another obvious reason is that people have become more affluent, as women have also started working along with the men. This has also led to the need of two cars or more per household.

Furthermore, the public transport is not that frequent or reliable, and so people prefer going by their own vehicle. The expanding road network has also enabled more people to come out on the roads in their own cars. In some remote areas, there is no facility of public transport. Last but not least, people do not share car journeys or do car pooling, which means that if five people from one apartment block have to go to one area for work, then each one can take his car once a week.

The solutions are not simple, because of the complexity of its causes. However, one option can be to improve the reliability of public transport to encourage people to take the bus or the train rather than get in the car. Bus passes or train passes could be issued to daily commuters, which would be very attractive for them. Steps could also be taken to discourage the people to use the personal car by increasing the toll tax, for example. These problems can be resolved if people understand traffic rules and drive vehicles according to rules. This will decrease traffic jams on the road.

Besides government should limit the number of vehicles owned by single person. For instance, in Singapore, government has made strict rule and does not permit people to own more than a set number of vehicles. One more step, which has yielded results in many developed nations, is the HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on motorways. This means that there are lanes reserved for those private vehicles, which are fully occupied. This has encouraged car-pooling. Another useful suggestion is to make bicycle tracks so that people are encouraged to cover short distances on bicycles. For example, Denmark has 19000 km of bicycle tracks, and that is why people prefer to ride bicycles.

To sum up, I feel that the problem of traffic is not easy to control. However, government rules and awareness among people can resolve this problem up to certain limit.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why traffic has increased in towns and cities
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: suggestions
Para 4: Suggestions
Conclusion:

175. The unlimited use of cars may cause many problems. What are those problems? In order to reduce the problems, should we discourage people to use cars?

Someone has rightly said that – "The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete". No wonder, there are increasing number of cars on the road which are creating problems such as traffic jams, air pollution and longer commuting periods. In future, this trend is likely to worsen. The solution, it would seem, is for government to encourage the use of public transport in urban areas, thus decreasing dependence on the car.

One way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient. The introduction of tolls along urban motorways has been successfully employed in many cities. Other such measures are high-priced permits for parking in urban areas and the restriction of parking to a limited number of cars. Faced with high costs or no place to park, commuters would perhaps be more willing to abandon their cars in favour of buses or trains.

The governments could also encourage public transport use. The construction of free car parks at suburban train stations has proven successful in quite a number of countries. This allows commuters to drive part of the way, but take public transport into the central, most congested, urban areas. Indeed, making public transport more comfortable and convenient should work to attract more commuters and decrease traffic congestion. Public transport that is convenient and comfortable retains its passengers, much like any business that satisfies its customers. The more commuters committed to taking public transport, the less congestion on city streets.

To sum up, the increasing number of cars is creating problems like pollution, accidents and traffic congestion but steps could be taken to minimize the problems.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: One way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient.

Para 2: governments could also encourage public transport use.

Conclusion: the increasing number of cars is creating problems like pollution, accidents and traffic congestion but steps could be taken to minimize the problems.

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176. Some people claim that there are more disadvantages of the car than its advantages. Do you agree or disagree?

Someone has rightly said that – "The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete". In my opinion, the merits of the car outstrip its demerits.

There are many advantages of car. The most important advantage is that it has given people freedom of movement. The ease of transportation, which a car brings, is more than any other form of transportation. For instance, you can go from destination to destination and no time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance is not a barrier any more. What is more, families can go out together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly or the disabled and sick members in the family.

Furthermore, the automobile industry provides jobs to millions of workers. Filling stations, restaurants, and other businesses that serve automobile travelers are of major importance to a country's economy. In addition, many developing nations have begun making automobiles to boost their economy. That is why India has promoted many automobile-manufacturing industries such as Tata and Mahindra.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of the car cannot be overlooked. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural sequel to the burgeoning population of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to decrease in practices such as walking and cycling and this has led to a number of diseases such as obesity.

On balance, the advantages to people's lives and the economic impact created by the car definitely outweigh the disadvantages. However, we must know when and how-much to use the car so that we can minimize the cons to some extent.

Plan followed:

Intro: In my opinion, the advantages of the car outstrip its disadvantages.
Para 1: advantages of car
Para 2: the automobile industry provides jobs to millions of workers
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

177. The number of cars keeps increasing, so road systems should be expanded. Some people think the government should pay for it, while others think the car owners should pay for it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

With growing incomes, it is not surprising that everyone wants to live a lavish lifestyle. Every other individual owns a car these days. That is why road systems have to be expanded. All this requires money. That is why the debate has arisen as to who should pay for this expansion. Some opine that the government should pay while others contend that the car owners should pay. In this essay, I intend to discuss both viewpoints. I believe that the cost should be shared by the government and the users of the road systems.

Those who say that the government should bear the cost of road network expansion, give the following reason. They say that people have already paid a lot of taxes and so now it is the onus of the government to provide them these services. The government can hire the best quality construction firms for this purpose and get the best work done.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people say that car owners should pay for the expanding road systems. Firstly, higher cost for car owners would encourage public transport use. This would definitely lead to less congestion on the roads. Secondly, people would also be encouraged to do carpooling so that the added expenses are shared. Moreover, shorter journeys may be made on foot or bicycle, which would lead to a healthier nation.

I believe that, it would be unfair if government pays all the money out of the taxes. In this way even those people who are not using the roads for their private vehicles would also be taxed. Moreover, government has so much else on its shoulders such as basic healthcare and education, which need a lot of funds. So, it would be advisable to put some part of the brunt of this extra expenditure on the car owners. For instance, the government could make the roads and later recover some cost in the form of toll tax from the people using the roads. Such a system is being used in many countries.

To conclude, expanding the road system is the need of the hour. The government should provide services such as good roads, but should recover most part of this money from those who use these roads.

Plan followed:

Intro: Some opine that the government should pay while others contend that the car owners should pay. I tend to agree with the latter
Para 1: Why government should pay
Para 2: Why car owners should pay
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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178. In some countries, small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of-town stores, and it may result in an increase in the use of cars. Do you think the disadvantages of this change outweigh its advantages?

In recent years, because of urbanisation, a mushroom growth of large shopping malls has been seen in the suburbs of the cities and towns. Many people are worried that this phenomenon may lead to the increase in use of cars and this would not be good for the environment. Looking at the advantages of having large shopping malls in the outskirts of cities, I believe that the disadvantage of increased use of cars can be overlooked.

There are many benefits of having shopping malls in the out-of-town sites. To begin with, we all know that that the suburban land costs much less and therefore the rents and other operating costs of these shopping complexes is much less. Lower operating cost directly leads to lower prices. Secondly, the shopping centres in these areas would be definitely bigger because of more availability of land and so consumers will have more choices as more variety could be displayed.

Furthermore, it would help ease urban traffic and housing pressures the city centre. The city centres are already too congested and opening big shopping centres here would worsen the situation. We all know that rapid urbanisation is taking place and more and more people are shifting from the villages to the cities. If these shopping centres are on the outskirts of cities, they would be nearer to the neighbouring villages and many of them would not then need to move to cities as some comforts of the cities would be nearer to their homes.

Another big advantage would be that because of these shopping centres, more businesses would also relocate from the over-congested city centres to the suburbs and this would also help to lessen the overcrowding within the cities. It has also been seen that when people have to go far to do shopping, they plan it well so that they don't have to make very frequent visits and so it does not add a lot to the use of the car. Small town-centre shops are facing some challenge, no doubt, but they still have their place because of the personal touch and their ease of accessibility.

To conclude, having shopping centres in the suburbs definitely has more advantages than disadvantages.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: benefits of having shopping malls in the out-of-town sites
Para 2: it would help ease urban traffic and housing pressures the city centre
Para 3: More benefits
Conclusion:

179. Some people think that it is more important to plant trees in open areas of towns and cities than to build more housing. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I completely agree with the statement that it is more meaningful to plant trees in the open urban areas, rather than building more houses. Trees not only provide environmental benefits, but also provide numerous social and economic benefits. This essay intends to discuss my opinion and these benefits.

Admittedly, housing is needed to meet the demands of the burgeoning population, but we can go for high-rise buildings and leave the open spaces for planting more and more trees.

To begin with the environmental benefits of trees, these help purify the polluted air in the cities and towns. Research has proven that 100 trees can remove tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Trees are also known to create a buffer, which cuts down everyday noise of cities, thus tackling noise pollution also. To add to it, the water is also managed better, if there are more trees in a city. The rainwater doesn't run off into drains if there are trees in urban areas. It is filtered into the ground, thus saving the city money that is spent on drains and artificial controls. Providing a natural habitat to birds and animals is another advantage.

To add to it, trees also help save energy consumption. If planted in the right place, urban forests provide shade to homes, roads, office areas and parking spaces. Cooler homes and offices means, lesser air conditioning is needed, thus reducing the energy consumption. In parking lots also, trees help keep cars cooler, which leads to less pollution.

Planting trees in cities helps the city grow socially and economically as well. They provide an area where people can meet, socialize and also exercise. Children also get a close to nature place, where they can play. The commercial value of an urban property with trees is more than one without trees. Retail outlets and businesses located in areas with trees attract more customers.

To sum it up, we need houses in cities to live in, but to strengthen and improve the quality of the life in overcrowded cities we need trees. They play a vital role in combating climate change and provide numerous economic and social benefits.

Plan Followed:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Housing is needed but trees are more important
Para 2: Advantages of trees
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: More Advantages
Conclusion

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180. The key to solving environmental problems is for the present generation to sacrifice their convenient life (or live a less comfortable life) for the sake of future generations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people think that for the benefit of future generations, and to solve the present environmental challenges, the current generation should live a less comfortable lifestyle. I completely agree with this statement, as it will be a great step for our planet and the future of mankind.

Firstly, it is a widely known fact that the biggest cause for environmental problems is increased human desires for luxurious lifestyles, which creates an undue pressure on our environment. If the present generation will not make a few changes in their everyday life, such as, using paper bags instead of polythene bags for carrying groceries, then the future generation will not be able to survive. However, these minor sacrifices will solve the environmental issues to a great extent.

Secondly, there is an impending crisis for future generations due to the depletion of natural resources which is happening at an alarming rate. The judicious usage of these resources by today's generation will ensure a positive outlook for future energy and environment needs for the upcoming generation. To illustrate, in most of the developed countries people have started adopting cycling as their preferred option to commute for work instead of going by cars. As a result, there is a steady decrease in carbon emissions and fuels like oil and gas will last much longer.

Finally, the reason why the sacrifices by people is the need of the hour is that other alternatives like stricter laws by governments have failed to make any impact in solving the environmental problems. The state efforts go in vain due to lack of funds, and manpower to implement the laws. Consequently, people's contribution has become the single most significant factor with the potential to mitigate the environmental challenges and provide a secure future.

To conclude, if the modern-day man makes certain cuts from his extravagant lifestyle, it can go a long way in dealing with the environmental crisis of today and secure a better future for the coming generations.

Plan followed

Intro: paraphrase and give opinion
Para 1: Agree. Sacrifice is necessary for solving environmental problems
Para 2: Agree, sacrifice is necessary for future generations
Para 3: Agree, other alternatives are not effective. So, this is the key
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

181. Some people think that cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money making attractions aimed at tourists. Others believe it is the only way to save these traditions. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion.

It is irrefutable that cultural traditions lure tourists from all over the world and develop local economy. Some individuals are of the opinion that these may be destroyed if they are modified to attract tourists. Others, however, hold the view that if we don't use them for tourism, these cultural attractions will die. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both sides of the argument. I, personally side with the latter view.

Those who say that cultural traditions should be modified to make them alluring for tourists, argue that cultural tourism is the backbone of any country's economy and every country should do its effort to attract tourists, even if it means changing some traditions to lure tourists. For example, there is a temple in south India where people can enter only after wearing a dhoti. My uncle who is a Sikh was asked to remove his turban and wear the dhoti. He was not allowed to go in because he refused to take off his turban. Once this message goes out, obviously the number of tourists would come down. However, if there is laxity in this tradition for tourists, then their numbers would go up.

On the other hand, the main reason why some people say that cultural traditions are damaged when used as revenue-earning attractions, is that when these traditions are altered then these lose their original features. Sometimes it makes cultural traditions disappear altogether. For example, in Jaisalmer in India the local arts and crafts are not completely produced in a local village with local stone. Instead, potters use materials of another territory to make goods glossy to attract tourists. That is why some people say that it leads to the loss of local cultures.

I believe that culture and tradition are deep rooted and minor superficial changes cannot harm them in any way. Change is the law of nature and all we should look into it that the changes are made with caution to retain the inherent elements of culture. That is why a new concept of tourism, creative tourism has come up, which entails bringing in changes that would increase the number of tourists without damaging the basic culture and tradition of any place.

Summing up, to save cultural traditions there is a need to make some changes to make them captivate the tourist of today. If this is not done, then cultural traditions as well as tourists - both will be lost.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: to save cultural traditions we need to make some changes to make them attract tourists

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182. When visiting other countries, some people take full advantage of opportunities to learn about culture and tradition of foreign countries. How can visitors learn about culture and tradition of other countries? Why do some people learn about culture and tradition of foreign countries while other people do not?

Globalization has made it possible for people to travel around to visit other countries. While doing so, some people grab all chances of learning about foreign culture and traditions, whereas others do not. This essay shall analyze the reasons why people have different attitudes in this aspect and also discover the effective ways for people to learn about those culture and traditions.

The reason why some people do not learn about the culture and tradition is that they visit foreign countries just to relieve the monotony of their routine life. They only focus on visiting historical places and tourist attractions. They also do some activities which are unavailable in their own homeland. For instance, one of my friends went to Thailand just to do some paragliding and an 'Underwater Walk' in Coral Island at Pattaya. He went for five days and enjoyed a lot but did not have any enthusiasm to meet or intermingle with the local people to know about their culture and tradition.

However, other people are interested in learning the culture and traditions when they go in a foreign country. They want to absorb everything new and enrich their knowledge of the world. Anything different from their own life fascinates them and they love sharing their newly learnt culture and traditions to their kith and kin back home. It is not only a happy but a proud moment for them.

There are many ways in which culture and traditions of foreign countries can be learnt. Having some know-how of that country's language could help. Every possible opportunity should be grasped for starting a conversation with the locals of that place. There will be many in that country who would love to talk and mix up with you to learn about your culture and traditions. This culture exchange is a win-win situation for both the tourists and the locals. Of course, having an earnest desire to learn something new is definitely the primary motivating factor to learn about the foreign country's culture and tradition.

To sum up, through careful analyses of visitors motivation in their visits, we can understand why some people are interested in learning the foreign culture and tradition while others are not and there are many feasible ways of learning all that for those who are really interested.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why some people learn foreign traditions and culture
Para 2: Why some people don't learn foreign traditions and culture
Para 3: How people can learn foreign traditions and culture
Conclusion:

183. Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that air travel causes pollution and uses a lot of fuel, but I disagree that air travel should be restricted. I believe that restricting air travel would solve some problems but would lead to many other problems.

At a time when people all over the world worry about the decreasing level of fossil fuels and global warming, it is right to take action to save the planet Earth. However, to simply discourage flights is not the answer. International tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Many countries are earning from tourism. Many people are employed in this industry. Many businesses like hotels and leisure centres are dependent on tourists. So, if we discourage international tourism, it would create new and even worse problems. Many businesses would go broke and many people would be without jobs.

Air flight also enables intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

It is true that air travel consumes oil, but other modes of transportation are also causing pollution and using fuel. Discouraging private cars and encouraging people to use public transport could help save the environmental resources in a big way. Therefore, it would be a very unpractical decision to restrict air travel at the cost of people's mobility, or worse, at the cost of the development of the economy. Technology could also be used to produce more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient engines.

Summing up, instead of restricting air travel, we should develop more efficient engine that produces more energy output with less fuel and fewer major air pollutants. We should also focus on limiting private vehicles and encouraging public transport.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why we should not discourage flights
Para 2: More advantages of tourism
Para 3: Talk about other things causing pollution and using fuel
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Similar essay: *Some people think the cheap air flight gives ordinary people more freedom. However, others think the cheap air flight should be banned because it pollutes the air and brings many other problems. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

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184. Air travel can only benefit the richest people in the world. Ordinary people can get no advantage with the development of air travel. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that air travel has advantages only for the wealthiest people and there are no benefits for the vast majority of the middle and lower class people. I shall put forth my arguments to support my views in the following essay.

There is no doubt that a few years ago, air travel was only for the upper strata of society. However, nowadays, most of the airline companies are offering economy class tickets which are affordable by the common man. On top of that, they have schemes by which if one buys a ticket well in advance then the cost of ticket is even lower. So, the given statement is not justified in today's scenario.

Even if we go with the notion that only the rich can travel by air, then also the ordinary man is benefitted in various ways. When rich tourists come to visit a place, they spend a lot in hotels, tourist places and also in the shopping centres from where they buy souvenirs. Many people are employed in the tourism industry. Even if they cannot travel themselves, their source of income is directly or indirectly dependent on these tourists who travel by air. For example, in India, during the tourist season, many guides, rickshaw wallas and taxi drivers earn enough to last them a whole year.

Moreover, it is a well-known fact that, as tourists come, the governments spend on infrastructure such as stadiums roads and hotels. All these are used by the common man. Finally, the common man gets opportunity for culture exchange even without himself travelling by air. When other people come he learns about their culture and gives them the good points of his culture.

Summing up, air travel benefits all people and not just the most affluent.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: given statement is not justified in today's scenario.
Para 2: ordinary man is benefitted in various ways
Para 3: More advantages for the common man
Conclusion: air travel benefits all people and not just the most affluent.

185. International travel makes people prejudiced rather than broad-minded. What are its causes and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. Unfortunately, sometimes, international tourism creates tension rather than understanding between people from different cultures. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes of this situation and suggest some ways to alleviate the problem.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, where as the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular hill station in Himachal Pradesh, India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the bare minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing, but photographs, and leaves behind nothing, but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss why International tourism makes people prejudiced and suggest solutions
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion: international tourism does have a downside to it but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects

Similar essay: *Tourism is an excellent way to develop a country, but it can also cause harm. How can countries ensure that tourism benefits the development?*

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186. People have to spend more and more time to travel from their homes for jobs and study. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?

It is indubitable that commuting time for study or work has increased in the past few years. This essay intends to analyze some causes behind this situation and also suggest possible ways to alleviate this problem.

The most obvious reason is that roads are very congested, as the number of vehicles has increased to unprecedented levels in the past decade or so. Everyone seems to own a car nowadays and so the traffic during peak hours moves at a snail's pace. What used to take 20 minutes earlier, takes about 50 minutes now. Second reason for this is the suburbanization of cities. People are moving to the suburbs in search of quieter, cheaper and more open houses, as a consequence of which travel time to work or study has gone up.

The solutions are not easy, but joint efforts by the government and the people can help to lessen the gravity of the situation. At the government level, steps could be taken to improve the public transport. This could be done by increasing the comfort and frequency of public transport and decreasing the fare. That way more people would be motivated to use the public transport. People should be motivated to do car-pooling by having HOV (High occupancy vehicle) lanes. Only those cars, which are fully occupied, are allowed to move on such lanes, because of which the traffic on these lanes moves faster. Such a system is being used very successfully in many parts of the USA.

At the individual level, people should voluntarily opt for public transport even if that involves being bound by the time of the bus or train. Wherever office and lecture timings are flexible, people can choose to work or attend lectures in those hours when commuting can be done at off-peak hours. Car-pooling should be done by conscious effort. For example, my friend works in an office, which is in a city, which is 20 km from her home. Other people in her neighbourhood also commute to the same city. She approached them for car-pooling, and now every day, one person takes his car. Instead of five cars on the road every day, now there is one and each one is doing some extra saving too.

To sum up, it is undeniable that commuting time has increased, but many steps can be taken to ameliorate the situation.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: solutions
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

187. Most countries believe that international tourism has harmful effects. Why do they think so? How to change their views?

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. However, the potential negative effects of international travel have made people to grumble. This essay will outline the main reasons for these complaints and provide certain measures to change their opinion.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, where as the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular hill station in Himachal Pradesh India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the barest minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing but photographs, and leaves behind nothing but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion: international tourism does have a downside to it but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects

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188. It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environments such as the South Pole. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Remote tourism, or the name given to visiting undiscovered habitats, is becoming very fascinating for both scientists and tourists. While the exploration of such areas has its positives, I believe the associated drawbacks are far more severe.

One the one hand, the idea of more people travelling to remote locations is perceived favorably for a number of reasons. First, some people regard such remote voyages to pristine areas as exquisite adventures. On top of that, new jobs can be created and economic benefits can be derived. Furthermore, geologists may now tap these previously inaccessible sites as resources of fossil fuels. For example, in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains, oil has been found and is now being drilled out. This is increasingly significant to human kind, as the majority of the current fossil fuel sources have been overexploited and there can be a global energy scarcity in the near future.

On the other hand, substantial disadvantages can be there because the burgeoning of tourism and geological research may heavily disturb the flora and fauna of the remotely located places. This is due to the callous attitude of the tourists and the authorities both. It is highly unlikely that tourists bring waste back to the departure point. Secondly, the journey to these inaccessible places is also perilous and tourists may suffer from any medical emergencies.

Furthermore, the work of geologists involves the analysis of ice-shelves hundreds of meters thick, and the drilling for and the hauling of oil and gas afterwards. These activities may also consequently have a disastrous effect on the natural habitats. As a result, what used to be a pristine land can eventually be polluted.

In conclusion, travelling to secluded places can definitely be advantageous for not only researchers but also normal travellers. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the drawbacks to the ecosystem are of greater concern.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of remote tourism
Para2: Disadvantages
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion

189. More and more children from wealthy countries are doing unpaid work in poor countries, such as teaching, building houses etcetera. Why are they doing this? Who gets more benefit, the community or the young people?

In the last few years, volunteer tourism has become very popular among the youth from the developed countries. They travel to the developing and underdeveloped nations to contribute towards the development of the infrastructure or to educate and aware people. There are many reasons, which have led to this tendency, and in my opinion, both the youth and the communities they are serving, benefit from it equally.

There are several factors, which have led to the popularity of the volunteer work in the underprivileged sections of some nations. The main reason is the spread of awareness and information by the digital and other forms of media, which connects us to the events all over the world. There is news about natural calamities and other emergency situations from all over the world, which makes the youth, want to help the needy and lend a helping hand to the local authorities. Also, in most developed countries, it is a part of the education to sensitize the students towards the importance of sharing and helping others, as this helps them to become better citizens.

This development has benefits for both the youth volunteers and the people they are serving. For the youth, volunteer work adds to their work experience, and gives them an opportunity to put to work the skills they have learned at school and college. These days even the employers look for employees who have a volunteer work experience. So, the youth can get better jobs if they have a good background of some social work. To add to it, they get more exposure because of the travel to other countries and coming in contact with people from different cultures and social strata. It broadens their horizons.

The communities these youth volunteers work in are definitely benefitted, as their standards of living are improved, with the development of the homes and other infrastructure. In times of calamities and other natural disasters, the volunteer workers help rebuild their homes and other facilities. The education provided to them helps them to gain knowledge and makes their future brighter. It improves their chances of getting a better job, which in turn improves their quality of life.

To conclude, it can be said that the volunteer work done by the youth is a positive trend, which is advantageous for them, as well as the communities they work with.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Benefits to young volunteers
Para 3: Benefits to communities
Conclusion:

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190. It has become easier and more affordable for people to travel to other countries. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development? Give your opinion and relevant examples from your experience.

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. In fact it has become the backbone of many economies of the world. This situation has both pros and cons. In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

International tourism can have many benefits for individuals and that is precisely why countries are opening their doors for tourists. The most important benefit is that tourism provides regular employment for many local people who might otherwise be unemployed. They can find work in restaurants or hotels, or with tourist agencies as guides or drivers, for example, and earn regular wages. This, in turn, means that they may be able to save money and improve their standard of living. The second benefit is that tourists spend money in the country and this allows local businesses such as restaurants, bars and taxi companies to flourish. In turn, other businesses, food suppliers or petrol stations, for instance, may be established in order to provide services to support the companies, which cater for tourists. In other words, the whole economy of the region develops.

A third benefit is that in order for tourists to be able to visit remote areas, roads, airports and hotels have to be built and local people also benefit by being able to use these new facilities. Furthermore, when communications improve, it becomes possible for other industries to move into the area, bringing with them more employment opportunities and increased prosperity. A final advantage of tourism is that visitors from outside bring fresh ideas and different ways of doing things to the local community. Consequently, local people may learn from tourists. Likewise, visitors learn about the local people and culture, and return home with a deeper understanding of the host country.

On the other hand, there are some problems associated with international tourism. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry visible items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed off quickly for a profit. Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading infectious, contagious diseases around the world. Also, to be considered is the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral reefs.

Summing up, international tourism has both advantages and disadvantages. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Plan *followed*

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons
Para 1: Benefits of international tourism
Para 2: More advantages of tourism
Para 3: Disadvantages of tourism
Conclusion: Advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages

191. Some people believe that tourists should accept social and environmental responsibility while others believe that tourists should not accept any responsibility at all. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

T
hese days, all countries are opening their doors to tourists. The negative social and environmental impacts of tourism have led many to suggest that tourists should accept accountability for this. However, others say that the social and environmental impacts of tourism should be the responsibility of the local authorities and not the tourists. I will discuss both views in this essay. I personally side with the former view.

The main reason why some people say that tourists should be responsible for the social and environmental impact of tourism is that many tourist destinations are endangered now because of the litter and pollution spread by the tourists. Secondly, there is over-consumption of resources such as water and fuel by tourists, which may lead to injustice with the locals. On top of that, the 5-star hotels in which tourists stay do not add anything to the local economy. Finally, sometimes the tourists may not cover their head out of ignorance in religious places in India. This may annoy the local people. So, tourists should accept social and environmental responsibility.

On the other hand, those who say that tourists should not worry about the culture and environment of the places they visit say that if the local authorities manage things well, there would be no negative impact at all. For example, if there are dustbins at frequent intervals, tourists would not litter the place at all. If there are enough guides to tell people about the local culture, then tourists would not do anything which is antisocial. If the government provides security personnel and surveillance cameras, then the tourists would not have to take that onus at all.

I believe that for tourism to sustain, tourists have to be held accountable for the social and environmental impacts they cause. Otherwise, tourism can kill tourism. Tourists should comply with the rules set by the local authorities and not find loopholes to evade them. They should inquire about the culture and traditions of the places they visit, so that they plan their clothing accordingly. To help the local economy, tourists could stay with the local people as paying guests and not waste much water in places where water is scarce.

To sum up, responsible tourism is everyone's responsibility. The wellbeing of the destination is not only the responsibility of the tourism sector - it is also the responsibility of the tourist. That is why it has rightly been said that – 'A good tourist is one who leaves behind nothing, but footprints; and takes away nothing, but photographs.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: one view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion

Similar essay

Some people think that we need to be "responsible tourists" who care about the culture and environment of the place they visit. However, some people think that it is impossible to be "responsible tourists". Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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192. Some people think visitors to other countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

Today, with the passage of time each and every country is on the path of development, and with this development there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a highly debated issue whether tourists should do and behave as the people of the host country or should the host country accept visitors as they are. I shall discuss both views in this essay. I personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that visitors should adopt the host countries' customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People visit other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if tourists copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. The visitors become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture. To begin with, no country should cling to its own customs and traditions and accept the new customs and traditions brought by visitors. Secondly, there should be no binding on the visitors to adopt the customs and traditions of the hosts. For example, if the visitors are pure vegetarians, they should not be forced to eat non-vegetarian food just because the host country's people eat that.

I feel that someone a visitor to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country, but should not be obliged to copy them. Respecting those customs is necessary because a visitor is like a guest in someone else's home. The host country should accept the tourists as they are, because they get to know about other culture and traditions without going anywhere and without spending a single penny.

Summing up, mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. So, the visitors should respect the host country's culture without having any binding to imitate it, and the host country should accept tourists as they are.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

193. Some people think that people moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country rather than living as a separate minority group with different lifestyle. Do you agree or disagree?

It is a highly debated issue whether immigrants should do and behave as the people of the host country or whether they should stick to their traditional lifestyle and live as a separate minority. I partially agree with this statement. I believe that it is a matter of personal choice as both situations have their own pros and cons.

On the one hand, there are many benefits of adopting host countries' customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People move to other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if immigrants copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. They become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many advantages of making a minority group. If a person is from a country with strong and old traditions, it will be difficult for him to adapt to the new customs. He can't break the old customs such as food habits and wearing certain types of clothes. In such cases if he retains his old customs and lives with his own community as a separate minority, he won't suffer from homesickness.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country, but should not change himself altogether. Following the host country is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it should not be obligatory for him to follow those customs and change himself totally. As time passes and he gets to know the hosts better then he can decide if he wants to adopt any custom or stick to his own. After all being a cosmopolitan is the need of the hour.

Summing up, it is a matter of personal choice. Mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look into pros and cons of both situations before forming an opinion.
Para 1: benefits of adopting host countries customs
Para 2: advantages of making a minority group
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Personal choice. Mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony

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194. Some people think foreign visitors should be charged more than local people when they visit the cultural and historical attractions in a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

International tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world, and these countries rely heavily on the tourist dollar. Therefore, some people argue that tourists from overseas should be charged more than local residents to visit important sites and monuments. However, I disagree with this practice.

Those who are in favour of charging foreign tourists more, cite the benefits of this practice. They argue that these cultural or historical attractions often depend on state subsidies to keep them going, which means that the local population already pays money to these sites through taxes. The tourists, on the other hand, come for a short time and pay no taxes. They also say that the foreign tourists, on average, are more well to do than local people. They spend a lot on visiting such places in their own country. So, it does not pinch them to pay more for these attractions. Hence, it is only fair to charge them more, as these sites require a lot of funds for their maintenance. No wonder, it is common in many Indian tourist places to see rate tables such as Taj Mahal, Agra: Indian Citizens Rs 20, Foreigners Rs 970; Fatehpur Sikri, Agra: Indian Citizens Rs 50, Foreigners Rs 485.

However, I believe this to be a very shortsighted view. We should not oversee the fact that foreign tourists contribute to the economy of the host country in many other ways. They spend money on a wide range of goods and services, including food, souvenirs, accommodation and travel. The governments and inhabitants of every country should be happy to subsidise important tourist sites and encourage people from the rest of the world to visit them.

Furthermore, if travellers realised that they would have to pay more to visit historical and cultural attractions in a particular nation, they would perhaps decide not to visit those places and choose other methods to occupy themselves while in another country. For instance, they would enjoy the beaches and mountains. In this way the host country would lose out important chances of spreading their culture and tradition, which these historical sites do beautifully.

To sum up, I believe that every effort should be made to attract tourists from overseas, and it would be counterproductive to make them pay more than local residents.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why they are charged more – opponents view
Para 2: Why they should not be charged more
Para 3: More reason why they should not be charged more
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

195. The traditional lifestyle of local people in developing countries is attracting and increasing the number of tourists to the countries, which has the effect of preventing local people changing to modern ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Recent years have witnessed a marked interest in international tourism, and the traditional lifestyles of people in the developing countries are acting as magnets to the tourists. I firmly believe that this is deterring the local people to change their customs and traditions and adopt modern ways of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The most convincing argument to support this view is that the presence of visitors who continually praise the host culture gives people a kind of confidence and pride in their traditions, and makes them truly believe that their culture is glorious and thus worthy of this praise and therefore justly admired. This realization removes any possibility in the people's mind that their lifestyle is in any way inferior to that of advanced nations, and plays an important role in retaining their lifestyle in general. For example, when tribal people of Rajasthan, India are appreciated for their clothing style and their dances, such as the 'Snake Charmer's Dance', they put even more effort to practice those art forms and present them to the tourists.

Secondly, it is a well-known fact that nothing destroys culture faster than poverty. This poverty of the tribal people is alleviated when the tourists visit them for what they are. They come to realise and accept the fact that their bread and butter will be lost if they change to modern lifestyles and therefore they stick to their culture and traditions. Today, even in this era of globalisation, it is irrefutable that 'culture' sells. When there is recession all around and people in the modern world are finding it difficult to make both ends meet, these people are just living their life and the tourist dollar is flowing in. An interesting example where people are retaining to their old ways of life even in the developed country such as the USA can be seen in the Amish village Philadelphia. It is a very popular tourist destination and people go there to see how those people are living without what are considered the basic necessities of modern life.

The final reason for people retaining their traditional lifestyle is that the facilities developed for tourists benefits them eventually and they know very well that if the inflow of tourists stops then government will not invest in those areas and they will be the losers in the long run. Benefits can include upgraded infrastructure, health and transport improvements, new sport and recreational facilities, restaurants, and public spaces as well as an influx of better-quality commodities and food.

To summarise, I side with the view that tourism is motivating people to retain their culture and tradition and not be lured into following the modern ways of life.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: presence of visitors who continually praise the host culture gives people a kind of confidence and pride in their traditions
Para 2: Culture sells
Para 3: facilities developed for tourists benefits them eventually and they know very well that if the inflow of tourists stops then government will not invest in those areas and they will be the losers in the long run
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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196. The traditional lifestyle of local people in developing countries is attracting and increasing the number of tourists to the countries, which has the effect of preventing local people changing to modern ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Recent years have witnessed a marked interest in international tourism and the traditional lifestyles of people in the developing countries are acting as magnets to the tourists. However, I disagree that this is deterring the local people to change their customs and traditions and adopt modern ways of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The most convincing argument to support this view is that the local people that come in contact with these tourists may develop a sort of copying behaviour, as they want to live and behave in the same way. This is because many tourists come from societies with different consumption patterns and lifestyles, which may seem more attractive to the locals especially in the less developed countries. To add to it, tourism can force the local people to alter their cultures, such as religious rituals and festivals to conform to tourist expectations, which may take them away from their traditional lifestyles.

Furthermore, tourists want souvenirs, arts, crafts, and cultural things, and in many tourist destinations, craftsmen have responded to the growing demand, and have made changes in design of their products to bring them more in line with the new customers' tastes. Another important reason why local people are not interested in sticking to their traditional lifestyles is that they feel they are being exploited to attract tourism, whereas the major chunk of profits goes to those who have the modern lifestyles. This is because, in developing countries, many jobs occupied by local people in the tourist industry are at a lower level, such as housemaids, waiters, gardeners and other practical work, while higher-paying and more prestigious managerial jobs go to foreigners or urbanized nationals.

A final reason to disagree with the given statement is that most tourists just want a glimpse of new things, and are mainly looking for familiar things in unfamiliar surroundings such as fast food outlets and well-known hotel chains. When such places are made for the tourists, the local people also use them and eventually a transition to the modern lifestyle occurs.

To summarise, I disagree with the view that tourism is motivating people to retain their culture and tradition. In fact tourism thrusts traditional communities into the modern world, threatening their distinct lifestyles and cultural products.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: local people that come in contact with these tourists may develop a sort of copying behaviour

Para 2: tourists want souvenirs - changes in design of their products to bring them more in line with the new customers' tastes

They feel they are being exploited to attract tourism whereas the major chunk of profits goes to those who have the modern lifestyles

Para 3: most tourists just want a glimpse of new things and are mainly looking for familiar things in unfamiliar surroundings such as fast food outlets and well-known hotel chains

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

197. Some people think that it is necessary to travel abroad to learn about other countries, while other people think that it is not necessary to travel abroad because all the information can be seen on TV and the Internet. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals hold the opinion that travelling abroad is required to learn about other countries, whereas others assert that technology has given us armchair tourism, through which we can see all the information on television and the internet. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I side with the former view.

Those who believe in actually touring foreign places, give their main reasons that images on computers can never replace real places. No matter how real and vivid computer images are, they are only images and can never be likened to the historical objects and natural wonders that we see in real or even might be allowed to touch with our fingertips. The difference can be compared to seeing the picture of a mango rather than actually eating it.

Secondly, visiting other countries is a rewarding experience in many respects. For one thing, it is a good exercise. When people make the trip to a foreign country then they visit the places of interest there and also get some exercise, which does a lot of good to their health. They generally go with family and friends and enjoy a lot. They also learn about the culture and tradition of the place. All this broadens their horizons, which can never be done by the passive activity of seeing something on the computer screen. At the same time, they also get a chance to spread the good points of their own culture also.

On the other hand, those in favour of armchair tourism also have valid arguments. Firstly, not all people can afford the expenses. Secondly some people may have limitations because of age or failing health. Armchair tourism is a boon for those people. When it is temporarily impossible for them to visit other countries in person, they can get a rough picture of what those countries are like. Another argument, which goes in favour of armchair tourism, is that people are very busy and have no time. They have become workaholics in the rat race of money and material wealth. Finally, extremes of climate also make certain places inaccessible to some people.

In conclusion, armchair tourism is there today but international travel will still be needed. I believe that the experience of actually going to a foreign country can never be compared to just seeing those places, sitting at home.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: One view
Para 2: More points of that view
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion: armchair tourism is there today but international travel will still be needed.

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198. In many countries, mainly tourists, but not local people, visit museums and historical sites. Why does this happen, and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

Museums and other historical sites seem to be less attractive to local people than to tourists. This essay intends to delve into some reasons why this is occurring, and put forward some solutions to kindle the interest of local people in visiting these places.

The first reason is due to the fact that the local people take these places for granted. They think that these places are not running away anywhere, and so they will see them sooner or later. What happens is, that the time seldom comes, when they take the time out of their hectic schedule to see these places. On the other hand, tourists who come there are on a holiday, and their main motive is visiting these historic places and museums. For instance, recently, I visited Hyderabad as a tourist and went to see Ramoji Film City, which is the biggest Film City in the whole world, spread over 5000 acres of land. My relatives who are staying in Hyderabad have never been there once. When I told them that it is a must-see place, they decided to visit it with their children.

Secondly, nothing new is added to these places over the years and so local people who have been there once, do not wish to frequent these places again and again. These places do not intrigue the locals so they do not feel motivated to visit regularly. In other words, the renewals of existing exhibits, or the organization of new programs and events are few and far between. Furthermore, museums and historical sites are not cheap to visit. In fact, to get admission to these places, visitors are often required to buy expensive tickets.

In order to spur up more interest of local people in coming to museums, a number of ways can be employed. School trips could be organized for children to enjoy these places with their friends. Passes for entry to these museums and historical sites could be arranged for local people so that it doesn't cut a hole in their pocket every time they visit them. A day could be fixed every month when the entry to the museum is made free. For example, on every first Tuesday of the month, the entry to the Houston Museum of Natural Science is free, so there is a great rush of local people on that day

To conclude, many reasons can be given as to why local people lose their enthusiasm for museums and places of historical importance. However, the revival of these places is within our grasp should proper actions be taken.

Plan followed
Intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

199. Nowadays it is easy to apply for and be given a credit card. However, some people experience problems when they are not able to pay their debts back. In your opinion, do the advantages of credit cards outweigh the disadvantages?

A credit card is great fun, but only until you get the bill. If a person has a credit card, he can spend up to its limit, even without having that much in his bank account. However, he has to be careful about paying it off in time. If he is unable to do so, he can land in deep debt. Therefore, the weight of the merits and demerits of credit card is in the hands of the user.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, people can use them practically everywhere, even overseas. Credit cards can also boost people's purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills through credit card.

Furthermore, credit cards allow people to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when a person makes purchases using the credit card, he can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can help build a person's credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of the cardholders' expenses, helping them to monitor their financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once a person falls behind by one payment, then late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast, because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out. Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fee, the processing fee and also the annual fee, which is quite an amount. Additionally, one of the most overlooked negative aspects to credit cards is the ease with which cardholders overspend. The psychology behind this is simple. Cardholders purchase items without ever exchanging actual money, so they don't get the feel of spending. Finally, people have to be cautious when they use their credit card for online transactions. It can be hacked and misused, if the site is not secure. Misuse can also happen if they lose their credit card. They have to report promptly if such a thing happens.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Para 4: More disadvantages
Conclusion:

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200. More and more people do online shopping. Why is this the situation? What is the effect of online shopping on shops and communities?

Today, with the Internet so readily accessible to us, more and more people are turning to online shopping for all their needs. Clothes, shoes, electronics, groceries and even fruit and vegetables can now be purchased via the Internet. This essay shall look into the reasons why people are switching to online shopping instead of traditional shopping, and also discuss its effects on shops and societies.

There are several advantages of shopping online, because of which people are opting for this method of shopping. The first is the ability to shop at a time that is convenient to you, not just when the shops are open. The second advantage of shopping online is that goods are often cheaper as the seller does not have the costs of running a shop and having to pay wages to salespeople, insurance and all of the other running costs of a real world business. Online shopping can also be a lot more comfortable than real world shopping, as people do not have to go out in bad weather sometimes.

Another huge advantage of shopping online is that people have the opportunity to compare as many products and prices as they want, without having to spend the time and money to travel between several different shops. They are also able to read reviews that have been written by other people who have purchased the item they are considering. They are able to find out about the item from a genuine user, not just the salesperson. Finally, they are able to find and buy products from all over the world, and not just in their local area, which makes purchasing of hard-to-find items a lot easier.

There are many negative effects of the trend of online shopping on people and societies. The main negative of shopping online is that people have to pay shipping costs and have to wait for the items they purchased to be shipped and delivered. Another disadvantage is that they cannot feel or see the item they want to buy. Sometimes, the item they get could be quite different from what they wanted. Another disadvantage of shopping online is that it is cumbersome to return faulty goods. It can literally take weeks to exchange a faulty product purchased online. Then, cyber-crime is also an issue. A person's credit card number could be hacked and misused. Finally, societies become more aloof as people don't come out for shopping, which is an opportunity to bump into someone you know and is a chance to socialize.

The negative effects can also be seen on the local shopkeeper. Their sales go down as more and more people shop online. Only the giant stores are able to survive. For instance, in my hometown, many furniture shops have closed down as online stores such as, Fabfurnish, Urban Ladder and Pepperfry have entered the online market, and have started luring people with mouth-watering deals.

In summary, the main reasons of shopping online are convenience and cost savings, which are also the positive effects. There are many negative effects on local shops and societies. However, despite the negatives, I believe that online shopping is here to stay and prosper.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: advantages and positives
Para 2: more advantages and positives
Para 3: Negative effects on people and societies
Para 4: More negative effects on people and societies
Conclusion:

201. Some people think that personal happiness is directly related to economic success. Others argue that happiness depends on different factors. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Happiness is a state of mind. Obviously, different people understand it in different ways. Some believe that economic success is an essential element to happiness, but others opine that factors like a stable family life, secure source of income and good health are more important in achieving happiness. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I believe that economic success has a minor role in happiness, but other factors are more important for personal happiness.

The main reason given by those who say that money is needed to achieve happiness is because one needs sufficient money to live in a spacious apartment, to have a private car, fashionable clothes and latest household electrical appliances, which are all indispensable for happy life. A person who has to struggle for even the basic necessities of life cannot be happy.

On the other hand, those who say that happiness depends on other factors, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, cordial relations among family members are needed to be happy. A person who has the barest minimum, but a very understanding life partner and obedient children can be very happy. Good health is another factor needed for happiness. A multimillionaire suffering from cancer can never be happy. Another big factor is a stable source of income. One can never be happy if one is not sure whether his business will pick up or if his job is secure. So, happiness is in things other than economic success.

I believe that money is important, but only as far as the basic necessities of life are not fulfilled. After that other factors play a more important role. Money can buy medicines, but not health. With money one can buy a bed, but not sleep. Happiness is also in contentment. Those who are contented with what they have, are happy. There is no upper limit to economic success. So, contentment is the key to a happy life. A person should know where to draw the line between work and personal life to be happy.

To conclude, economic success is important, but other factors have more weightage as far as the pursuit to happiness is concerned. Ultimately it is contentment which leads to happiness.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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202. Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that individuals should not pay taxes to the state. The government runs the country from the taxes it collects. Taxes are collected only from those who earn above a certain minimum limit. It is our moral duty to pay taxes.

Tax money collected by government is used to fund basic amenities, provide various services to citizens and for government administration and projects, running of jails and defense system, and many other operations. It is not wrong to say that "taxes run a country." Thus, it is very important for a government to make people pay taxes.

Let us analyze why people do not want to pay taxes. The main reason is their dissatisfaction with government in serving them. They blame government for things like lack of infrastructure, poverty and unemployment, but they are not completely wrong as tax revenue is misused in some or the other way in every country. In developed countries, however, because of higher satisfaction from government's functioning, citizens may be more willing to pay taxes. Another factor generating dissatisfaction is the tax structure itself. Often the tax system is complex and it drives people away from paying taxes. It is also felt that the tax rates are high and tax slabs are unequal. So they feel it is not unethical if one goes for tax avoidance or tax evasion.

Not paying taxes can drastically affect a country's revenue generation, my own country, India, for that matter. But then, it is equally desired that government come up with a fair tax structure and also make people aware where the taxes are being diverted. Even lowering the tax rates can help a country increase its tax collection as it would increase compliance among the taxpayers. Tax reform should also be fast so that no public grievance or non-compliance remains for long. A proper tax system backed up with strict tax laws can produce the best results.

Summing up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that it is the duty of every citizen to pay tax and the duty of every government to use it appropriately in public interest.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of taxes
Para 2: Why people don't want to pay taxes
Para 3: Disadvantages of not paying taxes and what steps to take
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

203. Some people think that paying taxes is enough to contribute to the society. Others argue that being a citizen involves more responsibilities. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

A good citizen is a blessing to society. Some people opine that paying taxes is enough contribution towards the society whereas others believe that a good citizen has a lot more responsibilities than just paying taxes. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both views. I personally go with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that if one pays taxes, it is sufficient contribution to the society. Firstly, paying all the taxes and in a timely manner is one of the major responsibilities of a citizen. If one pays taxes, then the government can use the money for constructive purposes, like building and maintaining roads, schools, fire protection, defense services etc. The different types of taxes to be paid by citizens are income tax, excise tax, property tax, sales tax etc. All taxes paid by people make their lives better.

On the other hand, those who say that just paying taxes is not enough give their reasons as follows. They say that there are many other obligations, which a good citizen must fulfil. To begin with, voting in elections is very important. When citizens fail to vote or have political opinions, they allow vested interests to have their way. Secondly, they must obey law and order. If all citizens are law abiding, then the whole nation would be a paradise on Earth.

It is also the responsibility of a good citizen to provide public service to the government. This means volunteering for various agencies and charities. Finally, it is a citizen's duty to scrutinize the government's actions and take stands when something wrong happens. When citizens get too complacent, they will not notice when their freedom is being cut down.

To sum up, a good citizen should pay taxes, exercise his voting rights, be law abiding, do voluntary work to help the government and take a stand if anything goes wrong. Just paying taxes is not sufficient contribution to the society.

Plan followed

Intro: a good citizen has a lot more responsibilities than just paying taxes
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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204. Some people say that it is the responsibility of individual to save money for their own care after they retire. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I certainly support the view. One should most definitely put aside some money for the future, and not fritter away everything to enjoy the present. One should always remember that the present would one day transform into the future, and when it eventually does, it should be safe and secure. Of what purpose is enjoyment today, if it becomes the cause of misery and worry in the future? It is so easy to spend, yet so difficult to save. Wisdom dictates that one must be discreet and stingy to save for the future. Let us consider why it is so important to save.

The mortality rate has come down and the span of life is generally longer, but the period of earning is comparatively limited. Nobody knows how long he would live, but the age of retirement is generally fixed. One cannot work indefinitely. Therefore, during his earning span, he has to make sure that he puts aside enough money that will hold him in good stead in his later years, when he will be able to work no more. Further, the requirements in old age are sometimes more than a person's needs during the period of his youth. Deteriorating health translates into higher medical bills and hospital charges. Being weak and infirm, one needs to spend more on commuting. He will need to hire assistants to help in the house.

Next come the needs of the family. One has to provide for the education and marriage expenses of the dependent members of the family, like children and even grandchildren. One has to pay one's insurance premiums, and even for the day-to-day needs of the younger members of the family, till such time as they are employed and earning.

One may incur extra expenditure on leisure activities. People generally travel more after retirement to meet their relatives and friends who may be settled and staying far away from them. Thus, there are so many needs that would surface in the future. Some may be quite unexpected and traumatic like accidents in the family, which may entail high expenditure. There would be the usual expenses on house maintenance and repair, and the payment of personal and property taxes.

Therefore, I reiterate my opinion saying that a person should plan wisely for his future. If he has saved enough, he can sit back and enjoy peace and comfort in his later years and even witness the smile of joy on the faces of his children. If he has saved not, then the journey ahead would be dreary and dismal indeed.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: How saving money is important for one's own needs in future
Para 2: How saving money is important for one's family in future
Para 3: More time for leisure in old age so more money needed
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

205. As well as making money, businesses should also have social responsibilities. Do you agree or disagree?

I definitely agree with the given statement that the corporate sector should focus on creating personal wealth as well as shoulder social responsibilities. This would be beneficial to the society and also for the companies themselves to sustain in the long run.

To begin with, it is an inescapable responsibility of every business enterprise to create more money for itself and its employees. Only when businesses achieve profitability can the employees remain loyal to the organisations that they work for. Meanwhile, companies can themselves remain competitive in the long run. In the initial stages, great amount of investments are needed for employee training, buying equipment, advertising, marketing, research and development. Therefore, economic stimulus is the driving force for employers and employees to work hard.

On the other hand, social responsibility is also very essential for businesses. In times of natural disasters, business houses are supposed to make generous donations and set an example. All businesses should also abide by the law and never make profit by unethical means. If any business becomes prosperous by honest hard work, it can provide a number of job opportunities, which can greatly reduce the pressure of social unemployment.

Furthermore, taking social responsibility would help these large business houses themselves. For example, when any business house donates for charity, the media spreads a word about their efforts and they get advertisement for free. In my hometown, many parks and roundabouts are maintained by the textile, sugar and starch mill in my hometown. These business houses do not need to spend extra for their adverts. Providing scholarships to poor, meritorious students is another way these enterprises can take social responsibility.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that businesses need to make money and also look into their social obligations. This would be a win-win situation for the society and the enterprises themselves.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Why businesses should make money
Para 2: Why and how they should have social responsibilities
Para 3: Doing for society would help themselves also
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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206. In recent time economic growth has made some people richer in both developed and developing countries. While studies show that people in developing countries are happier now than before, people in developed countries are no happier than they were before. Why do you think this is and what lessons can be learned from it?

There is no denying the fact that economic growth has improved the standard of living all over the world. However, growth in global economy may mean different things to different people. To the developing world, recent growth may be coupled with a rise in standards of living, and thus seen as positive. To the already developed countries, this growth brings with it increased global competitiveness, and is thus seen as negative. Both sides will be analyzed in this essay. The lesson we get from this different perception towards development of global economy shall also be discussed.

For people in the developing world it means better opportunities for personal and professional growth. More and more people in developing countries such as India and China now earn more than enough to lead comfortable lives. Now they have high disposable incomes that make it possible for them to lead luxurious lives. They can now buy the latest gadgets, travel to the most exotic places on earth and own luxury apartments and cars. Their children now get world-class education and healthcare. None of these would have been possible if the economy wasn't growing. Needless to say, for people in the developing world growth in the economy is a positive development.

On the other hand, economic growth has a different meaning for people in the developed world. Majority of people in the developed world already lead comfortable lives. They already possess disposable income and the recent growth in the global economy hasn't really done anything to further improve their standard of living. What is more, they now face stiff competition from their counterparts in the developing countries. Their market share has started eroding. They are no longer the most sought after candidates for jobs even in their own countries. Worse still, more and more jobs now get outsourced to the developing world, where the cost of labour is low compared to that in the West. As a result of this people in the developed world are now losing their jobs. Needless to say, they aren't all that happy with this sudden spurt in global economy.

The lesson we learn is that the growth of economy in developing world should not hamper the economy of the people of the developed countries. Jobs and opportunities for the people of the developing countries should be generated within their countries and not in the developed countries. Governments of developed countries should not lay-off their people to give low paid jobs to others.

To sum up, the facts given above should explain why researchers feel that people in the developing countries are happier with the growth in global economy than the people in the developed world. These viewpoints are not expected to change much into the foreseeable future unless some steps are taken.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why developing countries are happier
Para 2: Why developed countries are less happy
Para 3: lessons we learn
Conclusion:

207. Some people believe that the best way to produce a happier society is to ensure that there are only small differences between the richest and the poorest members. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some individuals are of the opinion that the most effective way to bring about a satisfied society would be to narrow the wealth inequality. I, however, disagree with this perspective. I believe that reducing the rich-poor gap could help to some extent, but this is certainly not the best way. I shall put forth arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

Admittedly, everybody is in favour of bettering the lot of those who are worse off in society, and narrowing the financial gap between the two poles brings about social happiness. For example, the wealth gap arising from power and corruption is certainly unfair and needs to be gotten rid of, and only in that way can social satisfaction be achieved. But then, there are those who have become very rich because of their hard work and perseverance. In such cases, if steps are taken to bring the rich down by increasing their tax slabs, then it would lead to their unhappiness and so the whole society will again not be happy. Therefore, efforts should be made in other directions for a happier society.

To have a happier society, the focus should be on raising the standard of living, and opportunities for the very poorest of society. If this were accomplished, the gap between rich and poor would indeed be reduced, and it would be extremely welcome. The poorer sections should be taken care of by the government in every way – given jobs, housing, and welfare for all medical and social needs. This gives people comfort and reduces anxiety.

Another important factor in the creation of inequality is variation in individuals' access to education. Therefore, if education facilities are provided to the have-nots, then they can raise their standard of living and the gap will automatically come down. Education provides knowledge and an introspective attitude, and thus life is enriched with more and possibly higher purposes. When the whole society is equipped with education, happiness is ensured.

Finally, a better living environment makes the public happier. Environment is the very basis on which life is maintained, and happiness is achieved. However, as technology is evolving, living environment is being harmed and pushed to the edge of endangering lives. People are suffering from many diseases because of pollution. So, pollution needs to be controlled for a happier society.

To sum up, there is no doubt that economic inequality can be pernicious and damaging, but decreasing the gap is not the best way for a happier society. The focus should be on lifting the bottom and not pulling the top down.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why decreasing the financial gap is not the best way
Para 2: Other way to get happy society – facilities for the poor
Para 3: Other way to get happy society – educational opportunities for the poor
Para 4: Other way to get happy society – pollution-free environment
Conclusion:

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208. Some people believe the range of technology available to individuals today is increasing the gap between poor people and rich people. Others think it is having an opposite effect. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

People are divided on the role of technology in our lives. Some individuals opine that technology increases wealth inequality, whereas others believe that technology has brought the rich and the poor closer. This essay shall discuss both views. I believe, although wealth inequality has increased in the last few years, technology is not the reason. Technology has actually reduced the gap between the rich and the poor.

There are many reasons why some people think that technology increases the gap between the rich and the poor. To begin with, new technology tends to be affordable by only the affluent sections of the society and the poorer elements are denied the opportunities that this provides. In other words, new technologies favour the rich as they can afford them and use these technologies to further earn more money. Furthermore, technologies in the form of machines are being used by rich corporations to either replace labour or force them to work for cheap. Thus, while the profits of the rich are increasing, the poor are losing jobs and becoming poorer. It is a fact that the real wages have not increased in the past few decades in most of the developed countries.

On the other hand, those who believe that technology is actually beneficial, cite the following reasons. Firstly, technology has created huge opportunities for the poor where none existed previously. For example, some technologies such as communications or networking give poor people a chance to earn a better living and also increase their education opportunities. To cite an example, online education is not only cheaper but also much more affordable and this has enabled many poor to access university education which they previously couldn't. What is more, technology has been the answer to many problems faced by the poor like water purification without electricity, cheap transportation and so on. Last but not least, technology has increased transparency in governance, bringing down corruption and thus helping the poor immensely.

I believe that technology is not the reason for the increase in the gap between the rich and poor. The real reason for the increasing gap is actually the lack of regulation on new technologies, which allows their benefits to be hoarded by the rich. For example, no price control on even life-saving medicine and latest research, which makes these medicines unaffordable for all but the super-rich. The same medicines after price checks and regulations can not only save lives but also save the poor from falling into poverty. Thus, technology when regulated properly decreases the rich-poor gap rather than increasing it.

Summing up, technology can actually lessen the gap between the rich and the poor. It is not the technology to blame for the gap; it is the access to technology, which is to blame.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people say technology increases the gap
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:
Written by: Indroop Singh

209. The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider, the rich are getting richer, the poor even more poor. What problems can the situation cause and suggest solutions.

In this day and age, the gap between the affluent and the needy has increasingly widened. Such situation can be found not only between the developed and developing countries, but also among people of the same country. This essay intends to analyse the problems caused by this phenomenon and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The most significant problem is that a vicious cycle emerges from which the poor find it difficult to come out. In order to make both ends meet, both parents have to work for supplementary income and the children are left in the house, unattended. Their future becomes blurred, as they don't get quality education. This deprivation of the children is very high in ultra-poor families.

Furthermore, poverty and conditions resulting from poverty, such as lack of education leads people to lawlessness and violence (e.g. robbery, theft, kidnapping, rape, murder, gang war, and drug addiction). Their pent-up desires for the finer things in life find a common outlet in the commission of crimes. The underdeveloped economies of Asia and even America are full of high crime rates due to poverty. Finally, the rich-poor gap alienates the poor in a discriminated manner. This invites the onset of revolution or terrorism. The political history of the global community such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Philippines is abundant in poverty-related evolution of these events.

The solutions are not simple and steps should be taken on a war footing. The government effort could improve this situation. To begin with, luxuries should be taxed heavily. A balanced taxation should be there and the taxation administration should be improved to ward off fraud and evasion of taxes. Penalties against tax fraud and evasion should be more severe. Policymakers also need to focus on pushing up the bottom rather than dragging down the top. Free or highly subsidized education should be provided to the needy. The problem of youth unemployment should be dealt with by creating job opportunities. Self-employment should be encouraged by promoting small-scale industry. At the global level, international aid for poor countries is crucial for mitigating this phenomenon. International organizations, such as United Nations and World Bank, should provide support to developing countries in both technical and financial fields enabling them to improve infrastructure and strengthen industries.

Summing up, the increasing gap between the rich and the poor should not be ignored as it causes political and social instability in the country and effective steps should be taken to close this gap. It has been rightly said that – 'Inequality is not just bad for social justice, it is also bad for economic efficiency'.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: The most significant problem
Para 2: lawlessness and violence
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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210. Some people think that government should not give international aid if they have disadvantaged people like unemployed and homeless in their own country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

International aid is a voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another. I disagree with the given statement that governments should not give aid to poor countries if there are underprivileged people within their own country. I believe that the developing and developed countries should always step forward to help the impoverished countries.

My first argument is that if unemployment and homelessness are the criteria for not giving aid, then there would be no aid on humanitarian grounds at all. Some degree of unemployment and homelessness is there even in the most developed countries such as the USA and the UK. If such countries stop giving aid, then there would be no one to help the poverty-stricken world. For instance, according to statistics of 2013, nearly 6% people in the USA were unemployed, but aid given by USA was $30 billion approximately. Even the developing countries such as India have allocated some part of their budget for foreign aid.

Secondly, most aid not only helps the recipient country, but also the donor country. For example, the MNC's opened in India as a part of foreign aid, are no doubt providing jobs to many youngsters, but in fact are paying them much less than what they have to pay their own country's employees. Many foreign companies have opened their retail outlets in India because India is a strong commercial market due to its burgeoning population. Therefore, aid works as a win-win situation for both the giver and the taker countries.

Furthermore, in emergencies or natural calamities such as earthquakes and tsunamis, all countries should come forward and help. Aid need not be monetary; it can be in the form of volunteer workers or providing goods needed by the affected people. Such help should be given even if there are situations within the country needing attention. This also strengthens relations between countries.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that all countries should help by giving foreign aid even if there are problems of unemployment and homelessness within them.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First reason for giving aid
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion

211. *Rich countries often give financial aid to poor countries, but it does not solve the poverty, so rich countries should give other types of help to the poor countries rather than the financial aid. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Even though technology is developing at a fast pace and the standard of living of most individuals has gone up, billions of people still live in poverty, and in many places, the rich countries give financial aid to developing and under-developed countries. Some people consider it improper to give direct monetary help. I agree with them. I believe that the developed countries should give some other types of help to the poor countries and not direct financial aid.

My first argument against financial aid is that this aid may not actually reach those for whom it is meant. It may go into corrupt pockets. Secondly, it would make those people lazy, as they would be getting aid without doing any work. Thirdly, the aid may be used for wrong purposes. For example, the aid may be given for development projects but it may be used to promote terrorism. Finally, if aid is given without proper research, then it may be used for projects, which are not the priority of the people. For instance, the people may need health and educational institutes, whereas the aid may be used for making dams or expanding roadways.

The best way to help poor countries would be to open good educational institutes, good health centres and create job opportunities for people of the poor countries. It has been wisely said by someone, 'Give a man fish to eat, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime'. If people of the poor countries start earning well their standard would definitely become better and the whole country would become richer.

If rich countries open factories and multinational companies in poor countries it would be a win-win situation for both, as the poor would get employment and the rich would have to pay much lesser to these workers than they would have to pay their counterparts in their own country. So, more and more rich countries would step forward to help the poor. Direct financial aid would not bring such a situation.

Summing up, financial aid is not the best way to help poor countries. From my own perspective, the developed countries ought to assist the impoverished countries through other approaches.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: negative effects of financial help
Para 2: advantages of helping in other ways
Para 3: More ways of helping
Conclusion:

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212. *Some people think that charity organizations should only offer help to people of their own country. But others believe that these organizations should give aid to people in great need wherever they live. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

"To have enough to share; to know the joy of giving; to thrill with all the sweets of life - is living". Helping others is a very virtuous thing. Some people hold the opinion that support should be provided to people in their own country, whereas others say that the needy should be helped irrespective of their country. In this essay I intend to discuss both viewpoints. I personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of charities helping the needy in their own country. Firstly, these organisations remain directly in touch with the needy. They can see how the money or the other resources provided by them are being used. It has been well said that charity begins at home. What is more, domestic charities target problems specific to their home country. For instance, the Help Age India is an Indian charity providing help for the aged in India.

On the other hand, those who wish that the needy should be helped in any corner of the world, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, in such cases these organisations work on a larger platform and provide help for global issues. A larger platform is a must if one has a lot to offer in charity. Help activities can be better spread through a larger network. Help need not be always in the form of money. It can be in the form of services also. For example, these organisations can provide doctors and teachers, who volunteer to provide medical aid and also teach in the underdeveloped nations.

In my opinion, help in any form is good. The condition of one's country could influence the way of helping. In a developed country, where even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life, it would be better to help in any part of the world where people need help. But, in the case of a developing or underdeveloped country, it would be better to help those around you first, and then look elsewhere.

Summing up, the purpose of charity organizations is to help people in need, and it doesn't matter where this help goes. If people of the home country need help, then it would certainly be advisable to help those around you first.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of helping your home country
Para 2: Advantages of helping the needy irrespective of country
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Some people prefer to provide help and support directly to those in the local community who need it. Others, however, prefer to give money to national and international charitable organisations. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

213. Some people believe that success in life depends on hard work and determination, while others believe that other factors like money and personal appearance are important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Success means different thing to different people. Therefore, success by "hard work + determination" or "money + looks" is a hot topic of debate. This article will discuss both these views. I personally believe that success comes mainly from the hard work and perseverance and only on some odd occasion money and looks can play a role.

The main reason why some people say that determination and hard work is an important prerequisite for success, is that determination gives people an impetus of setting up goals, which lead to success. For example, Marie Curie (Madame Curie) determined to finish her husband's lifetime unfinished work after his death and eventually discovered radium. Similarly, hard work is also very important as without hard work determination is of no value. It has been well said that 'Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent, perspiration'. Take the example of businessmen. Only those succeed who have determination and who put in a lot of sweat and toil in their business.

Those who advocate that money and good looks are needed for success, believe that good looks increase the confidence of a person and a confident person has more chances to succeed in his life. With good looks a person can succeed in the acting and modeling fields. They also opine that money is needed to become an entrepreneur and those who have the capital to invest have more chances to succeed. For example, a person with lots of bank balance may sustain through any ups and downs in business and finally succeed, but any person without any financial backing may break down if his business goes through a bad phase.

To sum up, I believe that success depends on how firmly people hold on to their determination and how much effort they put into their work. A powerful background of money as well as attractive looks can help a certain number of persons to succeed, but too much reliance on these is unpractical.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Role of determination and hard work
Para 2: Importance of money and looks
Conclusion: With own view

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214. Whether or not someone achieves aim in their life is mostly a question of luck. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that people work very hard to reach their goals in life but at the same time it cannot be denied that luck also has a big role to play in achieving the desired success. Luck is often the final factor which turns years of hard work into success. Therefore, I agree with the given statement. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument is that many people have invented or discovered things with the help of luck. One example which can be cited here is of Columbus. He worked hard for years to make his trip around the world. Many people thought he was crazy, but he got support for his endeavours. He wanted to make his trip to India, but it was by luck that he discovered the Americas.

Secondly, luck can help people become famous. Who has not heard of the famous film star of Bollywood, Shahrukh Khan? He struggled a lot in the early years of his career, but it was mere luck that his role in a TV serial was noticed by a film producer and then there was no looking back. Years of hard work brought him close to success but that one lucky chance finally helped him succeed.

Furthermore, luck helps people get good jobs. A person may spend weeks writing and posting resumes and attending interviews, but it is often because of luck that a job hunter meets a person who gives him or her a job or he comes across a job that is not advertised in the paper. Being in the right place at the right time is often what gets a person a job and that is all about luck.

Finally, some people win lotteries and fulfil their objectives of life. Some are also born lucky. Being born with a silver spoon in one's mouth is sheer luck. An interesting example here would be of Abhishek Bachchan, son of the famous film star Amitabh Bachchan. His first fifteen movies were big flops. Even then he went on getting films and finally he could make it big in the Indian film industry. Any other person would not have been able to sustain all this and would have been lost into oblivion.

Summing up, it is certainly difficult to be successful without hard work, but hard work also needs to be helped by a little luck. Luck has helped many people to achieve their aim in life. Therefore, I reiterate my opinion saying that attaining one's objective in life is mostly because of luck.

Plan followed

Intro: agree
Para 1: many people have invented or discovered things with the help of luck
Para 2: luck helps people get good jobs
Para 3: some people win lotteries and fulfil their objectives of life – some are also born lucky
Conclusion: it is certainly difficult to be successful without hard work but hard work also needs to be helped by a little luck

215. Some people say the most important thing about being rich is that it gives you the opportunity to give back or help the poor. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is indubitable that money is very important for helping others. However, I disagree with the given statement that it is the most essential thing in terms of a chance to help the needy. I believe that there are numerous ways of helping the underprivileged, and monetary aid is certainly not the best forms of aid.

My first argument to support my viewpoint is that giving money to the poor would be a very short-sighted approach. It would satiate their needs for some time, but ultimately they have to be made capable of standing on their own. Providing education and job training is better way of helping them. For example, my friend's mother, teaches children of the slum area every evening. She is herself not very rich, but she is helping in better ways than money can do.

Secondly, it is not always the financial help, which is needed by people. A timely helping hand when a person is suffering is better than helping with money. For instance, in natural calamities, such as earthquakes and floods, the immediate need of people is food and medical care. Many college students volunteered to carry food and medicines to the needy, when there was a flood in some areas of Punjab, a few years ago. Fresh medical graduates also went and stayed there and helped people with immediate medical care. In times of crises, such help outstrips any help that money can provide.

Opponents would argue that only the rich are in a position to help the poor, as people need money for even the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. Even providing education and job training to the destitute, needs money. They have a point, but I still believe that the help in terms of personal effort provided by those who are, themselves, not so affluent is equally good.

To sum up, if one is rich, he is in a better situation to help others who need money and all the things which money can provide. However, I reiterate my view by saying that to help others, one need not be rich as help can be provided in many better ways than with money.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Monetary help is short sighted
Para 2: A timely help in terms of personal effort
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion:

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216. Some people believe famous people's support towards International aid organizations draws the attentions to problems, whereas others think celebrities make the problems less important. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Charity organizations are responsible for aiding the needy and taking care of the victims of natural disasters. Some individuals are of the opinion that if celebrities provide assistance to global charity organisations, people become more attentive towards these issues, whereas others believe that celebs can lessen the severity of the situation. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main reason why some people say that celebs draw attention towards problems by aiding international charity groups is that these charities can get publicity through celebrities. Famous singers, movie stars and sports professionals can endorse the activities or campaigns of international charity organisations. If the stars advocate for charitable organizations, these charities attract more people to participate. Stars enhance the reputation and credibility of the charities. Secondly, when celebrities are called upon for helping NPOs (Non-Profit Organisations) or Charities, they themselves become aware of these problems, and come forward in donating for such causes.

On the other hand, those who say that these celebs dilute the severity of the problems, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, in some instances, celebrities can cause more harm than good because of their bad reputation. For example, some celebs take part in charity work just to improve their image. This can make the messenger (celeb), more important than the message. For example, if some stars are doing publicity for the anti-drug organization, but they themselves have their own history of drug use or crime, then obviously the public would look at that charity with suspicion. Secondly, sometimes, when the famous people are seen working for some charity then people start thinking that enough is already being done, and that their help is not needed. This can be detrimental in the long run.

I believe that celebs coming forward to help, is a very good thing and motivates others also to step forward to help. All famous people should do their utmost to fulfill their social obligations and do some public service activities for those charity organizations. This can be an effective way to serve those in need. The international charities should also be judicious enough to select which celeb they would like to be associated with.

To summarise, international aid organizations can attract more citizens' attention on problems if celebrities give the right support and set up good images

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: How celebs can help
Para 2: How celebs can help
Para 3: How celebs can harm
Conclusion:

217. Some people think we need to give aid to all poor countries. Others, however, argue that we should not give international aid to countries with corruption in their system. Discuss both views and provide your own opinion.

International aid refers to money, equipment or services that are provided by a country or international organization for countries that need them, known as recipient countries. People are divided on the issue of giving aid to poor countries. Some say that it reflects the goodness of mankind, whereas others tend to believe that the recipient countries, which have venality in their system, can misspend the aid money. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main reason why some people say that aid should be given to all poor countries, is that aid on humanitarian grounds is extremely imperative. Members of the global community should provide relief to the have-nots and the victims of natural disasters. This aid is essential in helping recipient countries return to their normal state after major disturbances. Secondly, this aid also promotes peace and security. It increases harmony between different nations and so chances of armed conflicts are less.

On the other hand, those who say that aid should not be given to countries which have corruption, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, monetary aid can sometimes be misused or miss-spent. In other words, it may go into corrupt pockets, or it may be used for the wrong purposes, such as for promoting terrorism. Secondly, the people may become lazy and stop doing efforts on their own to earn a decent living.

I believe that aid should be given, but the misuse should be tackled by tight regulations and scrutiny. In general, the abuse of international aid is an isolated event, so its effect should not be overstated. If at all there are chances of corruption in the aid given, then aid should be given in other forms, such as by opening hospitals and educational institutes and also by increasing employment opportunities.

In conclusion, the role of humanitarian relief is not just to deliver prompt assistance to people in need, but also to strengthen ties between countries. Although fraud and corruption occur every now and then, they can be addressed in strict ways.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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218. *Some people think that giving aids to the poor countries has more negative impacts than positive ones. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree that giving aid to poor countries has more negative effects. There are negative effects, no doubt, but positive effects are certainly more.

Talking about the negative effects, the major one is that poor countries could become over dependent and stop making efforts of their own. This would halt the long term progress of the poor countries. Secondly, the aid given by rich countries could go into corrupt hands and not reach those for whom it was meant for. Then, the aid may not be that useful. For example, the people's need may be clothes and food but the aid may be in the form of making a bridge or something like that which people may not need. Finally, the rich countries may have their own selfish motives behind giving aid. For instance, they may provide employment but they may be underpaying and exploiting the poor.

The advantages of the rich countries helping the poor are manifold. To begin with, nowadays we belong to a global village and all countries are so interconnected that all problems that arise because of poverty – crime, terrorism and diseases will directly or indirectly affect the rich countries. It is a well-known fact that terrorists can infiltrate the rich countries and cause violence and crime there. Moreover, if poor countries suffer diseases then these diseases can spread to the neighbouring rich countries. So, it can be said that it is a necessity for the rich to save the poor in order to save themselves. It has been well said by John F Kennedy that "if a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich".

Furthermore, there are many problems which the world is facing today, such as global warming, which can be solved by joint efforts of all countries. Such joint efforts can only be possible if the gap between the rich and poor is narrowed. This can only be achieved if the haves help the have-nots. Finally, the rich countries also have a moral duty to help the poor. They should help them on humanitarian grounds.

To conclude, I reiterate by saying that the rich must help the poor. However, it must be well researched first as to what sort of help is most needed. Help can be provided in the form of food, medicine and education.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree - There are negative effects, no doubt, but positive effects are certainly more
Para 1: negative effects of help
Para 2: advantages of helping.
Para 3: More advantages
Conclusion:

219. Individuals and countries cannot help everyone who needs help in the world, so they should only be concerned about their own communities and countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people opine that we cannot help everyone in the world and it would be better if we help the needy in our own communities and country. I disagree wholly with the first part of the statement that individuals and countries cannot help everyone who needs help in the world. I believe that in today's era of globalization, there are many national and international organisations through which we can extend a helping hand to anyone in any corner of the world. However, I do agree that priority should be given to helping the impoverished in ones vicinity.

It is unquestionably wrong to say that it is not possible to help anyone in the world, in today's era. The world has shrunk and everyone is at an arm's length. Monetary help can be transferred to any nook or corner within seconds. Help in kind is also possible by faster means of travel. Those who cannot help in cash or kind can volunteer with their services. For example, when Nepal suffered an earthquake, help poured in from all corners of the world. Similar was the case when tsunami hit Japan.

If one's own country is developing or under-developed and the people around need help, then priority should be given to help those around you first. There are many advantages of direct help. Firstly, a person remains directly in touch with the needy. You can see how your money is being used. There are no mediators and so there are no chances of corruption. It has been well said that charity begins at home. Naturally, if you help those around you, the people in your locality love and respect you and you enjoy a better status in life.

If one belongs to a prosperous country, where even the poorest of the poor has all the basic amenities of life, then it would be commendable to help through national and international organisations. Helping others One can work on a larger platform and provide help for global issues. A larger platform is a must if you have a lot to offer in charity. Help activities can be better spread through a larger network. You feel part of a global village. Help need not be always in the form of money. It can be in the form of services also. For example, if you are a doctor, you can provide medical aid and if you are a teacher, you can volunteer to teach in the underdeveloped nations.

Summing up, it is human nature to help those who need it. If your own country's people need help then they should be helped first. Otherwise it is good to help people in other parts of the world.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: Why it is wrong to say that we cannot help in any corner of the world.
Para 2: if own country needs help, then priority should be given to own country.
Para 3: Why we should help the needy in any corner of the world
Conclusion:

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220. A lot of charities and organisations have to publicize their activities by setting up a number of days to name the special day like National Children's day and National non-smoking day. Why do they do so? What are the effects?

Charities and organisations are formed to help the needy sections of society. Generally, they are NPOs or non-profit organisations. Nowadays, it has been seen that they set up a number of days like 'Mother's Day' and 'No Smoking Day'. In this essay I shall discuss the causes and effects of this phenomenon.

The main reason why these NPOs do so is to raise funds for their working. This is very essential, because for every activity they do to help others, they need money and other resources. When they publicize their activities, they get people's attention and so people contribute wholeheartedly. Sometimes, in times of calamities, they need a lot of funds and manual help. They need voluntary workers. For example, recently in Ladakh, a cloudburst caused havoc. Many people lost their lives and there was a lot of damage of property. The Rotary Club and Jaycee Club of my hometown sent many volunteers to help. The government alone cannot be at all places. Because of such organisations, people get timely help and a lot of burden is eased from the government's shoulders.

When these organisations name special days, it brings people together. With more activities opened and more days named, more and more people focus their attention and put their time and energy and realise the importance of doing for others. As a consequence, community spirit increases in society. As it is nowadays, people are getting self-centered and alienated from each other. So, such days are the need of the day.

Such days also, keep our youth in touch with our culture and traditions. With the exposure to global culture, youth today are forgetting their traditions. To establish some days may help the young people understand the importance of such events. Such days also increase awareness of offering help selflessly. Hence, some virtuous habits may pass from one generation to the other. Finally, such days deter people from bad habits. For e.g., on National No Smoking Day people are made aware about the harmful effects of smoking.

To summarise, charities and NPOs publicize their activities because they need funds, and they name certain days so that people come together and celebrate and realize the importance of their culture and tradition

Plan followed

Intro: In this essay I shall discuss the causes and effects of this phenomenon.
Para 1: The main reason why these NPOs do so is to raise funds for their working
Para 2: Secondly, it brings people together
Para 3: Such days keep our youth in touch with our culture and traditions. Such days deter people from bad habits
Conclusion:

221. Some people think that economic progress is the only way to measure a country's success, while others think that there are other factors, which can be used to measure a country's success. What are these factors? And among them, which one is more important than others?

It is irrefutable that economic progress is one yardstick of determining a country's success, but there is a range of other non-economic factors such as Literacy Rate (LR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB), and Environment Performance Index (EPI), which can be used to judge the well-being of a nation. This essay shall delve into all such factors and also pick out the most significant one.

Economic progress, or in other words, the GDP has traditionally been the benchmark for determining the growth of a country. The true measure of success, however, is to determine how much of this economic growth is reaching the weakest sections of the society. A successful measure of development should represent the life of an average person in a country. It should measure the quality of life of all citizens.

One important factor is the Literacy Rate. For example, a country like Cuba has low GDP but less than 1% of its population is illiterate. As a consequence, there is less crime and hence people enjoy a peaceful existence. Another factor is the Primary Health Care. This can be judged by the Infant Mortality Rate, and the Life Expectancy at Birth. If people receive good healthcare at the primary level, they are happier. Their productivity of work increases, and they lead a comfortable life.

Furthermore, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is also an index of mapping the success. For instance, Costa Rica has a low GDP, but its people are considered to be the happiest in the world. This is perhaps because it ranks 5th in the world in the EPI.

Summing up, 'Literacy Rate' is the most important factor to measure the success of a nation. GDP is just a mathematical value, and does not take into consideration many of the factors that affect a person's wellbeing and thus a nation's wellbeing.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into all such factors and also pick out the most significant one.
Para 1: How economic progress is used to judge progress
Para 2: Literacy Rate and Infant Mortality Rate and Life Expectancy at Birth
Para 3: Environment Performance Index
Conclusion: Literacy Rate' is the most important factor

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224. Young people who commit serious crimes should be punished in the same way as adults. Do you agree or disagree?

The rising crime among youth has led to the debate whether they should be tried in court as adults or treated differently because of their age. The reasoning given is, 'old enough to do the crime, old enough to do the time.' However, I do not agree with this policy. I believe that trying juveniles in criminal court may actually result in bigger problems.

Firstly, although adolescents are old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong, they are too young to make the right choices yet. The teenage brain can be likened to a car with a good accelerator but a weak brake. Studies have shown that adolescents are more likely to act on impulse and engage in risky behavior. They are less likely to think before they act, or pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions. These brain differences don't mean that they shouldn't be held responsible for their actions. It just means that they should be sent to juvenile courts and put in reformatory schools, so that they get a chance to realize their mistakes and become good citizens.

Secondly, if tried in an adult court, they may even be sent in prison. Evidently, adult prisons are very harsh. These prisons expose these young kids to hardened criminals who may act as professors of crime for them. Statistics show that juveniles tried and prosecuted in adult courts are more likely to reoffend than those who were tried in juvenile court.

There are people who opine that a young person who does a serious crime knows very well that what he is doing is wrong and so should be held responsible for his actions. There were heated debates on this topic, when in August 2013 a juvenile court in India sentenced a boy to three years detention in a juvenile home after finding him guilty of charges including rape and murder. Another big question was raised in those debates regarding the official age when a person steps into adulthood. In most countries it is 18, but is proposed to be brought down to 15, which sounds more practical.

To sum up, children can commit terrible crimes, and it is true that the reform and rehabilitation of child offenders under the juvenile justice system is not only in the best interests of children, but also the short and long-term interests of society. So, juvenile delinquents should not be punished like adults. However, the age for defining adulthood could be brought down slightly.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Opposing view
Conclusion

225. A recent newspaper article reported that a 14-year-old boy who seriously destroyed his school got the punishment to clean the streets, instead of being sent to prison. Do you think this is right, or do you think that such criminals should be sent to prison?

Juvenile delinquency is a problem with a difference; not only does it need to be handled urgently but also delicately. There are two questions that need to be answered while tackling the problem – should juveniles be treated differently compared to adults and secondly, should the severity of the crime be considered while making this decision. I believe that such criminals should be treated differently, but only if the crime is not heinous in nature.

There are many reasons behind not sending juvenile offenders to prisons like adults. One main reason is that at such young ages, children and teenagers do not know any better. They are not psychologically developed to register the import of their actions. Age, not only brings physical development, but also mental maturity. Therefore, treating them similar to adults would not be fair.

Secondly, juvenile delinquency is a phenomenon of dysfunctional families. Most delinquents have unhappy home lives and feel discontented with their lives' circumstances. They indulge in delinquency to get their parents' attention or attention at school. They need love and affection, and jails and prisons are the last places where they can find the love they need. What is required is treating the causes for such behavior, like talking to family members.

Finally, these ages from 10-18 are the career building ages. Punishing individuals at such ages would make them lose precious years of their life and leave little scope for them to rebuild them. This would destroy their chances at good jobs in the future and also make it impossible for them to become fruitful members of the society. The only future path left open to them would be becoming criminals and carrying on with such activities.

However, if the crime is very severe, age cannot become an excuse to avoid punishment. If we treat crimes like rape, murder lightly just because of young age, we are doing a disservice to the society.

To sum up, youth are the future of a country and adolescence requires enough light to see the steps directly in front. Imprisonment is not the light but a permanent darkness, which destroys all chances of re-entry into society. We have to treat juveniles differently but not for brutal and heinous crimes.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason for not sending them to prisons
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Para 4: Exceptions
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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226. *Studies show that many criminals have a low level of education. For this reason, people believe that the best way to reduce crime is to educate people in prison so they can get a job when they leave prison. Do you agree or disagree?*

It is generally observed that criminals are either illiterate or they have a low level of education. Therefore, it is thought that the most effective way to tackle crime is to provide education to criminals in prisons. I think providing education in prisons can reduce crimes to some extent, but there are other better solutions to reduce crime. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement.

There is no doubt that providing education to criminals can certainly reduce crime. When criminals get some education, they would be able to get jobs after leaving prisons. Thus, they would be able to fulfil their basic needs and they won't be forced to resort to crime.

However, I believe only providing education in prisons would not be very successful in reducing crime. Firstly, the main reason why criminals commit crimes again and again is not the lack of education, but the inability to secure good jobs. So, governments should focus on creating good jobs for criminals. Secondly, most people also avoid hiring criminals and there is need to change the society's attitude towards criminals. Government could also give incentives to business and companies to hire convicts. For example, in the US, government gives a tax rebate of 5% to companies, which hire criminals.

Finally, education in prisons may stop repeat offences, however, it will not impact the first- time crimes. Hence, rather than focusing on education in prisons, the government should focus on primary education, so that the overall illiteracy in society comes down. As a result, crime also would fall.

In conclusion, although prison education would reduce crime to some extent, I believe that it is not the best method of reducing offences in the society.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why education in prisons is a good method
Para 2: Why it would not be successful
Para 3: Another reason why education in prisons would not be enough
Conclusion:

227. Many people are afraid to leave their home because of crime. Some believe that more action can be taken to prevent crime. While others feel that little action can be done to stop crime. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

It is irrefutable that crime is burgeoning day by day in many countries. Many people are scared to go away from their home because of crime. Some people contend that number of ways can be used to prevent crime. While other people argue that nothing can be done to prevent it. In this essay, I will discuss both perspectives. I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue by taking some action.

There are many reasons why some people say that nothing can be done to prevent crime. They say that despite having laws against crime, the incidences of crime are on the rise. Moreover, the rich and the influential can get away after doing crime by bribing the officials. People have become dejected and frustrated by all this. They see no improvement coming in the law and order situation. That is why they say that no steps can be taken to check crime.

On the other hand, those who say that if more steps are taken, crime can be averted, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, the authorities could increase the number of police on roads. A second possibility would be to make laws stricter and punishments more severe. Finally, people could use more effective alarm devices can be used in houses. Surveillance cameras can be used in homes with the help of which people can watch what is happening in their homes from anywhere. In this way one can feel secure about one's home.

I believe that crime can be forfended by taking several steps. For example, if more police were on the streets, whether on foot or on patrol cars, criminals would be less likely to commit crime and people would feel much safer. Moreover, if a criminal has to pay more money for doing something illegal or would have to face more time in prison, then this is likely to reduce the crime rate. It would be wrong to give up all hope of thwarting potential criminals from doing crime.

In conclusion, although crime is a major problem in most cities in the world, the situation can be addressed by adopting the methods mentioned above. It would definitely be wrong to say that nothing can be done to address this problem.

Plan followed

Intro: I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue by taking some action.
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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228. *Many people nowadays do not feel safe either when they are at home or go out. What are the reasons and what can be done to solve this problem?*

There is no doubt that an increasing number of people feel unsafe, not only when they go out somewhere, but also when they are at home. There are several factors, which have led to this increasing fear. In this essay, I will look into the causes of this and suggest some solutions.

The reasons why people are afraid of going out of their homes are very obvious. The crimes committed on the streets, are on a rise. The road mishaps have risen to a proportion, more than ever before and continue to increase everyday. Some people are afraid to go out because of the fear of natural calamities and also, sometimes due to health related disorders, which might be caused due to the increase in pollution. The reports of bombings and terror attacks have become everyday news. As a result, people feel afraid of stepping out of their homes.

At the same time, people are also becoming increasingly scared within their homes. The main reason for this is the escalation in the crimes being committed at homes, like murders, robberies, etc. In a recent news article, it has been surveyed that there have been more crimes committed by domestic help at people's homes, than the crimes being committed on the streets. This has led to people feeling vulnerable, at home and when they are out on the streets.

There are certain steps, which can be taken, by the government and individuals, to make people more safe and protected. The increasing unemployment is the main reason of these crimes. If the youth of a country are provided vocational training and good job opportunities, they would not fall on the path of crime. Another important measure, which needs to be taken by the government, is to employ more security measures, like cameras, more police patrolling, and more security in public transport and public areas. This needs to be done in the residential and commercial areas, both, so that it deters the criminals and instills a sense of security in the public. For instance, in Bengaluru, government has now made it compulsory for all showrooms and shops to install security cameras. There are also random checks made by the government officials to ensure that the security standards are met in all commercial areas.

To add to it, stricter punishments for the offenders will act as a major deterrent for the criminals. This will greatly reduce the incidents of crimes on the streets and at home. Another important measure is the use of technology in the security systems installed at homes. People can install advanced alarm systems and security cameras in their homes, to avoid any unwanted incidents of crime. This also helps greatly in the reduction of domestic crimes.

To sum it up, people's fear and insecurity is justified, with the increasing reports of crime reported by the media. However, this situation can be mitigated by taking some measures, like tackling the unemployment problem, tightened security measures, stricter punishments and the use of advanced technology in households and commercial areas.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para1: Why people are not safe when they are out of their homes
Para 2: Why they are not safe within their homes
Para 3: Solutions
Para 4: Solutions Conclusion

229. More and more measures to improve the security in large urban areas have been introduced in many countries because of the increased crime. Do the benefits of these measures outweigh the drawbacks?

Crime and the fear of crime are very big concerns in big cities and so many security measures have been introduced to tackle crime. In this essay I intend to delve into the advantages and disadvantages of these methods. The advantages definitely outweigh the disadvantages.

One such measure is the security cameras, which have become ubiquitous in many countries. Earlier they appeared only in banks and at high-security areas but now they are seen in public places such as malls, streets, stadiums and transport. Surveillance cameras have several benefits. An obvious benefit is that the police can catch criminals in the act, thus reducing crime. This has made the streets safer for ordinary people. A more important point is that criminals, particularly young offenders or petty criminals are deterred. They will not be tempted to carry out crimes, and thus society will be a lot safer. Cameras are also cost-effective and unobtrusive. Authorities do not need to spend large amounts of money on police.

Another security measure is the computerized data collection of individuals. This also helps the police force to operate more effectively. The data can be updated regularly and data retrieval is very easy and quick. These methods are also cost effective. Other methods like police patrolling on the roads has also been intensified. These methods bring a sense of security in the minds of people.

However, some people object to these measures. The biggest objection concerns privacy. Many people feel that they should be free to travel or move around a shop, mall, street or country without being photographed or recorded. They feel that being watched constantly is like being in a jail, and that ordinary people are losing their freedom because of these devices. Even the computerized data collection of individuals can go in wrong hands.

Summing up, there are definite advantages to using such measures, but we need to balance the need for security with respect for the individual's privacy and freedom. If this is done then definitely the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: advantages definitely outweigh the disadvantages.
Para 1: Advantages of security cameras
Para 2: Advantages of computerized data collection of individuals
Para 3: Downside of such measures
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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230. Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later. Some people think that they are the best people to talk to school students about the danger of committing a crime. Do you agree or disagree?

It is understandable that ex-prisoners can share the consequences of their crime with school children and educate them against delinquency. However, I disagree that they are the best people for this job. I believe that other measures taken by parents and teachers are better to teach the next generation how to become law-abiding citizens.

The main reason why some consider that it is a good idea for ex-prisoners to share their experience with the students is because the released prisoners have witnessed the tough life in the jail and can share the tears and sorrows they suffered in the jails and the harm they have brought to the victims and their family members. This may be more impressive than the traditional lectures given by professors. By listening to a wide range of real cases in person, young generation will realize the consequence of the irresponsible behaviour deeply and discipline themselves strictly in the future.

Nevertheless, I believe other alternatives should be taken into consideration as well. It is common for people to have a fear towards criminals, especially those who have committed violent crimes and therefore face-to-face conversation between the school students and people with such criminal record might be unfitting in some cases. Another point to be taken into consideration is that by inviting such people to schools to address the students, some vulnerable students might start thinking it glamorous to commit a crime.

By contrast, policemen normally have a good impression among youngsters and they can become the active voice in reducing juvenile delinquency. Senior police officials could be called to deliver lectures to students and show them videos of the harsh life in prisons to deter them from committing crime. Apart from them, parents can certainly be the first to help children learn the differences between right and wrong since they are the people who know their children the best in the world. Teachers also are good to guide children about what is right or wrong.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that ex-criminals are good, but not the best to guide children against immoral behaviour. It is the responsibility of every member of a society to help the young generation to become good citizens.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: How ex-criminals can help
Para 2: Why ex-prisoners are not the best.
Para 3: What other people can help
Conclusion:

231. Prison is the common way in most countries to solve the problem of crime. However, a more effective solution is to provide people a better education. Agree or disagree.

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. Some hold the view that education and job training are the long-term solutions to cut crime. In my opinion, prison is the only answer in a few situations, but in most cases education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. Some people also say that people would not be afraid of doing crime if fear of imprisonment is not there. But I still feel that in majority of cases, we can do without prisons.

In traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they will commit even more crime. In other words, prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shoplifters and pickpockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well-known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be removing the causes of crime. If some form of employment rehabilitates criminals, then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden from the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be sent to prison. Focus should be on reforming them.

Plan followed

Intro: partially agree
Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which prison is the only answer - Society needs to be protected from them
Para 2: Why prison is not the answer -
Para 3: Maintaining prisons is a burden on the govt.
Conclusion:

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232. Certain people believe that the only way to reduce crime is sentencing criminals for longer time periods, while others believe alternative methods should be used to lower crimes. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. Some people say that long term prison is the only way to curb crime, whereas others say that education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that long term imprisonment is the answer for heinous criminals, but on the whole, alternative methods are better to combat crime.

There are many arguments given by those who advocate longer terms in prison to combat crime. They say that there are criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. There are also mentally insane people such as serial killers who should be kept away from the people. If such criminals are set free soon, they will reoffend and so should be in penitentiaries for longer terms.

On the other hand, there are many convincing arguments given by those who are against long-term imprisonment. Firstly, in traditional prisons, petty criminals learn a lot about crime, and so when they leave prison, they commit even more crime. In other words, prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shoplifters and pickpockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well-known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. If some form of employment rehabilitates criminals, then they would certainly not re-offend.

I believe that alternative methods are better than the conventional prisons, because prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden off the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime, the focus should be on fighting the causes of crime and on reforming the criminals. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. Longer terms in prison are not the answer to curb crime.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

233. Research suggests that majority of criminals who were sent to prison would commit crimes when set free. What do you think of this case? What to be done to solve this problem?

Crime is a big problem all over the world and there are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. It has been seen that when criminals are set free from prison, majority of them re-offend. In the following paragraphs, I shall suggest some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some solutions.

To begin with, in traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they tend to commit even more crime. In other words, prisons act as universities of crime. Secondly, after being set free some may even want to lead a good and peaceful life, but people of the community do not accept them and as a result they don't get any jobs. They are forced to re-offend because they have to fulfil their basic needs. Finally, some may commit crime again because they do not have the training or qualification to do any job.

Many steps can be taken to minimize the gravity of the situation. First of all, petty offenders like shoplifters and pickpockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well not fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be removing the causes of crime. If some form of employment rehabilitates criminals then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, community service such as maintaining parks and doing some construction work can be taken from criminals instead of just putting them into prisons. In this way, they feel they are part of the community and the community also starts accepting them.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, the focus should be on reforming the criminals so that they do not re-offend.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall suggest some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some solutions.

Para 1: Reasons for re-committing crime

Para 2: Solutions

Para 3: community service such as maintaining parks and doing some construction work can be taken from criminals instead of just putting them into prisons

Conclusion:

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234. *Proper function of prisons is to punish criminals and life in prisons should be hard. Do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the first half of the statement, which says that the main role of prisons is to punish criminals, but agree with the second half of the statement, which says that life in prisons should be tough. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many reasons why it would be wrong to say that the proper function of prisons is to punish criminals. Normally, prisons have three basic functions. The first is to protect the society from offenders. There are some hardcore criminals and mentally sick people who should be behind the bars for the safety of the general public. Secondly, prisons punish offenders by keeping them away from their kith and kin. Thirdly, they rehabilitate or reform offenders. Prisons are correctional institutes where prisoners are reformed to become law-abiding citizens. Education and vocational training is given to inmates of the prison so that they are able to make a living after being set free and do not re-offend. Those prisoners who are mentally sick are given proper psychiatric treatment and are only set free when it is sure that the society is not at any risk from them. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that the proper function is only to punish offenders.

As far as the life in prisons is concerned, I believe that it should be very tough. By that it does not mean that inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment should be given to them. It simply means prisoners should be made to lead a very disciplined life and made to do some community work. This work could be any labour type work or any work depending on the capability of the inmates of the prison. If they have to be given vocational training, it should also be given seriously.

There would be many advantages of a tough life in prison. To begin with, it would act as a deterrent for prisoners to reoffend once they are set free. Another important effect would be that they would not have the time to learn crime from other serious offenders within the prison. It has generally been seen that prisons act as schools of crime for petty criminals. Another benefit that could ensue is that this prison labour could be turned into an industry and money could be generated for the maintenance of these prisons.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion saying that prisons have other roles besides punishing criminals and the life within prisons should definitely be hard.

Plan followed
Intro: I disagree
Para 1: Functions of prison
Para 2: Why life in prisons should be hard
Para 3: Benefits of hard prison life
Conclusion:

235. Crime is a problem all over the world and there is nothing that can be done to prevent it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

There is no doubt that numerous problems exist in most modern cities throughout the world. Although traffic congestion, pollution and overcrowding often occur, many people believe that crime is the most serious problem in urban areas. Indeed, television and newspaper reports often tell us that crime continues to rise. However, I disagree that nothing can be done to prevent it. I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue in a number of ways.

One approach would be to increase the number of police. If more Police were on the streets, whether on foot or in patrol cars, criminals would be less likely to commit crimes and people would feel much safer. Having more police visible at night would be particularly beneficial.

A second possibility would be to make laws stricter and punishments more severe. This could involve increasing fines or lengthening prison sentences. If a criminal has to pay more money for doing something illegal or would face more time in prison then I believe this is likely to reduce the crime rate.

Thirdly, methods to increase security might deter potential criminals. For example, more effective alarms in houses and cars. This would reduce burglary and theft. In addition, more information about home security would also be useful. In terms of personal safety, rape alarms or even small weapons could prevent some attacks on people.

In conclusion, although crime is a major problem in most cities in the world, the situation can be addressed by adopting the methods mentioned above. In this way, the negative effects could be reduced and people living in cities would feel much safer.

Plan followed

Intro: I disagree that nothing can be done to prevent it. I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue in a number of ways.
Para 1: One approach would be to increase the number of police
Para 2: A second possibility would be to make laws stricter and punishments more severe
Para 3: Thirdly, methods to increase security might deter potential criminals
Conclusion: although crime is a major problem in most cities in the world, the situation can be addressed by adopting the methods mentioned above

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236. In some countries, some of the criminal cases in the law courts are shown on the television, so that the general public can watch them. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

There are some countries such as the US, where court cases are televised, so that the public can view them. There are arguments in favour of, and arguments against such televising. This essay intends to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of televising criminal courts. I, personally, believe the pros outweigh the cons.

There are many arguments for televising court proceedings. Firstly, by allowing the televising of the court cases, efficient and fair trials will be ensured. Because of televising many people will be able to access the court cases, and also will be able to criticize the judges for engaging in a trial insincerely. Secondly, if we can all watch trials, we will become more confident in our legal system. The effect of televising the court cases would allow people to know better of the judiciary system, and give them knowledge of law related issues. It is the way to enhance trust towards the justice system by making the court transparent and open.

Furthermore, right to know is a fundamental right, all people have. They should be able to know what happens during the trial. Journalists are allowed to write reports of the proceedings, but written judgments are not enough. These are full of odd words and complicated sentence constructions. Therefore, articles written by reporters about trials don't satisfy people's right to know.

What is more, televising trials could prevent many crimes, as a lot of people would not want their cases being shown. The showing of the cases would aware the potential criminals of the treatment they will receive when they commit crimes, and discourage them from doing it. Finally, some families of victims may not be able to go to the trial, but they can follow it on TV from a safe distance.

On the other hand, one of the arguments used by those who are fundamentally skeptical about the whole development, is that the presence of cameras could distort the very nature of the process. The jurors may be influenced by the media coverage. In particular, it has been argued that televising the events could act as a deterrent to victims and witnesses giving evidence. Witnesses will lose their anonymity, as everyone in the country will know their face. To add to it, showing trials on TV, could turn lawbreakers into celebrities. The procedures might turn into entertainment, like in the Judge Judy show.

To conclude, televising the trial courts has both merits and demerits. However, the benefits definitely have an edge over the drawbacks.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of televising
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

237. Some people believe that if police force carries guns, it can encourage a higher level of violence. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that armed police force would promote a greater degree of violence. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument to support my viewpoint is that guns would, to a large extent, deter the potential criminals. Police officers are those who are responsible for taking care of all the citizens' safety and wearing guns could largely make sure of this. For example, if someone has the intention to commit a crime, he would think twice about doing so if there is police carrying guns on patrol. Therefore, the level of violence would decrease rather than go up.

Secondly, criminals usually have guns and so, police officers need them in order to control crime. Instead of taking guns away from the police, it is more important to make laws against the general public having guns. Countries with weak or ineffective gun laws, or countries bordering such countries, like Mexico which has strong gun laws, but virtually no way to prevent them from being smuggled over the border from the U.S., need a police force that is not only armed, but is armed better than the criminals.

Opponents claim that in places where police don't have guns even then crime is in check. For example, police in the U.K. are able to go without guns and also have crime in control. They have a point but I believe that crime in UK is under control because they are able to control the flow of guns to the general populace. Therefore, I reiterate my point that police force should carry guns.

To sum up, because criminals can easily come into possession of guns, therefore the police force needs to be armed. Armed police as such could never be a cause of increased violence. Nations around the world should hope to someday reach the point where their police force can afford not to carry guns and still be effective.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: If police is armed, criminals are deterred from doing crime.

Para 2: Police need guns because criminals have guns.

Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: reiterated my point

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238. Some people argue that public should be allowed to have guns. Others do not agree. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the issue of gun ownership. There are some, who hold the opinion that gun ownership should be allowed, as it is in many countries such as the US, whereas others opine that people in general should not be permitted to keep them. This essay intends to analyse both views. I, however, side with the latter view.

The major reason why some people say that the governments should not allow people to have guns is because of the potential for accidents. In America, for example, a person can legally shoot people if he finds them robbing his house, but this can lead to innocent people dying. In addition, there are crimes where people act rashly or in anger, so guns that are intended for defense can be used aggressively. Another important argument against owning guns is that there can be intentional damage caused by guns. It is statistically evident that the number of gun-related crimes is higher in countries such as the US, where firearm ownership is legal.

On the other hand, those in favour of gun ownership say that without the freedom to bear arms, there is no self-defense. Without self-defense, there would most likely be more break-ins, robberies and even deaths. In the UK it's illegal to have a gun, yet criminals can still get one. So, if anyone who had a gun used it harmfully, people would have no self-defense. They also argue that shooting is a sport, and so being prevented from owning their own firearm, is both unjust and a violation of their rights.

To sum up, it is clear that the permissibility of guns can lead to injury and death, both intentionally and unintentionally. Although there are points to support gun ownership, they are weak in comparison with the rising tide of gun crime, a situation, which will only continue to worsen.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Points against gun ownership
Para 2: Points for gun ownership
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

239. Newspapers have influenced people's ideas and opinions. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or a negative situation?

Media has an indubitable role in refining the outlook of people. This essay intends to analyze the reasons for this. Admittedly, the influence created by media is largely positive, although there is a slight negative effect also.

Firstly, the diverse news in print media brings out huge responses and emotions in people. Newspapers have a wide coverage and manage to fetch the latest happenings around the globe. The way news items are reported influences the way people think and act. Moreover, media always presents the news in an appealing way, which catches people's attention and they want to dig into it deeper. People find such news hard to be neglected. The quest of people to know more about the world is undoubtedly well looked after by the media. It is the media because of which the people are aware about what the government is doing for them, and through letters to the editor they can reach out their voice to be heard by the government. People realize that media is a link between them and the government, and so it influences their opinions even more.

The influence created by the media is undoubtedly positive as knowledge about one's fellow beings makes one more empathetic and alert. The fact that media update people with both good and bad latest happenings is a helpful influence. For example, media's wide coverage of rapes and murders in surrounding areas creates sympathy as well as alertness in people. The live television of instances like earthquakes and floods helps people to be proactive. For example, when tsunami hit Japan in 2011, people from all over the world came out to help. The varied other information like entertainment, sports and arts is good enough to ease the stress level.

On the other hand, although there are some unhealthy practices like gutter-press journalism, cheque-book journalism and libel writing, people today are mature enough to take it all with a pinch of salt, and use their own analytical ability to shape their judgement. Such media, which takes the help of ill-founded news and other wrong means cannot sustain long. On the whole, media always act as custodians of the interest of the general public.

To conclude, media is powerful enough to influence one's attitudes and thought process because of many reasons. However, such changes always act positively despite some drawbacks.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Positive impact
Para 3: Negative impact
Conclusion:

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240. Although nowadays people are reading news through Internet, newspapers still remain of value. Do you agree or disagree?

Much has changed for the news industry since the rise of the Internet. However, I agree with the given statement that newspapers are still of great importance. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of the printed newspaper is that it does not require any sophisticated, cumbersome technical equipment to read. This offers the reader a high level of flexibility. The printed newspaper can basically be read in any place at any time. For instance, a person may read the paper while commuting to and from work. He may just have enough time to go through the headlines in the morning, and then he may go through the news, which interests him later on. Secondly, the reader can absorb the information offered at his own pace. What is more, the level of importance of each news story is made more obvious by use of different sized headline fonts.

Furthermore, local information such as local news, listing of movies and entertainment in the local area, news of local sporting events and other events in the local area are best assessed through the printed newspaper. Readers will always want to know about things closest to home, and no news organization is better equipped or staffed to supply this information than a newspaper. To add to it, the newspapers also have coupons and advertisements for stores having sales. Finally, in many parts of the world that day is still very far when each and every person will have a computer and an Internet connection.

Undoubtedly, the appetite for news from the Internet is growing, but it's just one part of a varied diet. The average person gets news from a variety of sources--some online, some from TV or radio and some from newspapers and magazines. It is irrefutable that the technical potential of the Internet greatly surpasses that of the printed newspapers in a number of ways. Through the Internet there is the possibility of regular updates, access to archives, rapid access to a large number of newspapers, and being paperless it is very eco-friendly. However, I still believe that the printed newspaper is the king of all news media.

Summing up, the online newspaper and the printed newspaper are not mutually exclusive. One can use both and many people do. Online news has not lead to any decline in the circulation of newspapers.

Plan followed

Intro: I agree
Para 1: main advantage of the printed newspaper Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Advantages of the Internet but still newspaper is the king
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Some people think newspaper is the most effective way to get the latest information because it has more influence than other forms of media. Do you agree or disagree?*

241. Some people think that the news media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement that media has a negative influence on our lives. I believe that the media is doing a great service to us and whatever negative effect it has is negligible if we compare it to the benefits of the media.

There are many positive effects of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we will make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. Today, the popularity of Indian culture is an example of the media's enormous impact. It is the media, which highlights the good points of our own culture through programmes such as 'India's got Talent'. What is more, the reality shows of today have given exposure and fame to the common man with talent today. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely the media's influence will grow even stronger. Finally, the media also helps in providing justice to the common man. Who has not heard of the Jessica murder case and the case of Nithari killings? Were it not for the media, Jessica's parents would have never got justice.

On the other hand, the media too has its downside. The paparazzi can invade the privacy of famous people. Sometimes violence and vulgarity is shown and at times it can shape our opinion in negative ways. For that my counter argument is that once the person becomes famous then his private life becomes public and he has no right to crib about the paparazzi. People can choose what they want to see and technology has provided them the tools to block those channels, which they don't want their children to see. Finally, God has given us brains to judge what is right or wrong. The media is just doing its job by providing us with the latest information.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate by saying that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Positive side of media
Para 2: More positives of media
Para 3: Opponents view with counter-argument
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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242. *News media is important in our society. Why is it so important? Do you think its influence is generally positive or negative?*

News media is indeed very significant nowadays. This is because without the news media we would be totally in the dark and cut off from the rest of the world. Its impact is largely positive, although there is a negative side of the news media as well.

There are many benefits of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media, that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

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In conclusion, I would like to say that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Positive side of media
Para 2: More positives of media
Para 3: negative side of media
Conclusion:

243. Nowadays, people get information through news and papers, but meanwhile are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?

News and newspapers are an indispensable part of our everyday life, because they keep us connected with the outside world. This essay shall discuss whether or not we should believe the journalists, and also explain the characteristics of a good journalist.

We have to believe the journalists because they are our only source of information. But, we should take it all with a pinch of salt. Sometimes they may spread ill-founded news just to sell their papers. On the whole, they are doing great service to us. They are a link between the government and the people. They shape our opinions. They make us feel part of this global village by keeping us in touch with it, and at times they even provide justice. For example, in the Jessica murder case, it was because of the efforts of these journalists that a politician's son got punishment and Jessica's family got justice.

A good journalist should have many qualities. First of all, he should promote the truth, and not rumours of ill-founded news. Only authenticated news should be given. Secondly, he should be unbiased and not favour any group or political party. He should not hurt the sentiments of any particular community. This is very important in a pluralistic (multicultural and multi-religious) society like India. He should also have excellent communication skills.

Furthermore, a good journalist should be versatile – he has to cover varied fields such as sports, business, entertainment and politics. He should always be on his toes, because you never know when the sky is going to fall. Finally, he should be bold and brave because he has to handle tough situations. For instance, during the 26th November terrorist attack at Mumbai, it was these journalists who brought us the first-hand news.

Summing up, we have to believe the journalists because they bring us the latest news, and a good journalist should be a multifaceted personality.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss whether or not we should believe the journalists and also explain the characteristics of a good journalist
Para 1: Why we should believe the journalists
Para 2: Qualities of a good journalist
Para 3: More qualities
Conclusion:

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244. In some countries celebrities complain about the way media publicize their private lives. Some people say that they should accept it as part of their fame. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the view that celebrities have to accept the manner in which their private lives are made public by the media. It is undeniable that they are in the spotlight and want to be popular by choice. However, their rights to privacy need to be protected as well, as they too are humans. I shall put forth my arguments in this essay.

To commence with, celebrities are already under a lot of pressure to perform well, as they are public figures and are always in the public eye. Be it a politician, a sportsperson, a singer or an actor, all these professions require them to be at their best at all times. This stress of someone constantly following them affects the way they perform, which ultimately leads to a loss for the masses.

Secondly, these celebs are role models for the people. When any negative side of their private life is exposed, their followers think it glamorous to do the same, which is definitely detrimental for the society as a whole. For example, if people come to know that the celeb they adore, smokes and drinks in private life, they think there is nothing wrong in doing so and also copy their idol. This is where responsible journalism is needed.

Undoubtedly, the celebrities choose this life for the name and fame and to be in the spotlight. Without the media, the term celebrity will not hold any meaning. However, that doesn't mean that the media and paparazzi have a right to stalk them at all times. To add to it, sensationalizing the news in order for the channel to get more TRP is unethical. Responsible journalism and some ethics need to be followed by those who get the news to the masses, as they may adversely affect someone's personal and professional lives. Who doesn't remember the unfortunate incident when the world lost a very eminent public figure, Lady Diana? That accident happened because the paparazzi were chasing the car she was travelling in. It is something which could have been easily avoided, had the paparazzi been a little rational in their behavior.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that responsible journalism means knowing its limits. Celebs too have their private lives and they have a right to privacy. The media has to be judicious in knowing what to report and how much to report, and should never misuse its power.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: It affects celebs performance
Para 2: It affects society
Para 3: Media should know its limits
Conclusion:

245. Nowadays young people are admiring media and sports stars, even though they do not set a good example. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

Celebrities are increasingly becoming role models for the youth as their images and lifestyles are splashed across television, movies, magazines and the Internet, in today's era of technology. I strongly believe that this is largely a negative development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, celebrities are often portrayed drinking heavily or in excess in movies, magazines and on TV. This can be harmful to teens, who pick up on these behaviors, and think it is glamorous to drink excessively like their favorite celebrity. Almost every other day, a celebrity is in trouble with the law in terms of drug abuse or addiction. The youth see their favorite movie stars or singers doing drugs and they think they should also do the same to be like them.

Furthermore, some celebrities create impossible standards of beauty, as a result of which more and more young adults feel less confident and more dissatisfied with their looks. Teenagers are at a phase of their life where they undergo massive changes physically, mentally, and emotionally. As celebrities are becoming thinner and thinner, self-confidence of their fans is lost and they suffer from body displeasure. This causes young fans to strive to be unhealthily thin. As a result they stop eating altogether, which may prove fatal at times.

Another major issue of concern is that these celebs are endorsing too many products in the market. Youngsters normally like to have a role model they can turn to for how to dress, look and act. Some teenagers spend so much money on celebrity-endorsed goods that they are forced to spend all their time working for it. The more obsessed, even demand or steal money from their parents or others.

In conclusion, it could be reiterated that, celebrities influence fans in many ways, most of which are negative. Celebrities need to change the way they behave in public. Their actions have more effect on the youth than many people believe they have. Thin, addicted celebrities are changing the way many young fans think and act. Celebrities need to change these habits now, and realize that they need to be more responsible with their portrayal in the media.

Plan followed

Intro: I strongly believe that this is largely a negative development
Para 1: How celebs are setting some bad standards
Para 2: More ways in which celebs are negatively affecting their fans
Para 3: The youth are mad after celeb endorsed products.
Conclusion: Reiterate view

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246. Exposure to international media such as films, TV and magazines has a significant impact on local cultures. What do you think has been the impact? Do you think its advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

The emergence of international media has really changed the face of the globe. Today we don't belong to a big planet called Earth. We are part of a small global village. Exposure to international media has had a positive as well as negative impact on local cultures. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss these impacts. Overall, the impact has been largely positive.

On the positive side, today's communications and technologies allow a more open spread of culture around the world – people in far corners of the globe are able to be aware of and share each other's culture. It is a view that sees global culture as generally positive – something that encourages diversity and a mixing of culture and has enabled people around the world to overcome national boundaries to embrace common causes. Thus, cultural globalisation in itself promotes diversity and a respect for other cultures.

Some people hold the view that internationalization of media can overpower national culture. However, this depends on how strong a particular national culture is. In some circumstances, of course, national culture is damaged by aggressively marketed foreign media imports. However, the theory that local cultures will be drowned out and completely disappear under a tide of global media does not appear to hold true at least in the case of India. This is partly because of the strong cultural identity of India. The cultural preferences of Indian viewers are so strong that foreign imports are put at a clear competitive disadvantage relative to the regional and national media produced. In fact, the international media companies have to tailor their output so as to fit into the local cultural setting.

Another positive effect that international media has had on India is that our media companies have improved dramatically under the stiff competition of global media and as a result they have found a place in the international market. This has put our culture on a higher pedestal than any other culture of the world.

Summing up, the internationalization of media needs not necessarily undermine national culture. If the local culture is strong enough, it can withstand any foreign influence.

Plan followed

Intro: In the following paragraphs I shall discuss these impacts. Overall, the impact has been largely positive
Para 1: Positive impact
Para 2: Opponents view with counter argument
Para 3: Another positive impact.
Conclusion:

247. Recent advancements in technology have made the TV screen so live that people don't feel the need to go for any live performance (e.g. live shows or concerts). To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Although the live plays and musicals have magic, and a strange elusive energy between the audience and the performers, I agree with the given statement that in the current age of live TV screening, there is little incentive to go out and see such events. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, the experience of live performance builds community. There's never going to be anything like sitting in a theater with hundreds of people around you who value what you value. The appeal of live performance also provides the excitement of the actor-audience connection in real time. These will keep the theater from fading away completely no matter how much technology takes over our lives. However, the TV of today has eroded the influence of live events so much so that the theatre and television have become competitors.

The main factors in favour of TV are the high cost and the limited accessibility of actual live shows. Even if more people wanted to actually go and watch live shows, the seating capacity is limited. On top of that the tickets are very costly, especially if you want seats near the stage.

Another thing, which goes in favour of TV is the lack of time in today's fast-paced world. People also have to stand in queues and drive distances to watch these shows. One 2-3 hour live show actually takes away a whole day at times. Despite the fact that people want to experience live shows, such shows have become once or twice in a lifetime events and that too for those, who have the time and money to do so.

Live television has also many other benefits. You don't need to dress formally. It can be watched in the comfort of ones sofa or bed and while doing some other household chores. The focus of the cameras is also on the main characters, because of which you can in fact get a better view of the actual show.

To conclude, I reiterate my view by saying that while actually going an attending a concert or drama is in itself a unique experience, the live TV screen of today has and edge over it all, because it has made arts accessible to all regardless of geographical, social or economic boundaries.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: In favour of attending in person
Para 2: Disadvantage of actually attending
Para 3: More disadvantages
Para 4: Advantage of live TV
Para 5: More advantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion.

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248. Most of our information comes from the Internet nowadays. Some people say that a large part of the information we get is incorrect. Do you agree or disagree?

Someone has rightly said that the Internet is the first thing that humanity has made that humanity doesn't understand, the largest experiment in anarchy that we have ever had. We are all bombarded with information on the Internet once we go online. Although some of the information may be wrong but I still believe that most of the information is correct.

My first argument is that only if the information is correct, it can enjoy a lasting attraction to readers. With an expectation to have more readers, the author will be encouraged to post correct and authenticated articles which will in turn attract more and more visitors to the website. Otherwise, when the audience comes to know they are being cheated, then they will stop visiting the blog or website.

Secondly, as such a wide sea of information surrounds the people, they will definitely not believe in one report, but may search out all the related information to compare and form their own opinion. To add to it, the issue of cybercrime has also led to the websites being supervised because of which discourages people to post wrong and misleading information. Plagiarism is also considered an offence and so those posting any information know that they are being monitored.

Admittedly, some false, misleading or incorrect information do exist, but the person surfing the net have to learn how to look for the authentic websites. This takes a little time but ultimately people come to know about the websites imparting useful and correct information and then bookmark those sites and avoid going back to the fake sites.

To sum up, most of the information on the Internet is worth our trust. With the rise of people's awareness of its accuracy, more correct information will be there awaiting us in the future.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: Second argument
Para 3: Responsibility of the person accessing the internet
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

249. Some people believe that the radio is the best way to get news, while others believe that TV is better for this purpose. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People receive news from different sources. This essay shall compare two popular media from which people receive news – the radio and the television. I believe that both have their own importance as far as getting news is concerned, but TV certainly has an edge over the radio.

The main reason why some people say that radio is better than all other sources of news media is that the radio can be accessed while doing any other work. A person can put radio in his pocket and listen to the news or any other programs of his interest while jogging at a park, driving, commuting to and from work, having meals or even lying on the bed with lights off and resting. Furthermore, the news script is also different on the radio as compared to the TV. A radio newsreader has to describe the whole event through words without giving long pauses as in case of the TV. For example, if a cricket sports match is going on, a radio commentator will have to speak a lot more than what a TV commentator will have to speak.

On the other hand, those who opine that TV is a more effective way to get the news, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more influencing. For instance, if a person hears a news item about an accident, he may forget it soon, but if he has seen horrifying images of the same accident on TV news, he may not forget the impact on his mind for a long time to come. Secondly, with the advent of the latest technology, the TV has become as portable as the radio. The smart phones of today have apps such as 'Hotstar' and Zee5, which enable people to watch TV on the go. Because of this reason mainly, the TV has gained an edge over the radio.

To conclude, both these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. The television, however, is superior to the radio because of its visual impact.

Plan followed
Intro: Opinion to be reached after comparing the two media.
Para 1: Advantages of radio
Para 2: Advantages of TV
Conclusion: TV is better

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250. All over the world, people watch foreign films much more than locally produced films. Why? Should the government provide financial support to local film industries?

Foreign films such as the Hollywood blockbusters are released all over the world and are enjoyed more than the locally produced films. This essay shall look into the reasons of this phenomenon and also discuss whether the government should provide financial aid to support the local film industry.

The popularity of Hollywood films and foreign films in general can be attributed to the fact that they use the most modern technology. For instance, the amazing visual effects and acoustics of the Hollywood movie Avatar won global audiences. What is more, big companies that have the money and the means to generate huge publicity for them produce these films. Today, we all know that marketing is what decides the fate of a product – be it a film, a book or a gadget. So it is not surprising that these films tend to do well overseas. In contrast, small production houses usually produce the locally produced films and on top of that they often have familiar storylines that may not interest some people. That probably explains why most people watch foreign films more than locally produced ones.

Another significant reason for watching foreign films is that people are curious to know about foreign lifestyles and culture. Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. So, people are exposed to different cultures and watching foreign movies satiates their curiosity of knowing about them. Recently, I watched a Japanese movie, 'Okurobito' which means 'Departures' from which I learnt how the Japanese do the last rituals when a person dies. This movie fascinated me a lot and I came to know about Japanese traditions. Some people also watch Hollywood movies to learn English, which has become a global language and watching English movies is a good way to learn English.

I firmly believe that the government should invest in the local film industry. To begin with, films are the carrier of a country's culture. Supporting the local film industry will enable to spread its culture and this seems an essential approach to help a country be more powerful in the world. Secondly, the boom of this industry would, to a large extent, produce an increasing number of job positions and consequently, the unemployment rate in this country might substantially decrease, which will contribute to its economy. Recently, our Bollywood movies such as 'Dabang' and 'Jab TakHaiJaan' have done business worth crores and this has definitely boosted our economy.

Summing up, people watch foreign movies because of their better technology and to satisfy their curiosity of foreign culture. The government should definitely promote local film industry for spreading our culture and for boosting the economy.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for the popularity of foreign films
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why the government should support local film industry
Conclusion:

251. The number of TV programs is growing day by day. Some people say that it is good as it gives people more choices, while others say it affects the quality of TV programs. Discuss both and give your opinion.

Television has become the most pervasive of all media, and there is no doubt that the number of TV programs has also grown by leaps and bounds in the last one to two decades. Some individuals opine that this situation is good as it gives us a plethora of choices, whereas others believe that this is leading to a deterioration of the quality of TV programs. This essay intends to look into both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people are happy with the increasing number of TV programmes. Firstly, they have a lot of choices. For example, there are a number of daily soaps, reality shows, talk shows, sports and news programmes. People can watch whichever program they can relate to or whichever they are interested in. Secondly, some reality shows have given an opportunity to the common man with talent to come forward and show his talent to the world. For instance, in recent years, singing contest programs such as 'Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa' and Indian Idol have uncovered many talented singers.

On the other hand, those who are against having too many TV programs, argue that most programs have no uniqueness and are similar to others in concept as well as content. These are a huge waste of resources and audience time. To exemplify, since the overwhelming success of Sony TV's 'Indian Idol' in 2005, a lot of such talent shows have cropped up. These programs have attracted a large number of viewers, but have also led to choice overload and boredom. At some point or the other, viewers need to decide what they have to watch and what they can ignore.

I believe that the vitality of the cultural industry comes from originality and creativity. Program producers must realize that people need a richer and varied choice. Having a lot of TV programs is good only if there is originality and people get value for the time they spend on these programs. So, less programs which are of very good quality should be there. However, these programs should be repeated frequently so that people can watch them according to their leisure.

To sum up, even though there are choices because of an abundance of TV programs, an excess of TV programs is definitely not good. We need fewer, quality programs, which make our leisure time worthwhile.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantage of many programs
Para2: More advantage
Para 3: Disadvantage
Para 4: Another disadvantage

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252. In some countries, TV programmes are transmitted throughout the day and night. Some people think that 24-hour transmission has positive impacts, while others believe it is negative. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

A variety of TV shows such as soaps, sitcoms, documentaries, adverts and news reports are transmitted round the clock. Some people claim that this is beneficial while others oppose it because of the negative influence. I will discuss both perspectives in the upcoming paragraphs. I personally side with the former view.

The main reason why some people are in favour of round-the-clock TV programmes is that it is keeping people abreast of what is happening around them. Moreover, with these repeat telecasts they can catch up with what they missed, at their own convenient time. Secondly, TV viewing is a passive activity which acts as a stress buster for people. For instance, when they return home after a hectic days work, watching their favourite TV soap or some sitcom relaxes them. Another big advantage is that TV acts as a platform for the publicity of new products, which is a win-win situation for both – the manufacturing companies and the audience as they have more choices of goods.

On the other hand, the telecasting of TV programs throughout the day and night does not appeal to many people because of many reasons. To begin with, because of too many choices of TV programs all the time, people are not doing other physical activities, and so they are living unhealthy lives. Besides, to attract people there are many shows, which have violence and pornographic content, which is not appropriate for the mental health of people especially the young. Finally, the 24-hour transmission of foreign channels are luring the younger generation towards the global culture which is making them forget their own roots.

I believe that the telecast of TV programs is very helpful for people in the global village of today. The society is 24/7 and work hours have round-the-clock shifts, so entertainment should also be 24/7. The onus is on the people to have a check on their TV viewing and spare time for other activities. Parents can block channels, which they don't want their children to see. So, if all these things are looked into, the positives are much more.

In conclusion, non-stop TV transmission has both, pros and cons. However, the merits definitely outweigh the demerits as we belong to a 24/7 society and we need to know what is happening around us all the time.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Give opinion

253. More and more people are using the Internet to do their tasks rather than doing in person. (e.g. banking, shopping, hotel booking etc.). Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

It is impossible today to imagine a world without the Internet. It enables us to do things that only a few years ago would have been unthinkable and reaches every facet of our lives. As a result, daily tasks and business transactions can be performed without meeting other people, in person. This practice certainly has more positive effects on the individual and the society as a whole.

The availability and application of modern devices and tools of communications like Fax machines, telephone, interactive TV and computer have brought tremendous convenience and efficiency to both life and work. Thanks to telecommunications, undoubtedly, e-shopping and e-banking have made life more convenient than ever before. People can stay home comfortably, looking on the Internet where a vast sea of information is available to find what they need. They log on to the relevant websites and look for detailed information on the products and services that they are interested in. They read the descriptions, examine the pictures, and check the prices. Eventually, they make a decision and send an e-mail to order and pay for it by e-banking. All can be done at home, without scanning newspaper advertisements, reading reference print materials, going around downtown as they had to do before. As a result, they have more time to take part in social activities, pursue hobbies and interests and communicate with families, which are all indispensable parts of quality life.

The trend of doing business by telecommunications equally benefits the whole society because business can be done more efficiently and effectively at a much lower cost. An extra benefit is that more natural resources can be saved. Moreover, small businesses have almost the same opportunities to advertise and promote their products and services on line to compete with those large ones, which makes the whole society fairer.

On the downside, there is an increasing concern about the loss of direct human contact as a result of which there is impoverishment of people's emotional lives, as well as the loss of social cohesion. Moreover, the privacy of the individual can suffer. So, proper steps have to be taken to protect the public against cybercrime and cyber terrorism.

To sum up, performing everyday tasks and business transactions by means of telecommunications benefits the individual and the society enormously. There is simply no going back.

Plan followed
Intro: Advantages are more
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Advantages
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion:

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254. More and more people are using computers and other electronic devices to access information. So, printing of books, magazines and newspapers should not be done. Do you agree or disagree with this?

It is irrefutable that technology has become a part of many aspects of life, including the information available through e-books, e-magazines and online newspapers. However, I disagree with the view that there is no need to print books, magazines and newspapers because of these e-reading materials. There are many arguments that surround my opinion, which I shall discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The first and foremost reason for continuing to print magazines and books is that there are still many people all over the world, who either do not have access to such technology, or who are not comfortable with the use of computers and other such electronic devices. This populace depends on printed information, rather than on the electronic form of that information. For example, newspapers are still the most popular and the most affordable source of information among the masses in India. There are many parts of India where there is no access to technology. In such remote areas, books are still the best source of information.

In addition, all the information available on the Internet may not be reliable, as there are a lot of fake news and articles posted online. Everyone who has access to this resource can post anything online and sometimes the information posted is discrepant. So, at times it becomes impossible to rely solely on the Internet and we need to turn to the printed material. The printed material is always authenticated and published after careful consideration of facts and is reviewed several times. So, information that is printed is always more reliable and authentic than the information available online.

The opponents of this view say that there are more benefits of the electronic medium, as it leads to an ease of storage, is more portable and is cheaper and more environmentally friendly than the printed form. There is no denying the fact that in this progressive era of technology, the popularity of printed material has been affected. However, it can never be completely done away with. The charm of holding a newspaper and the aroma of the printed books can never be replaced by reading something on the screen of a computer or a smart phone.

To summarize, it can be reiterated that the electronic information can never completely eradicate the need and the use of printed material, like books and periodicals. They will still remain an integral part of our education system, and for the news.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of traditional reading materials
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: Opponents' views with refutation
Conclusion

255. Media and newspaper show vulgar crimes on news, which cause fear and provoke culprits. Some people think that crime news on TV should not be broadcasted. To what extent do you agree or disagree.

It is irrefutable that the films and TV programmes today are filled with violence and as a result violence is increasing in our societies. I agree that by censoring such programmes and films, some amount of violence can be decreased. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Reducing the amount of violence on TV and in the cinema would certainly be a good start to decrease the fear and violence among people. It is a well-known fact that the media possesses a lot of power to influence people. So, those in the media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner that brings the story to the consumer without showing too much violence. Journalism is a profession like any other, and certain standards of quality and professionalism need to be maintained.

There are many harmful effects of such programmes on the individuals and society. The most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Media violence can stimulate fear in some children, and frighten them. As children see such programs more and more, the effects can become long lasting. Children are in a growing phase and their personality, values and beliefs are being shaped. They can withdraw into a shell, and not bloom properly because of this fear deep down in their minds.

Moreover, young people imitate what they see, and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers, as the streets are full of violence. Finally, too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes don't make people shed a tear any more.

Summing up, having a check on the violence in TV programmes and films, would certainly be a good start to decrease the fear among people and also lessen the violence and crime in society.

Plan followed

Intro: I agree
Para 1: media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner
Para 2: Media violence can stimulate fear in some children
Para 3: Young people imitate what they see. People become violent or immune to bad happenings around them
Conclusion: Reiteration

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256. We can see more disasters and violence shown on TV. What are its causes and what effects will they exert on the individual and the society?

It is irrefutable that television news is filled with violence and suffering. Crime and violent world events are among the most frequently covered topics on TV. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss the reasons of this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason for this is obviously that television channels want to increase their TRP (television rating point). If any channel has high TRP, it gets more adverts and hence more revenue. Therefore the channels have to show such sensational news. Secondly, the news channels have to show what is happening around and disasters and violence have become very common in our surroundings. Finally, people demand that they should be well informed about all things, which are prevalent in society. So, media has to show all that to its viewers.

There are many harmful effects on the individuals and society. The most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Media violence can stimulate fear in some children as it frightens them, making the effects long lasting. This can become traumatic in our children as they see it more and more. Children are starting to grow and are shaping their personality, values and beliefs. They can become aggressive or they can lose a sense of reality and fiction of what they are seeing.

Young people imitate what they see and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers as the streets are full of violence. Too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes don't make people shed a tear any more.

How can we lessen violence? Reducing the amount of violence on TV and in the cinema would certainly be a good start. It is a well known fact that the media possesses a lot of power to influence people. So, those in the media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner that brings the story to the consumer without showing too much violence. Journalism is a profession like any other and certain standards of quality and professionalism need to be maintained. Moreover, parents should be more vigilant about what children see on TV.

Summing up, there are many reasons why media shows too much violence on TV and some steps should be taken to reduce this as it has a lot of detrimental effects on the individuals and society.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the reasons of this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: Reasons for this phenomenon
Para 2: harmful effects on the individuals and society
Para 3: More harmful effects
Para 4: Solutions
Conclusion:

257. The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to decrease the violent crimes in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that the films and TV programmes today are filled with violence and as a result violence is increasing in our societies. I agree that censoring such programmes and films some amount of violence can be decreased. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Reducing the amount of violence on TV and in the cinema would certainly be a good start to decrease violence among people. It is a well-known fact that the media possesses a lot of power to influence people. So, those in the media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner that brings the story to the consumer without showing too much violence. Journalism is a profession like any other and certain standards of quality and professionalism need to be maintained.

There are many harmful effects of such programmes on the individuals and society. The most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Media violence can stimulate fear in some children as it frightens them, making the effects long lasting. This can become traumatic in our children as they see it more and more. Children are starting to grow and are shaping their personality, values and beliefs. They can become aggressive or they can lose a sense of reality and fiction of what they are seeing.

Moreover, young people imitate what they see and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers, as the streets are full of violence. Finally, too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes don't make people shed a tear any more.

Summing up, having a check on the violence in TV programmes and films, would certainly be a good start to decrease the violence and crime in society.

Plan followed

Intro: I agree that censoring such programmes and films, some amount of violence can be decreased.
Para 1: media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner that brings the story to the consumer without showing too much violence
Para 2: Media violence can stimulate fear in some children
They can become aggressive or they can lose a sense of reality and fiction of what they are seeing
Para 3: young people imitate what they see and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence
People become immune to bad happenings around them
Conclusion:

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258. The detailed description about crime will affect the people and cause many social problems. Some people say that the media should be strictly controlled. Do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays, we are surrounded by a variety of media like the Internet, newspaper and TV, which are very informative, and in doing so give a detailed description of crime. This causes many problems in society and therefore some people opine that there should be censorship of media. I feel that the media should be very judicious in selecting what to report and how much to report. So, I agree with the statement. In this essay, I intend to support my views with my arguments.

As I see it, the news outlets should pay more attention to the affairs themselves, rather than the details of the crimes. To start with, the details of crimes make a misleading statement to the children and adolescents who are curious about the process of committing crimes, and are likely to copy the criminal actions blindly. Moreover, the excessive violence and pornographic contents can also raise the adults' criminal tendencies. In other words, detailed crime news can generate individuals' potential desire to commit a crime, thus induce many social problems. So, there should be some control on the media.

Moreover, the detailed report of a crime does not show enough respects to the victims and their family. For example, if any murder or robbery has taken place in someone's house then if it is shown in detail on TV, the whole privacy of those people is lost. Another very strong argument in favour of censorship of media is that sometimes this detailed description can help the criminals also. For instance, when terrorists attacked Hotel Taj in Mumbai, the media reported details of the commandos' position on TV. The terrorists hiding in the hotel also viewed this. They changed their positions accordingly. Had there been some regulating authority the terrorists could have been caught much earlier.

However, the opponents claim that we have a right to know every detail and so media should report every detail. I still feel that it would lead to more problems. I think the media has an obligation to show the right direction to the public. It should report news in a balanced manner rather than highlighting the details of the crime.

Summing up, although it is the duty of the media to keep us informed, the details of crime should not be shown and for that censorship of the media is a must.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Drawbacks of detailed description
some people are likely to copy the criminal actions blindly
Para 2: More drawbacks
Not good for the victims' families
Detailed description may help the criminals
Para 3: Opponents view with counter-argument
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

259. Many people regard films as less important form of art than literature and painting. Do you agree or disagree?

Art, in any of its forms, has been an indispensable part of the human life, since the beginning of civilization. Art is a way of expressing one's thoughts, opinions, experience, emotions through various media like paintings, literature, poetry, dance, photography etc. Some Individuals regard arts forms like writings and paintings, as more significant than the movies. I disagree with this line of thought and will put forth my supporting arguments in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The first argument in support of my view is that films are an amalgamation of various different art forms. These include different forms of arts, like the performing arts of dancing, acting, music etc., and of literature, like the script writing, poetry in the form of songs, etc. There are other creative branches of art that have developed as a result of filmmaking, like choreography, cinematography, sound effects, special visual effects and so on. Art is inextricably linked with creativity and movies involve creativity in various different forms, such as script writing, direction of the scenes, dialogue writing, lyrics of songs, music direction, special effects and many more.

In addition to this, films are popularly categorized as entertainment art. These act as sources of entertainment, and at the same time enhance knowledge. These are an effective way of not just expressing an emotion, a culture or a story, but also an excellent method of learning and education. It has been proven that watching a movie leaves a lasting impression on our minds than visiting a museum and looking at artifacts, pictures, paintings etc. Being an audiovisual form of art, it becomes easy for people to comprehend, which painting or literature may not be able to do. Even someone who is not literate can understand and learn from films. For this reason, movies have also become a very popular method of spreading social messages and teaching.

It is undeniable that art forms like painting, poetry, literature, etc. play a vital role in our lives. However, films as a form of art have become more powerful because of their easy comprehension and their reach and influence on the masses.

To sum up, it can be said that different forms of art will continue to entertain us and provide us more insight into different emotions, perspectives and cultures. However, the films as an entertaining art will continue to remain more pervasive than others.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: More arguments
Para 3: Other art forms
Conclusion:

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260. In many countries, government spends a large amount of money on improving Internet access. Why is it happening? Do you think it is the most appropriate use of government money?

The Internet has become the sine qua non (prerequisite) of promoting national economies. No wonder, many governments are investing a lot on making Internet available freely to their citizens. This essay intends to analyse the reasons behind this phenomenon. I believe that the governments are being wise in doing this expenditure.

The main reason why some governments are spending on Internet access is that they realise that it is not expenditure but an investment, which eventually will come back to them in the form of taxes. With increased and efficient Internet access, the businesses will be able to expand their business globally. The Internet plays an indispensable role in communicating with clients, importing products and getting to know international information. This will ultimately boost the countries' economy.

Secondly, the Internet acts as a social leveler. By giving Internet access to the poor and depressed sections of the society, the government can bring them to the mainstream and ensure their participation in growth and development. The Internet empowers people. By giving them access to vital information, it makes them aware of their rights. It provides opportunities to people living in remote areas or villages. The Internet has created countless jobs directly and indirectly, and allows people to work freelance. Perhaps, no other invention has had such a tremendous impact on our lives during the last twenty years.

I believe that the governments, which are spending on Internet access, have a foresight that this is an imperative spending. The Internet is a whole universe in its own. It can be used in any way. Developed countries and intelligent public use its services in many ways to provide healthcare, education and common knowledge to remote places. Free and fast Internet would give every single person more opportunities to share and gain knowledge and make their opinions, which will help governments and corporations to make better choices. Hence a free and fast Internet for everyone should be an absolute must for better democracy and economy

To conclude, there are many reasons why some governments are spending on providing Internet access to its people, and I consider it a judicious expenditure with far reaching positive consequences.

Plan followed

Intro: cause effect intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Why it is a good thing
Conclusion:

261. A tendency that the news reported in the media focuses on problems and emergencies rather than the positive developments is harmful to both the individual and the society. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Today, we belong to a highly competitive era and in a bid to be at the top, the various sources of media are focusing on sensational news, which fetch more viewers and readers. Some individuals opine that this attitude is harmful for the people and the society. However, I disagree with this, as I believe that as long as the negative news reports are unbiased, the general public will not be harmed and there will be no detrimental effects on individuals and society.

My first argument is that it is the duty of the media to keep the people abreast of what is happening all around. If negative things are happening, people should know all that because then they can be prepared if anything is likely to affect them. Secondly, if the media reports such news, then more and more people can volunteer to help. For example, two years ago when Tsunami hit Japan, the news was spread like wildfire through all sources of media and people from all over the world sent relief in whatever way they could.

Undoubtedly, it is the onus of the media to report positive developments also. The media is a link between the government and the people. Very few people get to meet any politician in real life. But we can reach our voice to the authorities through the media. Then, the media also helps to get justice at times. In the Nirbhay rape case in December, 2012, it was through the efforts of the media that the culprits got a speedy punishment and Nirbhay's family got justice. How can all these reportings be considered bad for the individuals and the society?

Proponents of the given statement say that such news makes people immune to negative things happening in society and so too much of such news should not be reported. They also believe that when media reports details of crime, then many people learn crime, which is definitely bad for the people and societies. I still believe that the media should apprise people with whatever they need to know, whether it is good or bad.

To sum up, it is imperative that media reports both positive and negative news without any bias and exaggeration. It is people's responsibility to take all the news with a pinch of salt and analyze it with their critical thinking skills. Therefore, reporting more news on problems and emergencies is definitely not bad for the societies and individuals.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: importance of reporting all news
Para 2: Media's responsibility
Para 3: Proponents view
Conclusion:

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262. Some people think news have no connection to people's lives, so then it is a waste of time to read the news in the newspaper and watch television news programs. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

News is what connects us to the outside world. Had it not been for the news, people would be living isolated lives. News mainly informs the public about events those are around them and may affect them. Therefore, I disagree that news have no connection to people's lives and getting to know the news through the newspaper or TV is a waste of time. I believe that people's lives are touched by the local, national, and also by the international news.

First, there is a lot of importance of local news. It is very important to advise people in a locality about activities that may have an impact on a community. This can allow a community to engage in decision-making processes in a community. For example, if a local community reports that a youngster of their area has topped the board exams, then the whole community feels proud and it also encourages others to excel in their field.

Secondly, national news is also significant for people. Such news can allow people to gain a sense of national perspective. This is particularly significant for countries that have a diverse range of population centres such as cities or towns. For example, large cities many thousands of kilometres apart may still rely on each other for trade or resources of economic significance. So, knowing the situations in other cities and towns becomes important.

Finally, the international news is also important in today's global economy. Knowing what is happening in other countries gives people a perspective of each other's ways of life and cultural differences. Certain kinds of news from countries that rely on each other for energy or other resources can often have a profound influence in overall global economics.

Those who opine that news is not important, argue that we already have very fast and hectic lives and what is happening around cannot influence us as we do not have the energy, nor the enthusiasm to do anything about it. So, it is futile to read the paper or listen to the news. They say it is a waste of time to listen to the news and we should focus on our work and not waste precious time listening to the news. What they fail to understand is that without being connected to the outside world we would be totally in the dark as to where we are heading. Modern newspapers and news channels cover nearly every sphere of human activity such as the economic situation, education, business, politics, the theatre, radio, cinema and sport.

To summarise, listening to the news or reading the paper daily is very important to be a part of the global village of today.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of local news
Para 2: Importance of national news
Para 3: Importance of global news
Para 4: Other people's view with refuting statement
Conclusion:

263. Some people think that violent films and videogames have negative effects on people and should be banned. Others think that they are just relaxation sources. Discuss both sides and give opinion.

Some individuals would like to see censorship of films full of violence and a ban on video games as they have detrimental effects on people whereas others opine that they are just meant to entertain and calm you and nothing else. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

Those opposed to violence in movies and video games say that there is lots of evidence supporting the fact that violent video games are bad. Brains of children were scanned after playing these kinds of games and the results show that there is an increase in the activity in some parts of brain cells, which stimulates emotions and decreases self-control and concentration. As a result, people are not able to take control and might act out, hurting others or themselves. Violent video games have been linked to school shootings, increases in bullying, and raised aggression in children. What is more, children who are exposed to too much violence in films at a young age become immune to violence.

Those who view violent movies and video games as just relaxation sources, say that video games can reduce stress by distracting adult gamers from the pressures of everyday life. College students attempting to juggle school, part-time work, finances and household chores, for example, might find button-mashing violence to be a safe and enjoyable way to release pent-up frustrations. According to a 2010 study conducted by a Texas University professor, violent video games can be used as therapeutic outlets for combat depression and anger.

I believe that humans have been engaging in violence since there have been humans, but movies and video games are recent inventions. As such, exposure to them cannot be a necessary cause of violence. These violent video games have also become some of the best socialization tools. These games are successful because they share an emphasis on multiplayer features and foster competitive, fun environments.

To sum up, violent movies and video games might have a bad reputation, but we cannot deny the possible benefits reaped from playing them. After all, violence is everywhere these days — in the news and on television — so video games targeted at having fun and relieving stress should not be held responsible for violence and should definitely not be banned.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: should not be banned

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264. Children are facing more pressures nowadays from academic, social and commercial perspectives. What are the causes of these pressures and what measures should be taken to reduce these pressures?

It is commonly said that today's children are pressurized and are facing harder and harder academic, social and commercial challenges. This essay intends to discuss the causes of these pressures and suggest some measures to alleviate the problem. I believe that children must be shielded from such mounting pressures.

There are many academic pressures on children. Today's child is not competing with the child next door, or even of one's town or country. He is competing with the child of the global village. The big planet Earth of yesteryears is a small well-linked global village of today. Parents want their children to excel in every field. They send their children to the best schools, where the school bag is often heavier than the child himself. Even after school hours there are private tuitions. Children don't have time to bloom and bring out their hidden talents.

There are also many social and commercial pressures. Socially, the children of today are in a huge dilemma. They want to adopt the global culture, whereas their parents force them to confine themselves to the traditions. This sometimes makes them rebel against the rules laid by their elders. Then, they also face peer pressure, which can be good if their peers are good, and bad if their peers are not disciplined. This peer pressure coupled with the consumerist society of today can lead to a lot of stress and strain on children. They see the latest models of cell phones and other items with their peers and want to buy them. When they are unable to do so, they get stressed.

The solutions are not simple. Children have to be handled with great care. Parents should have realistic expectations from their children. They should have a pr-active approach and give time to their children. The biggest onus is on the schools and teachers. They should strive to bring out the best in every child and competition and co-operation should both be taught simultaneously. The aim of competition should not be to win at all cost. Children have to be taught to win with modesty and lose with grace.

To summarise, there is no doubt that the children of today are facing so many pressures, but steps should be taken on a war footing to protect their innocent childhood. Otherwise, these pressures will stifle the physical and psychological growth of children.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Academic pressures
Para 2: Social and commercial pressures
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion

Similar essay: *Today's children are living under more pressure from the society than children in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

265. In many parts of the world, children are given more freedom than in the past. Is this a positive or a negative development?

The world is changing fast and so are the rules and the norms of society. When grown-ups today compare their childhood with that of today's children, they find that today's children have more freedom than what they used to have. I believe this situation is largely positive.

There are many advantages of children enjoying more freedom. They grow up quicker than their parents did. This produces more liberal, mature and adventurous adults, which obviously has an effect on society in the long run. Today's children follow the global culture, which is the amalgamation of the good points of the various cultures of the world. Consequently, countries progress more rapidly because of this shedding of many traditional ways of doing things and becoming freer and more open societies. For example, in India, if today's youngster wants a dowry free marriage, he will go ahead and have it against all odds, whereas earlier youngsters could not take a stand against it as it was considered customary.

Furthermore, today's children have the power of the Internet and the satellite TV in their hands. Today's young generation is the most well-informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. They know what their parents and grandparents do not know. They have oceans of opportunities in front of them, which they want to explore. They adopt careers of their choice and do not hesitate walking on the untrodden path. They are not afraid of taking risks. For instance, earlier children were pressurized by their parents to take up medical, non-medical or commerce streams, but today's children are going into computer animation, computer gaming and other fields, which were unheard of before.

On the other hand, sometimes this freedom can be detrimental for children. They like maturity and fail to see the far-reaching consequences of their actions. It is also the time when teens make mistakes and need someone there to guide them understand what went wrong, take a step backward, analyze, and again take a step forward. Freedoms should come in small steps so that the teens are ready to move forward having proven their ability to handle each small movement. Too much freedom can end them in bad company and also drugs.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that freedom enjoyed by children is, by and large, a good thing, but the onus is on the parents to prepare them for this in small steps, so that the negative side of this excess freedom does not go against them.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages are more than disadvantages
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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266. Some people think that nowadays children have too much freedom. Do you agree or disagree?

The world is changing fast and so are the rules and the norms of society. I agree with the statement that today's children enjoy much more independence than children of the past. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main reason why children today are enjoying more freedom is that their parents realise that children today are capable of deciding things on their own. Today's children have the power of the Internet and the satellite TV in their hands. Today's young generation is the most well informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. Because of the IT boom, today's children grow up quicker than their parents did. They know what their parents and grandparents do not know. So, parents give their children the freedom to make decisions on their own. In the past, children were not exposed to so much information, and so meekly did what their parents told them to do.

Another important reason behind the freedom given to today's children is that parents don't have time to monitor their children's activities. In the fast paced world of today, both parents are working longer hours to meet the demands of the consumerist society of today. They are not working just to fulfil their basic necessities, but also to live a lifestyle of luxury and comfort. As a consequence, children are left unattended to enjoy their freedom. Earlier, only one parent worked and mothers were there to supervise their children. Workaholic culture was also not there and people worked limited hours.

Furthermore, the change in family structure from joint to nuclear families is responsible for the freedom showered on today's children. Earlier, grandparents were there to keep a watchful eye on their grandchildren, but today's children do not have such supervision on them, as a result of which they get a lot of freedom.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the freedom enjoyed by today's children is, by and large, inevitable. The onus is on the parents to see to it that this excess freedom does not go against their children.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

267. Children are taught to push themselves to try and be better than their classmates, rather than work together for everyone's profit. Do you think the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

The relative importance of competition and cooperation is a frequent topic of discussion, when people try to explore the primary aim of education. These days, competitiveness is encouraged more than cooperation. My stand, however, is that both competition and cooperation are equally important to be instilled in children. Therefore, the disadvantages of teaching children how to compete at the expense of cooperation are more.

There are many reasons why competition is important for children's growth. When children are pushed to compete, their unlimited potential can be tapped. This also helps them to develop confidence. Pressure and competition is all around us nowadays. In achieving academic excellence as well as doing well in one's career, every person has to compete. There are many examples of people around us who have become successful in their lives by competing in sports events or music contests.

At the same time, many educators attach great importance to cultivating cooperation abilities in children. Children who do not learn to cooperate are usually isolated, introverted and consequently they are socially inadequate. Cooperation is a contributing factor to the success of a community. Only with cooperation can children learn to live in harmony with each other.

I personally believe that children should be taught both, how to compete, as well as how to cooperate. It is more important to teach children the situations where they need to compete and where they need to cooperate. Both these virtues are needed in adult life. For instance, in solo sports and for sitting in an exam, children need to compete, whereas in team sports and in group-assignments children have to cooperate. Similarly, in adult life, no business house can rise to the pinnacles of success with the efforts of a single man. To compete with other businesses, members of one business house have to cooperate with each other. No single scientist can find the cure for cancers or AIDS. Scientists all over the world have to join hands to fight these deadly diseases.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that forcing children only to compete rather than cooperate has more disadvantages than advantages, as both competition and cooperation are equally important in our lives.

Plan followed

Intro: Disadvantages are more
Para 1: Importance of competition
Para 2: Importance of cooperation
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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268. *In some countries, the parents expect children to spend long time in studying both in and after school and have less free time. Do you think it has positive or negative effects on children and the society?*

In today's competitive era parents have a lot of expectations from their children because of which children get no time for extracurricular activities. As I see it, in the long run, it is creating more negative effects on children and society, rather than positive ones.

Too much forced involvement in academics can have detrimental effects on children. Children may fail to achieve the aim as expected. With a lot of memorizing and exercising of the academic knowledge, the children may feel depressed, and thus behave passively, which reduces the studying efficiency, and even results in their being weary of studying.

What is more, because of studying all the time, they will have fewer opportunities for extra-curricular activities which are very essential for them. Through extracurricular activities, students learn life skills such as time management that benefit them a lot. These activities take time out of the students' schedules, therefore the students must plan their time wisely and efficiently to complete the assigned tasks. In addition to organizational skills, extracurricular activities in the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem-solving skills since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Expecting children to spend most of their time in studying is harmful for the future of the society. Firstly, the society cannot run healthily without people taking their part in every walk of life. Not all jobs in society need academic qualifications. Also, imagination, creativity and passion, the very factors that a society needs to progress, will be lacking if youngsters are good at academics only.

Summing up, although spending long time at study would grant children some positive effects, the adverse impacts it may create and the importance of other extracurricular activities cannot be underestimated.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Disadvantages of studying all the time on children

Para 2: Advantages of extracurricular activities

Para 3: Disadvantages of studying all the time on societies

Conclusion:

269. Some people think that children should obey rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do, but others think that children controlled too much cannot deal with problems well by themselves. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Young children are beginners. They have to learn to behave in an acceptable manner. So, they need rules. However, the extent to which children have to follow rules is a very sensitive issue. Some people hold the opinion that children should be controlled by their parents and teachers, whereas others are against this control. In this essay I shall discuss both views. I personally believe that parents and teachers should know when and how much restriction to impose on children.

The main reason why some people say that children should be controlled is that rules of behaviour create responsible and respectful children who in turn mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for elders. They know the importance of relationships. They know about their cultural values as well. This forms a stable society, which is virtually free from vices such as prostitution and drug abuse. It would be wrong to say that having rules mars the problem-solving ability of children. They, in fact, face difficulties in a more mature and disciplined way. They are not lured by peer pressure and refrain from acting on impulse.

On the other hand, those who say that too strict rules should not be imposed give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they say that by doing so, children may become rebels. They may start doing just the opposite of what is told them to do. What is more, they may show abnormal behaviour. They may fall into bad company or resort to drugs because of frustration. Finally, imposing too strict rules destroys the individuality of children. They may withdraw into a shell. This may suppress their creativity and as a consequence, they may not be able to deal with problems well by themselves.

I believe that parents and teachers should learn where rules are needed and where it is necessary to give freedom to the children. Having absolutely no rules and letting children do whatever they wish to do would also be wrong. They are not mature enough to solve all problems and they have to be taught their limits. But, imposing too strict rules would stifle their personality and would be more detrimental for them.

To conclude, parents and teachers should impose rules on children, but they should know where to draw the line. They should be flexible and modify the rules according to the circumstances.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

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270. Some people say that parents should organise free time activities for their children. Others say children should be free to choose what they do in their free time. Discuss both sides and opine.

For the holistic development of children, leisure time activities play a very important role. Some people are of the opinion that such activities should be decided and organized by the parents, whereas others opine that children should have the freedom to decide how they want to utilize that free time. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

It is easy to see why some people opine that planning free time activities should be in the hands of parents. They say that children are not mature enough to understand the value of time and may end up wasting their free time through unproductive extra-curricular activities. So, parents should plan the available free time for their children, as they want the best for their children. Parents know their children well, in terms of their likes and dislikes, and also their interests. They can organize activities that will help their children's holistic development. For example, they can have them play outdoor games, learn music or dance, develop their creative skills like drawing and painting and so on. Parents also need to ensure that the time spent on unproductive activities, like watching TV, playing video games, etc. should be minimized, and they should set a time limit for such activities.

On the other hand, those who say that children should have the liberty of deciding how they want to spend their leisure time, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, if children are always told what to do and follow a set of rules, it hinders their cognitive, emotional and creative development. Research has proven that the children, who perform unstructured free-time activities, are more creative, and become more successful when they grow up. Such children are very good at decision making, planning and setting goals. Moreover, children, who are in-charge of choosing how they spend their free time, are more likely to have better concentration levels and become more successful in their studies and later, in their professional lives.

I believe that children should have the independence to choose the activities for their free time, but parents should keep an eye on them. It may bring to light some hidden talent of the child, which may otherwise go unnoticed. For example, a child may be good at dance, and maybe parents notice him practicing steps after seeing some programme on TV. They may not have planned dance classes in his/her free time on their own. But, on noticing that talent, they may then help their child exploit his/her talent. So, even if the free time planning is left on the children, the role played by the parents cannot be undermined. They should definitely supervise their children to notice some hidden ability, and also to ensure that they do not harm themselves.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate that children and youngsters should be given the independence to decide their free-time activities for the complete development of their mind, body and skills, but at the same time their parents' watchful eye should be there over them.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

271. Parents should encourage their children to spend less time studying, and more time doing sports/physical activities. Do you agree or disagree?

The given statement implies that sports are more important for children than academic education, and so more time should be devoted to sports. I however, firmly believe that both - academic subjects and sports are equally important for the holistic development of children.

On the one hand, there are many advantages of sports for children. To begin with, these break the monotony of tough academic studies. Participating in sports keeps children physically fit. We all know that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. World-renowned scientific research suggests that children deliver optimum performance through a balanced approach to education. If a child devotes his entire time to academic subjects, without exercising, he becomes lethargic and dull. Participation in sports recharges the batteries of children, and they can perform better in studies too.

Another important benefit of sports is that children learn important virtues of life through sports. They learn competition, cooperation, sportsman spirit, and so much more from sports. These skills are important later on in life. Even recruiting agencies look for such skills apart from that piece of paper called the degree. So, such subjects are as essential as academic subjects. Finally, it would be worthwhile to add that sports classes in schools have given us players like Sachin Tendulkar and Dhoni who have won laurels for our country.

On the other hand, academic education is also very important, so students must be pushed as hard as possible to achieve their best. Devoting more time to sports and less to academics would also be detrimental for children. They need to spend time on studies, so that they get into university and are placed in good jobs later in life. Therefore, I feel that a more rounded education would produce a better individual.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion by saying that academic studies and sports are equally important for children today. Therefore, parents should motivate children do allocate equal time to both.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of sports
Para 2: More importance of sports
Para 3: Importance of academic education
Conclusion:

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272. Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and less time on sports. Why? Is it a positive or a negative development?

Today's children are different from the children of previous generations. They are more interested in playing video games or sitting hours on the play-stations than in playing outdoor games. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that this is a negative development.

The main reason why children spend more time on electronic games is that today's children are technology oriented. No matter how young the child is, he knows everything about the features of computer and mobile phones. To add to it, parents also prefer their children playing indoor games under the air-conditioner, instead of going out and getting dirty.

There are definite advantages of playing video games in moderation. But, the problem is that these games are addicting, and when children play these games for hours at a stretch at the cost of outdoor activities, the negative effects overshadow the positive ones. The major disadvantage is that these games are isolating, as these are usually played alone. In contrast, outdoor games teach children to socialize and make friends.

Another disadvantage of playing less outdoor games is that the children of today are suffering from obesity, which in turn leads to many other problems. Children today, lack in the strength and stamina, which develops by outdoor play. Furthermore, researchers have found a new disorder, known as 'Nature Deficit Disorder', which is seen in children who play indoors. They found out that children who were in contact with nature, were less stressed out with life. So basically, when kids do not play outside in the natural world, they miss the great benefits that nature provides.

To sum up, there are many reasons why children of the modern world play more video games, and it is indubitably a negative development.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion:

273. Studies suggest that children spend more time watching TV than they did in the past and spend less on doing active or creative things. Why do you think it is the case? What measures and methods can be used to tackle it?

Laurence J. Peter has rightly said that 'Television has changed the child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.' After coming home from school, children spend a lot of time in watching TV instead of playing outdoor games and pursuing other artistic hobbies like in the olden days. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss the causes of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to encourage children to do more productive things instead of watching too much TV.

The first and foremost cause of this is that due to the satellite TV, this medium is available all the time. So much so, that some channels are exclusively dedicated to children. This has made it very easy for the parents who use TVs as babysitters. Secondly, parents are busy to cope with the demands of the fast paced life of today and after coming home after a hectic days work do not have the energy to spend time with their children. In earlier times, there were very few programmes for children and because of slower life, even parents spent time with children.

Furthermore, earlier there were joint families and grandparents were there to look after children and encourage them to play in parks. Nowadays, there are nuclear families and children are left alone, which makes them spend time by watching TV. Finally, the cities have become concrete jungles and there is no place for children to play outdoor games. On top of that, the climate changes brought about by global warming make it difficult to pursue outdoor games.

The solutions are simple but the onus is largely on the parents. They should give quality time to their children and ration their TV viewing hours. Even the time to play video games should be set properly. Outdoor activities should be encouraged and neighbourhood societies should be formed where children can play outdoor games with each other. Parks should be maintained properly so that children have a safe place to play outdoors.

To summarise, television and video games, in moderation, can be a good thing. However, excess of everything is bad and therefore I believe parents should set viewing limits to ensure their children do not spend too much time watching TV and pursue other creative activities like they did in the earlier times.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the causes of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: First cause – satellite TV available all the time – parents busy – use TV as babysitter
Para 2: More causes – nuclear families – changing climate
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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274. Some people think watching TV is bad to children in every way. Others think TV has positive effects on children, as they develop to grow up. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the role of TV in the development of children. Some opine that watching TV develops children positively whereas others think the opposite. This essay intends to discuss both viewpoints. In my personal opinion television viewing may actually enhance children's intellectual development, but if it is done in limit and the programs children watch are selected wisely by parents.

There are many reasons why some people say that watching TV is beneficial for children. Firstly, watching the right kinds of shows increases children's knowledge and so they do better in academics. According to a research, young children who spent a few hours a week watching educational programs such as Sesame Street and curious George had higher academic test scores 3 years later than those who didn't watch educational programs. Secondly, children can be motivated to play sports by watching some sports on TV. Finally, children can learn about different cultures and lifestyles of the world through TV programs.

On the other hand, those who say that watching TV is detrimental for children give their reasons as follows. Firstly, it impacts their health negatively. It reduces their physical activity and turns them into couch potatoes. Apart from causing obesity, too much screen time is also bad for their eyesight. It also impacts their social development as they do not get time to play and socialize. Finally, if the content they watch is not monitored, they may watch shows full of violence and vulgarity, which may be bad for them and affect their psyche.

I believe that watching TV is beneficial for children if done in limit. The effects also depend on the content and genre of the programs. Therefore, parents should set the TV time of the children and also select the programs for them. They should preferably watch TV with them, especially educational shows as these may seem boring to the children otherwise.

To sum up, I reiterate my view that TV is on the whole advantageous for children. However, the effects of television viewing depend on program content and genre, and parents should teach their children on choosing the right TV program to watch.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

275. A report indicated that many children between 7 and 11 spend too much time watching television and/or playing video games. How does the problem affect the children, their families and society? What measures can be taken to control it?

Laurence J. Peter has rightly said that 'Television has changed the child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.' After coming home from school, children spend a lot of time in watching TV and playing video games. This essay shall discuss the effects of this excessive TV viewing on children, their families and society and also suggest some ways forward.

There are many negative effects of spending too much time on TV by the 7-11 year olds. 7-11 years is a crucial period of childhood after which children step into adolescence. This is the time when children develop the maximum, physically as well as mentally. The more time children spend on watching TV and playing video games, the less time they have for studying, exploring, playing and interacting with parents and friends. In addition, excessive TV viewing can result in obesity as kids are inactive and tend to eat junk food while watching TV. They are turning into couch potatoes. What is more, there is a lot of violence on TV, which should not be watched by children. Communication has come down drastically within the family and even among children of the neighbourhood.

It is irrefutable that TV is one of the best ways to entertain and inform and even playing video games introduces children to technology, which is the need of the hour. However, all this is good in moderation as there are lots of active ways of entertainment such as playing games or doing sports, which are actually much healthier. Moreover, children need interaction with the family and society for their holistic development.

The solutions are simple but the onus is largely on the parents. They should give quality time to their children and ration their TV viewing hours. Even the time to play video games should be set properly. Outdoor activities should be encouraged and neighbourhood societies should be formed where children can play outdoor games with each other. Parks should be maintained properly so that children have a safe place to play outdoors.

To conclude, television and video games, in moderation, can be a good thing. However, excess of everything is bad and therefore I believe parents should set viewing limits to ensure their children do not spend too much time watching TV.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the effects of this excessive TV viewing on the children, their families and society and also suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: How TV can affect the 7-11 year age group the most
Para 2: Advantages of TV if watched in moderation
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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276. *Many people believe that today there is a general increase in anti-social behaviour and lack of respect for others. What might have caused this situation? How to improve it?*

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life there is also a growth in the anti-social behaviour and people have become less respectful of each other. This essay intends to analyze some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

Today, we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet, but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom, but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics, and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they do not respect them.

The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children. Now there are nuclear families in which both parents go out to work, and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the Internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see the programs full of violence and crime, which makes them anti-social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti-social behaviour. To add to it, the values of traditional culture are being lost and people are following the global culture, which is also considered anti-social by the orthodox elderly.

There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. Government should also fix the maximum hours a worker can work per week so that exploitation is not there in the job market. People should revert back to the old joint family system. This would be in the benefit of all. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. Negative effects of excessive consumerism should be taught to the people. Media can play a big role in highlighting the good points of the traditional and the western culture so that the people can adopt good social values. Neighbourhood associations should be set up to connect people to each other.

Summing up, anti-social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures, and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Causes
Para 2: More causes
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

277. Nowadays some individuals behave in an anti-society way, such as committing a crime. In general, it is the society to blame. What causes the anti-social behaviours of individuals? Who should be responsible for dealing with it?

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life there is also a growth in the anti-social behaviour. People commit crimes and have become less respectful of each other. In the following paragraphs, I shall analyze some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward.

Today we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people choose unethical means such as committing petty and serious crimes. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent and do not think twice before doing anything wrong.

The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children. Now there are nuclear families in which both parents go out to work and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see the programs full of violence and crime which makes them anti-social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti-social behaviour. Finally, unemployment is a cause of this phenomenon. The youth have a lot of energy and if it is not harnessed in the right direction can make them go astray and commit crimes.

The individuals themselves, the society and the governments should deal with this situation together. There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. Government should also fix the maximum hours a worker can work per week so that exploitation is not there in the job market. People should revert back to the old joint family system. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. More and more employment opportunities should be created for the unemployed youth. Self-employment can also be encouraged.

Summing up, anti-social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

Plan followed
Intro: I shall suggest some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some solutions.
Para 1: Reasons for such behaviour
Para 2: More reasons for such behaviour
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

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278. Some people believe that young people know about international pop and movie stars but know very less about famous people from the history in their own country. Why is this? How can more interest be created in young people to gain more knowledge about their own famous people from history?

It is irrefutable that today we are flooded with information about everything. The youth of today know about global celebs but are increasingly ill informed about their own historical personalities. This essay shall analyse why this is happening, and also suggest some measures, to generate their interest in historical events and people.

The first and major reason for this is that the education system in most of the countries is test-based. Students are only taught to get good grades and as a result, they only focus on passing their exams, rather than gaining knowledge about any topic. Their interest is never developed in history and heroes of our past. On top of that, the youth today is more fascinated towards the celebrities because of the exposure and importance the media gives to them. Furthermore, most of the families have now started living in nuclear setups, where both the parents are working, and because of this the children's education about their roots and history has taken a back seat.

There are many methods that can be used by parents, schools and the media to develop the interest of youngsters in knowing about the famous people from history. The schools can incorporate technology in teaching methods, like the use of audio-visual aids. Educational trips to museums and famous historical places also help develop the children's interest. The government should set up museums and encourage children to visit them by highly subsidizing tickets for the students. For example, the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum has become a great source of information about the freedom struggle and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. Also, the Virasat-e-Khalsa museum has become very popular among the youth as they can learn a lot about Sikh history and culture.

Moreover, TV shows and movies can be made around famous historical personalities and their contributions. For instance, the recent Bollywood movie Bajirao Mastani, has been a super hit at the box office and has made a lot of people more aware about historical events and characters. TV channels like History channel has shows which run throughout the day, giving information about famous people and events from history.

To conclude, there are several innovative and creative methods that can be used to make the youth more interested and aware about the notable people from history. This effort has to be made by parents, at schools and media also has a big role to play in spreading this awareness.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Steps, which can be taken
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion:

279. In most of the societies, the role of mother and father differs. What are the causes of this difference? What will be the parental roles in future?

Families are the building blocks of the society. Parents play an incredible, crucial and indispensable role for the development of children. Fathers and mothers both have individuality and are equally responsible for the growth of the child physically, mentally and emotionally. But still most of the societies have a different thinking that their role differs. So here I would like to discuss the reasons of these differences.

In most of the societies, especially the remote areas and villages, people believe that role of mother is just to give birth to a child and look after child's schooling, eating and homework and father is the one who brings the money for bread and butter and doesn't have to do anything with the child's care. Due to this, women are deprived of working out and even are deprived of education. First and foremost reason for these differences is that people are illiterate and 60% of the people are still below the poverty line. They are not aware of the good and bad things. Secondly, they follow the old fuddy-duddy customs and traditions.

Thirdly, I believe that in these old-fashioned societies people do not have family planning, birth rate is high so women are forced to sit at home and feed the children. Therefore, all the burden of child's development comes on her shoulders and men have nothing to do except working and earning money. Just imagine if a father is asked in which class his child studies he has to think so hard and even then he cannot recollect. If women go out and work, then older people get skeptical and scold them, as they are narrow minded.

However, in the future the scenario will change. We are living in an era of globalization and westernization in 21st century. We are influenced by western culture. Nowadays people are educated, literate and aware of things and are broadminded. Parents understand their responsibility and work equally for the holistic development of the child. So, in the future conditions will improve a lot. Parents will plan the things for the bright and shiny future of their children. And they will be united and the child will not be deprived of the father's love. Both will work so that they can do savings in the future for their child and presently in urban areas things are like this only.

To conclude, there are many reasons for the gender differences in parental roles, but the future is predicted to hold no such differences.

Plan followed

Intro: So here I would like to discuss the reasons of these differences.
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Third reason
Para 3: the future scenario
Conclusion:

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280. Some people say that playing computer games is bad for children, whereas others say that it has positive effects on the way children develop. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Computer games have become very popular among children. Some individuals hold the opinion that spending time on computer games is detrimental for children, whereas others opine that it is beneficial for children's development. I shall discuss both views in this essay. I believe that computer games are good, but if played in limit.

There are many reasons why some people say that playing electronic games is harmful for children. Firstly, overdependence on these games leads to social isolation, as these are usually played alone. Secondly, some games have violent characters, and seeing their violent acts leads to aggressive behaviour in children. Moreover, these games can confuse reality and fantasy. For example, when children play car-racing games then they may race their own vehicles in real life, which can lead to accidents. Finally, these games are addicting and once a child sits to play these games, time flies and everything else, such as studies and outdoor games are forgotten, which is indubitably bad.

On the other hand, those who say that playing computer games is advantageous for children, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, video games introduce children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic, e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes. What is more, these modern games make learning fun. The cost of failure is lower. For example, if the child gets the answer wrong or their character dies, he just starts the game over and tries again. Finally, some games have therapeutic applications.

I believe that on the whole computer games have more merits, but only if these are played for a controlled time. For example, the parents can allocate one hour of their children's free time on these games on weekdays and two hours at weekends. In this way the children can take benefit of the positives of these games and not suffer from the bad effects such as addiction and social isolation.

To summarise, on the whole these games are very good and certainly have more, but only if these are played for a limited time. Parents should fix the game playing time and see to it that homework and other important chores are done before playing.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion

281. In some cultures, the old age is more valued, while in some cultures the youth is more valued. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People of different cultures have varied attitudes toward age. They suggest that in Western societies old people are not respected, while in Asian societies elders are revered. Similarly, youth is either highly valued or ignored, depending on the culture. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I believe that each age has its importance and so should be equally treasured.

The main reason why old age is valued in some cultures is that age is often associated with wisdom. With age comes experience, and in many societies younger family members consult older ones for advice on relationships or problems. In some societies, not just older living family members but ancestors are revered and consulted. For instance, in the Far East, people respect grandparents, older leaders, and bosses.

On the other hand, the reason why the youth are valued in some cultures, is that a young and vibrant workforce is an asset. Most governments give priority to youth in terms of education so that they can move the society forward. A case in point is America, a country sponsoring university students by different forms such as scholarship and student loans. By doing this, young people can be well educated and equipped with proper knowledge and useful skills. Consequently, the young will be able to promote the development of the society.

I believe that age in itself is not a qualification for anything. If we look at western countries, we also find politicians in their sixties or seventies, and company executives in their sixties, despite strong business competition. In addition, as life expectancy increases, older people are becoming more important as consumers and voters. On the other hand, even in countries where elders previously were respected and obeyed blindly, people are realizing that old age does not always mean wisdom. The old way of running families, companies, or countries may not work today.

In conclusion, the old and the young are essential for any society, so they both should be valued. An ideal society should have a balance. We should appreciate both the vitality and potential of youth and the advice and experience of old age.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: One view
Para 2: The other view
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

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282. In some parts of the world, it is becoming increasingly popular to try to find out about the history of your family. Why do people do this? Is this a negative or positive development?

The study of family history or genealogy has become very popular especially after the coming of the Internet. People are indulging into this study for various reasons, which I shall highlight in the following paragraphs. I believe that it is largely a positive development although there are some disadvantages also.

The most popular reason for studying the family history is that people want to know their roots. Besides honoring the significance of one's ancestors, studying one's family's genealogy can just be plain fascinating. It is considered by most to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America, with many surveys and media sources proclaiming that it has surpassed quilting, stamp collecting and even gardening in popularity. Another reason for studying family history is the potential to trace living relatives. This then opens up the possibility of finding out about and connecting with long-lost cousins or relatives. The ability to trace living relatives can also be important in tracing an heir or beneficiary.

Finally, the most significant reason is that studying family history is an important tool in maintaining good physical health. Studying family history helps to predict risk for a range of health concerns and diseases, including heart disease, osteoporosis, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer. Once a person's family medical history has been established, it is far easier for physicians to advise patients on how to keep healthy.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of tracking family history. Genealogy begins as a curiosity, which becomes a hobby and then may become an obsession. Then people waste too much time and money on it. One should not forget that it is the present, which influences the future more and not the past. Often knowledge of family history is disastrous, leading people to keep old enmities alive. It may also reveal unpleasant facts that one would regret knowing.

In conclusion, it can be said that there are many motivations for studying family history, from developing a sense of belonging to maintaining good health. However, one should not develop an obsession for it and waste too much time and money on it.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why people study family history / Advantages
Para 2: Other reasons / advantages
Para 3: disadvantages of tracking family history
Conclusion: it is good to know family history provided it does not become an obsession

283. The most important decision that young people have to follow is what career to choose. Do you agree or disagree?

I agree with the given statement, which says that the most pivotal decision that young people have to trail is what vocation to pick. It is indubitable that there are other critical issues of life, which are very significant but career choice remains at number one.

The main argument which goes in favour of making career choice the most vital decision is that when the young persons have an idea of the career path they want to pursue, it can help them make the best decisions about their training and education. Many lines of work require specific degrees and certifications, which can take years to pursue. Understanding the requirements of their chosen path will allow them to plan to prepare themselves for the career they want.

Secondly, when the youngsters choose a career path, they position themselves to look far into the future at their ultimate objective. This can help them identify positions they want to hold and income levels they want to achieve. It can also help to guide them in building their personal and professional networks in the industry in which they are interested. Having long-term goals can help him stay focused on their ultimate career objectives, rather than moving aimlessly from job to job.

Finally, choosing a career path can help the youth make other important life decisions. Their choice of profession can dictate where they live and may affect if and when they marry and have a family. Choosing a life partner is another very important life decision, but it comes secondary to a career choice. Achieving a satisfactory work-life balance can be a challenge for many professionals, but career planning can help to minimize some of this stress.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that choice of career is certainly the most important decision for the young people and all other decisions depend on this one primary decision.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Main reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: More reasons
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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284. Many people think young people should follow traditions. Others argue that young people should be free to be individuals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is a highly debatable issue whether the youth should follow traditions or have liberty to be what they want. Some people hold the opinion that the youth should follow traditions, whereas others argue that the young people should be given the freedom to express their individuality and follow whatever culture they want. In this essay I shall look into both sides of the debate. I, personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some individuals opine that the youth should follow traditions. Firstly, the young people of today need to be connected to their roots. They have been neglecting its own very rich culture and traditions in order to adapt to the western ideas. They have their mindset that what the west is doing is right and one should follow it without hesitation. Another reason of people's opinion is that some traditions are very good and need to be preserved at all costs. For instance, touching the feet of the elderly as a token of respect and welcoming guests with folded hands.

On the other hand, it is easy to understand why some people are in favour of letting the youth have their own individuality. This is mainly because the youth of today is better informed than ever before in the history of mankind. They do not just accept things without reasoning. It would be wrong to impose traditions on them, which are obsolete in the modern era. For example, the dowry system, in which the bride's parents gave her gold, money and household items, was acceptable earlier as women were not working. But today, the dowry system is being condemned because the youth of today realize that it has led to many vices such as female feticide.

I believe that the young people are living in a modern world, which pulls them toward a new vision of traditions. They belong to a global village, which has a global culture, which is a blend of the good points of all cultures of the world. The youth of today are borrowing methods and taking aspirations from one country to the other. For example, the beautiful traditions of The West, such as celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day are being celebrated in India today, and the good points of Indian culture like welcoming others with folded hands is being accepted by the western countries.

In conclusion, it can be said that the youth of today should be allowed all individuality. They are not part of a big planet called Earth; they belong to a small global village. Traditions should not define them; they should define traditions. It has been rightly said that 'Traditions' should be guides and not jailors.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into both sides of the debate
Para 1: one view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

285. The best way to prepare for the future is to invest in young people. How true do you think is this? What are the ways to spend resources on these young people?

Young people are the backbone of their country. If a country focuses on its youth, they become productive citizens later on. So, I firmly believe that the governments should invest in young people in order to take their nation forward. In this essay I shall analyse the ways to invest on the young people.

Young people are unquestionably the most important resource for a country's future. The imagination, ideals, enthusiasm and energies of youngsters are vital for the development of the communities they live. They are problem solvers, have a positive influence on other young people and the nation, and are extremely ambitious. They have the ability to create an identity for themselves and move the nation forward. However, they will not be able to do this without the support of their Government and fellow youths.

There are myriad ways to spend on the youth. To begin with, resources should be aimed towards providing good education to the youth. The system of education and the system of examination must be impeccable. It should also aim at providing diverse education in interesting ways, which can lure the students towards studying. Good schools and colleges should be provided to the students according to their need. Job-oriented or vocational education should be given. Educated youth are an asset for their country.

Secondly, every young man or woman must be given work to his/her capacity. Young people have a lot of energy, which has to be channelized in the right direction. If jobs are not available, the government should encourage self-employment by giving subsidies to young entrepreneurs. If they are unemployed, they can go on the wrong path. This can be detrimental not only for the young people, but also for the whole nation. No country can make any progress when its youth remain idle and unemployed.

Furthermore, sports and arts facilities are especially useful for the youth for the holistic development of their body as well as mind. Arts bring out the creativity, whereas sports also produce a sense of cooperation and brotherhood. Sports and arts can also be chosen as careers. Sportsmen and artists bring name and fame to their country. Government should give special grants to sportsmen and artists. Then they will not have to worry about providing bread and butter to their families and concentrate on their talent. So, if the governments invest in sports and arts for its youth, it can bring name and fame and also be beneficial for that country's economic growth.

To conclude, the role of the youth in nation building is crucial and they can lift the nation to great heights, but they need the support of the government and the society, which can be done in many ways.

Plan followed

Intro: government should invest in young people in order to gain success in future.
Para 1: Why is it essential to invest on the youth.
Para 2: Govt. should invest in educational facilities
Para 3: government should provide jobs to the youth
Para 4: and also in sports and arts facilities for the youth
Conclusion: investment on youth is better to secure the future

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286. Old generations often hold some traditional ideas on the correct way of life, thinking and behavior. However, some people think that it is not helpful for the young generations to prepare for modern life in the future. Do you agree or disagree?

Generation gap has been a debated issue since the dawn of civilization. I partially agree with this statement. Modern life has changed beyond recognition in many ways and so many ideas of the old generation are not suitable for today's life, but still there are some traditional ideas, which are evergreen and hold true even today.

There are many ideas of the elderly, which are beneficial for today's generation also. The elderly had a very disciplined life. For instance, they believed in sticking to one job for life. They also believed in fixed-hours job. They had a stress-free work life. Moreover, they believed that marriage was for life. Divorces were rare. They had a stable family life. These values, if followed, are good for today's generation also.

However, in many ways the ideas of the elderly are obsolete in the times of modernity. The elderly live like a frog in the well. They forget that change is progress. They also want their children to follow the same profession. They do not give importance to aptitude. Youngsters are more intellectually evolved. They want to explore the untrodden path to face the cutthroat competition of today.

Furthermore, the young differ in dress, food and habits. These things were not available to the elderly. The elderly had lesser opportunities to come in contact with the western world. The Earth was a big planet. Now it is a global village. The young speak a universal language, eat Italian pizza and Chinese food and wear a universal dress. The leisurely ways of the old are gone. The young have the speed of bikes, cars and planes. What can link them to the old bullock cart? The young today have to change to survive.

To sum up, there are some traditional ideas of the elderly that are evergreen and will hold true for times to come. But, in many ways, they are obsolete in today's time.

Plan followed

Intro: Modern life has changed beyond recognition in many ways and so many ideas of the old generation are not suitable for today's life, but still there are some traditional ideas which are evergreen and hold true even today.

Para 1: Which ideas of the elderly hold true even today

Para 2: Which ideas of the elderly are obsolete today

Para 3: Why these ideas of the elderly are obsolete

Conclusion:

287. Individual greed and selfishness has been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Dwight D. Eisenhower has rightly said, "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." Therefore, I agree with the given statement that we must revert to the golden times when we valued traditions and respected the elderly and our neighbourhoods so that we have a happier today and a happier tomorrow.

Today we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they do not respect them.

On the other hand, life in the past was slower and simpler. People loved and respected each other. Family members had a lot of face-to-face contact with each other. Older members of the family were well looked after and their advice was valued. Divorces were very rare as marriage was considered a sacred institution. Moreover, community get-togethers were often organized and people knew the farthest neighbours. Nowadays, the next-door neighbours are also not recognized. There were lesser worries and tensions in earlier times.

To conclude, living in this modern toxic world, we are all slowly being poisoned to death. Therefore, it is clear that the traditional value-based society is a better world to live in. We cannot return from the age of the jet plane to the age of the bullock cart but we can certainly return to these traditional values to try to create a modern world which has both, material wealth and prosperity and also respect for the family and local community.

Plan Followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Where all we have fallen back in the modern world and why we need to go back to those traditions

Para 2: Good points of the old societies

Conclusion: Reiterate point.

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288. In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?

In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Many factors could be responsible for this trend. The most important reason is that in today's era of cutthroat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously under such circumstance, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another barrier to late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on the society as a whole. Firstly, low birthrates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labor force in the future. A graying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulder of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: negative effects on society
Para 3: negative effects on families
Conclusion:

289. Figures show that some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of the population who are aged 15 or younger. What do you think are the current and future effects of this trend for those countries?

Some demographic surveys have shown that the proportions of young people are rising rapidly. This may be because of any reasons such as illiteracy and poverty or wars or any other reasons. This essay shall delve into the immediate and long-term outcomes of this trend on those countries.

The most important current impact of such a trend would be on the national economy. For instance, goods and services would need to be imported, which would lead to an unstable economy. In addition to the effects on economy, there would be social implications also. The young population has lot of energy, which must be channelized in the right direction, or it would lead to crime and violence in society. The government will have to invest a lot on educational institutes, as more children need more schools and colleges. In addition more spending on health would also be needed.

If the government does careful management of such a situation, for instance, by providing good education and health facilities, then the future outcomes could be quite positive. The long-term result would be that the education and health infrastructure would be well developed. The society would be younger and more vibrant. The culture of those countries would be more fast-paced than the traditional culture.

However, in case the present time is not managed nicely, then the future effect would be different as there would be more people within the country needing employment. Then there might arise the problem of unemployment. Unemployment invariably leads to petty crime and violence.

Summing up, the long-term effects of having more young people, depends on how the situation is handled today. If handled well, the culture and lifestyle of these countries would be transformed if the population would be younger. Fresh opportunities and challenges would both be on the way. The trend would cause multiple possible effects and these countries should strengthen the education and health infrastructure to overcome its negative influence.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Current effects on economy and society

Para 2: Future effects on society if today is handled well

Para 3: Future effects if careful management is not done today

Conclusion:

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290. *In some countries, more and more adults are living with their parents after graduating from college, university, or even after finding a job. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?*

It is irrefutable that the economies are struggling all over the world. As a result, the youth of today is finding it very difficult to find good employment and become financially independent. This has consequently led to an increase in the number of adult children returning home to live with their parents. I believe that the advantages of children staying with parents, after completing their college or university education, are more than the disadvantages. I will put forth my views in the upcoming paragraphs.

The first and foremost advantage of working adult children staying at home is that they contribute towards the household income and share the expenses. This reduces the burden on the earning members of the family. Not only this, it also helps them reduce their own expenses and helps them save money. Rather than struggling to pay rents and take care of other expenses, they can invest money or save money for future home.

Furthermore, there is a better bonding and stronger family ties in a family that stays together. Even though life has become hectic and there is not enough time to spend with family and friends, it is very comforting to know that there is someone at home that they can share their problems with. This helps them deal better with stressful situations in life and at work. It is also said that if children stay longer with their parents, they are more likely to support and take care of their parents in old age, due to the strong family bonds.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages as well, which cannot be overlooked. Living with the parents after completing their education, may make the children more dependent, rather than independent. They depend on someone to do the daily chores, like washing clothes, cooking food, cleaning dishes, and so on. They might not also become financially responsible. Also, if the parents have a retirement plan, they have to put it on hold, till the time the children are staying at home.

To sum up, it can be said that living at home can be very beneficial for both the adult children and the parents, provided the children contribute towards the household resources, in terms of expenses and sharing work at home.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages
Para 1: Economic benefits
Para 2: Better family ties
Para 3: DisadvantagesConclusion:

291. Nowadays, many families have both parents working. Some working parents believe, other family members like grandparents can take care of their children, while others think childcare centers provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays, and as a result, children have to be raised by either child-care centres or grandparents. Some young parents believe that grandparents can take better care of their children, whereas others are in favour of child-care centres to look after their children while they are working. This essay intends to compare both options. I, however, believe that day-care centres are better than grandparents for the preschool years of children.

Most parents choose to leave their children with grandparents for many reasons. Firstly, grandparents would give more care than formal childcare centres. Looking after the grandchildren also keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words, it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents do not suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age and children are also well looked after.

On the other hand, those who prefer day-care centres, give their main reason that children become more social in these centres. A study found that grandparents may struggle to provide the educational and social experiences infants need. Children looked after by grandparents at the age of nine months were considered to be less sociable with other children at age three than those who had been in a child-care centre.

I believe that grandparents cannot be good child-care providers if they're in poor health and feel forced to provide childcare to their grandchildren. In such cases, the results can be nothing short of disastrous. Early childcare is a challenge, which may be simply too much for some grandparents to cope with, at this point in their lives. So, day-care centres are better as they are handled by professionals, who know the needs of children.

To sum up, although grandparental care is good in many ways for grandchildren, the advantages of day-care centres are more than those brought about by grandparents.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of grandparents looking after grandchildren

Para 2: advantages of day care centres over disadvantages of grandparental care

Para 3: Disadvantages of grandparents

Conclusion: Day-care centres are better

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292. *In recent years the family has changed as well as family roles. Why is this happening and is this situation positive or negative?*

Change is the law of nature and with the changing times the family's inner construction, along with the positions of its members, has also changed. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this trend. I believe that this situation has advantages as well as disadvantages.

The main factor contributing to this trend is the social change brought about by globalisation. The exposure to foreign cultures has changed people's mindset, and has also redefined the role of women in the family. Women are no longer limited to household chores, and are working shoulder to shoulder with men. The reins of the households are no longer in the hands of the man, the bread-earner, of the family.

The second major reason for this change in the fabric of the family is the economic condition. Since it is challenging to maintain a family with many members and to make ends meet, it is more feasible to keep the size of the family small. Thus, according to a recent study, the nuclear family has risen in popularity in the last one or two decades.

This modification in the family structure and family roles has brought about many benefits. Firstly, it has led to an egalitarian society, where gender differences are disappearing, and women can also fulfill their ambitions. The society has also benefited from a greater labour force.

On the other hand, the bonds between family members are being weakened. Since most parents have to spend time working, their children are left unattended or sent to childcare centers or boarding schools. The shrinkage in family size also results in more elders being sent to old-age home instead of staying with their children and grandchildren.

To sum up, due to the changes in culture and economy, the family structure and responsibilities among family members have been modified. While this trend positively contributes to gender equality and strengthens the labour force, it also has many adverse effects on family relationships.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

293. Experts say if the old people spend time and get along with others and exercise every day, they will be healthier and happier. However, many elderly are suffering from loneliness and lack of fitness. Discuss the causes and solutions?

It is indubitable that we are heading towards a graying society. The life spans have increased, but along with it the problems of elderly related to health and social isolation have also seen a surge. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason of social isolation of the elderly is that they find it difficult to let go. The elderly have held the reins of the household for a long time, and they want to keep that authoritative power. But, their children and grandchildren do not want to be held back all the time because of their orthodox customs. So, they start ignoring them, which leads them to be secluded. If they spend time with youngsters, be flexible and adopt the newer ways of life, they would be more accepted in society.

Secondly, the health of the aging population is a major concern. Our body is just a machine and just like any machine needs lubrication from time to time to function well, the body machine also needs that oil. Exercise acts as the lubricant, which can keep the problems of the elderly away. The common problems faced by the elderly are hypertension, arthritis and diabetes. At a young age, this exercise is not much needed, but as the body machine grows older, it needs daily exercise. The elderly who do not exercise daily, suffer from these problems, which are further worsened because of the financial constraints of the elderly, who are no longer working and earning.

Simple steps can help to ameliorate the problem. One thing that we have to accept gracefully is that we cannot run away from the problems of the elderly. We have to face them, and that too on a war footing, otherwise the situation is going to worsen and would be a big burden on the government. The elderly themselves have to plan for their retired life well in advance. They should try to catch up with the latest happenings and learn the use of latest technology, which can help them to be better accepted by the young people. Daily exercise should be a mandatory part of their day. The government should set up highly subsidized gyms for the elderly, along with free computer classes.

To conclude, the elderly themselves can alleviate the problems of the elderly, such as loneliness and failing health, to a large extent, but the government can also take some steps.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: 1st problem and solution
Para 2: 2nd problem and solution
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

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294. Caring for children is an important thing of the society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. Current research has shown that the early years (ages 0-5) are the most sensitive for brain development. Over 90% of brain growth occurs during this period. The people who care for the child are also those who shape the child's mind. I firmly believe that all parents should get childcare training, even if they have to hire professional nannies for this purpose.

Childcare courses are important for many reasons. Firstly, traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another, through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient in today's era of nuclear families. So parents should undergo childcare training. It is also a misconceived idea that childcare is a simple process of feeding children, changing diapers and making them sleep regularly. Contemporary childcare is not limited to this. Childcare is a complex science that goes beyond nutrition. It involves the physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Therefore, with the changing times and changing family structure, childcare training courses should be the norm for all would be parents.

Secondly, childcare training teaches parents how to take a holistic approach to care for their children. Many people might wrongly think that childcare is all about love. Parents have to learn when to be firm, and when to give some room to children. For example, children eat a lot of candy, without knowledge that candy can cause obesity and tooth damage. Parents should not respond to children's needs for candy permanently.

Furthermore, quality childcare has many other far-reaching benefits. Studies show that children who get good care, enter school with better math, language and social skills. Parents, who have themselves done such course, can monitor the childcare being given by a professional nanny, better. Thanks to the surveillance cameras, parents can keep an eye on what is happening at home from their cell phone, even during work hours.

To summarise, successful child care does not lie only in love but also in other skills. Children's healthy development is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. With these borne in mind, parents should now be compelled to join childcare training.

Plan followed

Intro: Parents' participation in care training is advisable.
Para 1: Childcare is much more than changing diapers and feeding children
Para 2: Childcare training teaches parents for a holistic approach of childcare.
Para 3: Far reaching benefits of quality childcare
Conclusion:

295. When families have a meal together it is considered social activity. What are the advantages of a family meal? Do you think eating together is important to people in your country?

It is irrefutable that eating together is a social activity. Sharing dinner together gives everyone a sense of identity. It can help ease day-to-day conflicts, as well as establish traditions and memories that can last a lifetime. Eating together is definitely significant to people of my country, India.

The first and foremost advantage of eating together is that it creates a sense of belonging. Conversations during the meal provide opportunities for the family to bond and learn from one another. It's a chance to share information and news of the day, as well as give extra attention to your children and teens. Family meals foster warmth, security and love, as well as feelings of belonging. It can be a unifying experience for all.

Secondly, family mealtime is the perfect opportunity to teach appropriate table manners, etiquette, and social skills. Parents can be perfect role models in this and children learn by following them. What is more, meals prepared and eaten at home are usually more nutritious and healthy. They contain more fruits, vegetables, and dairy products along with additional nutrients such as fiber, calcium, vitamins A and C, and folate.

Furthermore, research shows that frequent family dinners (five or more a week), are associated with lower rates of smoking, drinking, and illegal drug use in pre-teens and teenagers when compared to families that eat together two or fewer times per week. To add to it, children do better in school when they eat more meals with their parents and family.

In my country most people do value shared mealtime. However, the fast-paced life and influence of the global culture is taking some away from this custom. Fortunately, some recent studies have shown that even in the developed countries people are realizing the importance of family meals and are downshifting. It is indeed time to bring the "family" back to the dinner table.

To conclude, eating together is definitely an important social activity. That is why it has been said that, 'The family that eats together stays together'.

Plan followed

Intro: eating together is a social activity
Para 1: it creates a sense of belonging - a unifying experience for all
Para 2: Advantages of family meal
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: Situation in my country
Conclusion:

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296. Some people say that parents have the most important role in a child's development. However, others argue that other things like television or friends have the most significant influence. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that parents have the most significant role in a child's development whereas others opine that friends and other environmental factors such as TV have a more important role. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I believe that all the factors like parents, peers and TV, are inextricably linked and it is not possible to say which factor has more role.

There are reasons why some people hold the opinion that parents have the most critical role in a child's development. Firstly, parents have direct interactions with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. These have their greatest effect on intellectual development and character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bedtime stories to the behavioral habits, parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. That is why it is believed by some that parents have the strongest role in a child's development.

On the other hand, those who say that friends and TV have more vital role on the development of children, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, friends are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. They find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems. Television is also one of the most prevalent media influences in children's lives. How much impact TV has on children depends on many factors, such as how much they watch, their age and personality, whether they watch alone or with adults, and whether their parents talk with them about what they see on TV.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence peers and TV may impact more. It has also been seen that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support. So, all these factors are interlinked and so it cannot be generalized as to what affects children more.

To sum up, behavior is affected by a complex interaction of many different factors such as parents, peers and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

297. Some scientists believe that studying the behaviour of 3-year-old children can tell which children would grow up to be criminals. To what extent in your opinion is crime a product of human nature or is it possible to stop children from growing up to be criminals?

Some scientists are of the opinion that hereditary characteristics are responsible for the person's temperament and hence future career. I disagree with this notion. I believe that genes do play a role but the primary determinant is nurture – education and bringing up. It is definitely possible to mould a child into any direction by proper bringing-up.

It has been well researched that the way a child is nurtured is a key factor in shaping his or her personality and several behavioral characteristics. This is done by the family in the first few years of a child's development, and then later there are other influences like that of the society, teachers, and friends. Moreover, children imitate what they observe and if they have positive role models around them, it is highly unlikely that they will deviate from the right path.

Furthermore, if we adopt the mentality that if parents are criminals so will the children be then we are limiting or even damaging the individual's basic right to achieve his very best. Children can rise above the gene pool and rise to great heights. Even if a child is born to criminal parents but brought up away from that environment and provided quality education, he will not grow up to be a criminal. To add to it, in many countries, teaching moral and social values is a part of their education system. This makes the children realize the importance of ethics starting at an early age, keeping them away from deviant and criminal behavior.

Admittedly, there are many examples of children born in families of criminals, growing up to be criminals. However, there are several factors that this can be attributed to, like the lack of positive role models, negative conditioning of the child's mind during the developmental stages, physical and mental abuse in childhood, etc. Also, it is a fact that crime is a product of the circumstances of a person. Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are the root causes of crime.

To sum up, the role of nature in determining the behavior of a child cannot be ignored, but it plays a limited role. It is the way the child is nurtured that shapes the future behavior and personality of a child, thus ascertaining that it is possible to prevent children from growing up to be criminals.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Role of nurture
Para 2: More role of nurture.
Para 3: Role of genes
Conclusion: both nature and nurture play a part in determining the character of a person. But nurture weighs over nature and it is definitely possible to prevent children from growing up to be criminals.

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298. Research indicates that the characteristics we are born with have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life. Which do you consider to be the major influence?

Nature versus nurture debate has been around for ages, and has been supported well by both sides. Nature, referring to heredity, and nurture, referring to the environment, are two very reasonable explanations as to why we are the people we are today. It would be worthwhile to look at both sides of the issue before forming an opinion.

Nature is believed to be what determines our personalities, looks, and other things because it's all genetically passed down. It has been concluded that a newborn doesn't have a blank slate of personality, but does have a set of inherited traits. Identical twins reared apart are far more similar in personality than randomly selected pairs of people. Likewise, identical twins are more similar than fraternal twins. Also, biological siblings are more similar in personality than adopted siblings. Each observation suggests that personality is heritable to a certain extent.

The other side of the debate says that nurture is the cause to our behavior as well as characteristics. Even though genes are what give us those certain traits to our personality, the environment has the power to alter them, and make us into the exact opposite. Even the way that certain children are brought up can change how they turn out. If environment didn't play a part in determining an individual's traits and behaviors, then identical twins should, theoretically, be exactly the same in all respects, even if reared apart. But a number of studies show that they are never exactly alike, even though they are remarkably similar in most aspects.

The more we delve into the topic, the more the evidence reveals that the answer is "BOTH". Genes are the foundation of who we are, but the nurture we receive in our lives is what we finally turn out to be. Even the best of inborn talents can go unrecognized if not given proper training and education. But it would seem that "Nurture complements Nature, and that Nature's gift of rich human potential is realized through socialization and education.

To conclude, although both nature and nurture play a role in human personality and development, the influence of our upbringing and life experiences gets an edge over the genetic influences.

Plan followed

Intro: It would be worthwhile to look at both sides of the issue before forming an opinion.
Para 1: Role of nature in determining personalities
Para 2: Role of nurture in determining personalities.
Para 3: Role of both
Conclusion: although both nature and nurture play a role in human personality and development, the influence of our upbringing and life experiences gets an edge over the genetic influences

299. Some people say that every human being can create art (e.g. painting), others think only the people born with the ability can create art. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Nature versus nurture debate has been raging for generations and no clear-cut answer has come up so far. Some think that artistic ability is inborn, whereas others say that such a talent can be acquired by training and hard work. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally believe that artistic knack is a combination of both, talent and training.

The main reason why some people hold the opinion that genes influence the innate abilities of a person, is that some very young children excel in some visual and performing arts. It is impossible to believe that such children can be taught that level of art at that early age. They give examples of 2-5-year olds, in reality shows like, 'India's Got Talent' and 'Dance India Dance'. From such examples one is forced to believe that they have some inborn talent. They are gifted with that talent. They certainly have more natural aptitude than others in certain areas. Other well-known examples of child prodigies can also be cited here. Who has not heard of the achievements of people like Mozart and Einstein?

On the other hand, those who say that anyone can produce art by practice and training, say that had this not been the case, there would be no schools for Art. Art and Fine Art would not exist as subjects. It would be wrong to believe that anyone who has painted a beautiful painting or created any other such work of art, must be naturally gifted. The person may have travelled a long journey of perseverance to reach that point.

In my opinion, to reach the recognizable top, even those gifted with talent have to work hard and practice a lot. Talented people may need less hard work to reach there, but they cannot reach the pinnacles of success without sufficient practice. Even the most talented can lead a life of oblivion if they do not polish their art by continued practice. Conversely, anyone with a passion and determination can succeed in creating unique masterpieces of art.

To sum up, both talent and hard work have a role in creating art. Both are inextricably linked. The nature versus nurture debate has no clear-cut answer and will never have.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Arguments in support of natural talent
Para 2: Arguments in support of hard work
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

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300. Children who grow up in families, which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Role of family atmosphere in a child's development is a cause of concern. However, I disagree with the notion that children of poor families are better equipped in dealing with the challenges of adult life than those of rich families. No doubt, adversity is a good teacher of life, but rich parents can also prepare their children to face the problems of adult life by good education and good nurturing.

A child of poor family has more situations to solve a problem or make a decision as both parents are working to make both ends meet and children have to look after themselves. They realize the value of money as they have to live with the barest minimum and as a result they find it less difficult later on in life when they face financial challenges. In contrast, the children of wealthy families are born with a silver spoon in their mouth. They are completely ignorant of the value of money as everything is provided for them in their youth and expect the same situation in adulthood.

On the other hand, children of rich families study in the best schools and get the best higher education. They can learn problem solving in such academic institutes. What is more, a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent who himself has a lot of knowledge of money. Such parents themselves know money management better and can pass on those skills to their children.

Life experiences also play a role. Children can have innate ability to face problems of life. They may have personality traits such as being optimistic, outgoing, confident and open-minded. Due to these abilities they can solve problems in a better way.

To sum up, a poor child may learn to get along without wealth and a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent to face hurdles of life by effective education. Therefore, I disagree that the economic situation of the family has a role in teaching children problem solving skills.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree. No doubt, adversity is a good teacher of life, but rich parents can also prepare their children to face the problems of adult life by good education and good nurturing.
Para 1: How children of poor families learn problem solving
Para 2: How children of rich families learn problem solving
Para 3: How life experiences play a role
Conclusion: a poor child may learn to get along without wealth and a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent to face hurdles of life by effective education

301. In many countries today there is insufficient respect to old people. What are the reasons? What problems might it bring to the society?

It is irrefutable that because of advancements in science and technology, we have a graying society today. These demographic changes have brought up the topic that there is less respect for the elderly who are now in great numbers. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes and effects of this trend.

There are many reasons for lack of respect to the aged. In the workforce, creative and energetic young people who are able to work under a lot of pressure are preferred. In the techno-savvy world of today, the elderly feel out of place. They are not earning and so the youth hold the reins of the economy. Secondly, the old have problems adapting to ever-changing lifestyles and lag behind the times and so receive insufficient respect. The elderly are like a frog in the well and want their young ones to follow their professions. The youth, however, want to walk on the un-trodden path and find new avenues for themselves. Furthermore, the elderly suffer health problems such as hypertension, diabetes and arthritis, which make them physically weak and so they lack respect.

Another big reason for the elderly receiving less respect is the fact that they find it very difficult to let go. The young belong to the global culture and their elderly constantly nag and criticize them for their ways. The youngsters do not take this in the good light, and they start ignoring them. The young also belong to a 24/7 society where competition is very stiff and as a result find it irritating and frustrating to find time to care and respect their elderly.

Less respect to the elderly has already caused many problems in these countries. The most noticeable is that people are indifferent to each other, and individuals tend to feel agitated, worrying about their own old life in the future. As a result, the whole society is not as harmonious and vigorous as the ones where senior citizens are treated with courtesy and respect. This situation has also led to a mushroom growth of old-age homes in the cities.

To sum up, it is our duty to respect the old people and the youth should not forget that they too will age one day. But, the elderly should also learn to keep-up with the times and be flexible with their youth.

Plan followed

Intro: In this essay I intend to delve into the causes and effects of this trend.
Para 1: Reasons for lack of respect to the aged
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Effects
Conclusion: it is our duty to respect the old people and the youth should not forget that they will too age one day. But, the elderly should also learn to keep-up with the times and be flexible with their youth.

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302. Some people think parents should read or tell stories to children, while others think parents need not do that, as children can read books, watch TV or movies by themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It has been rightly said that 'There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.' The question of debate is, whether parents should read or tell stories to children, or whether children should come to know about stories themselves by reading books or by watching TV or movies. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people believe that parents should read bedtime stories to children. First of all, it encourages family bonding. In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedules, reading together is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. Children also feel wanted and loved. Furthermore, by listening to stories, children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also builds listening skills, increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate.

On the other hand, those who opine that children should themselves read stories from books or watch them on TV and in movies, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, it moulds children into becoming readers, and this significantly increases the child's potential for academic success as well as lifelong success in general. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. They say that the parents role should be to surround their children with books worth reading

I believe that parents should read out stories to children. This can be started much before children can themselves read. When parents read out stories, children automatically start picking up books and read them. Otherwise it is very difficult to motivate the children of today to read. Watching TV also does not help the child to develop imagination, and this may be detrimental in the long run.

To sum up, it is always better for the parents as well as the children, if parents read aloud to their children. This would give them quality time together and loads of other benefits, which I have discussed above. Someone has rightly said that, "Stories are the currency of human contact."

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: benefits of reading bedtime stories to children
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Opponents view, and refutation
Conclusion:

303. In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves in recent years. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative development for the society?

As any country develops, people are faced with new challenges and set new goals for themselves. Many individuals have to leave their families and as a result this trend of living alone or in nuclear family units has increased. This essay intends to explore the reasons of this phenomenon in depth. I believe it is largely a negative development, although there are a few advantages, too.

The first possible reason of this changing family structure is globalization. The huge planet Earth is now a small global village. This situation has opened lots of opportunities for the people to travel to and work in other countries. Moving to foreign countries or even in far-off places in one's own country is not possible with the whole family. So this has led to the breaking of joint families into nuclear units. When children of such nuclear families grow older, they live individually to explore new avenues for themselves.

The second important reason is the growing generation gap. The elderly want to stick to their tradition and culture whereas the youngsters want to adopt the global culture. This leads to conflicts and so there is lack of harmony among the family members. The senior members of the family do not want to let go, but the youth want to be free birds and so living individually is the only option once they are able to earn for themselves.

This situation is both positive as well as negative, but the demerits outweigh the merits. Man is, after all, a social animal. Living alone may seem good for some time, but this isolation can lead to depression. There are many ups and downs in life, when a person needs the loving and tender care of his nears and dears. In addition, children of nuclear families are often left unattended when both parents are working. They can become self-centered or can even go astray. The elderly also need the love and support of their children at this age. They are forced to live lives of isolation and depression. This has also led to the mushroom growth of old-age homes. On the positive side, this leads to faster progress, as family ties do not hold people back. Nuclear families are easy to maintain. Conflicts are also less and so love among the extended family members is maintained. Family get-togethers are celebrated with great enthusiasm.

To sum up, living alone has become common because of many reasons, which have been discussed above. In my opinion, the cons of this situation, overpower the pros.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: positives and negatives of this situation.
Conclusion:

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304. In some countries, young people are not only richer, but also safer and healthier than ever before. However, they are less happy. What might be the main reasons of this? What can be done for this?

In some countries young people are not as happy as before, although their living conditions have improved considerably. This essay intends to discuss the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions to alleviate the problem.

Undeniably, the recent times have seen a boom in the economy of some countries, as a result of which the young people have more than enough to spend. They are also enjoying better health because of the better health facilities and better awareness of health. Their lives are also more secure, because with better economy, they can avail the best things to make their lives safer. They are connected with each other 24/7, which also contribute to their security. However, despite all this, they are the most unhappy and stressed lot.

The first reason for their dissatisfaction is that they are exposed to the global culture and they are lured by it, but parents want them to follow the traditional culture, which leaves them confused and unhappy. Earlier, children knew only what their parents or teachers told them, and took that as granted and so were happy and contented. Secondly, they are living in an era of fierce competition, and parents and teachers have too much expectation from them. The young people, a few decades ago, competed with only the youth of their town or country, but today's young person faces competition from his counterpart of the global village, which was earlier the huge planet Earth.

Another important culprit of the discontent of youngsters is the consumerist society of today. For example, they see newer models of cell phones and other gadgets every day and buy them, but very soon those models also become obsolete and this happiness becomes very short-lived. The generation gap between parents and children is also responsible for their stress. Parents want their children to follow their profession, but the youth of today wants to follow the untrodden path, and explore newer avenues for themselves.

The solutions are not simple, but parents and governments can take some steps. Parents should help young people to develop a positive attitude towards life and the world. Traditional values, such as respecting the elderly, spending more time with family members, would help young people to become happier. Children loved by families are more likely to feel content. The governments should have facilities for the children and the youth, so that they can compete in the global arena. Finally, the onus is on the youth to realize that the ultimate happiness lies within them. They should set realistic goals for themselves and try to find happiness in the small things of life.

To sum up, there are many reasons why the youngsters of today are not as happy as their counterparts of the past, but some simple measures can help to alleviate this problem.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Acknowledging the facts of the given statement
Para 2: First reason of unhappiness
Para 3: Second reason
Para 4: More reasons
Para 5: Solutions
Conclusion:

305. It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of old people than young people in the future in some countries. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is the inescapable truth that we are heading towards a graying society, which means that the population of the elderly is soaring. Scientists predict that there would be fewer youth than olds in the near future. Although the population ageing should be seen as a success story, it brings social and economic challenges for the nations. So, it can be said that this situation is both, positive as well as negative.

First, there will not be enough workforces to keep the economy running. Lesser number of youngsters would mean lesser people working, which will decrease the revenue received by the government from taxes. To increase the labor pool, the government will need to spend a lot to invite foreign skilled workers to fill the job vacancies. This is exactly what is happening in developed countries like Canada and Australia, which have opened doors for skilled workers to immigrate and settle there permanently.

Second, health care costs are four to five times higher with the elderly because of their deteriorating wellbeing. Wear-and-tear on their bodies accumulated over the years make their immune system more susceptible to disease. It will be a necessity to allocate a considerable budget from the government to improve the quality of their life. No wonder, nanny care courses are in full demand in developing countries because professional nannies are required to look after the elderly and are being paid handsomely.

On the other hand, we cannot demonize the older population, because one day we, too, will pass through that stage. We cannot deny we've made progress. We've given ourselves the great gift of longer life and better health. So anything we face in terms of the challenges of dealing with this, does not outweigh those benefits. The challenge for the future is to ensure that people everywhere can grow old with security and dignity, and that they can continue to participate in social life as citizens with full rights. One way out would be to increase the age of retirement, and to give part-time work to the willing elderly. This could help in a big way to the predicted worker shortage. Also, part time, older workers do not need the benefits, do not get called home for sick kids, are more mature, and approach their jobs with more patience and better perspective. Working part time also allows retirees to stay active while maintaining their lifestyles, feel productive and interact with others, which is a win-win situation for all.

In summary, aging is inescapable. A predominantly old-aged society will certainly have a negative impact on a country's advancement, and so it has to be planned well. The countries will have to spend on prolonging the quality of life for the senior citizens, and providing job opportunities to them for as long as they are able to.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: negative effect on economy

Para 2: Healthcare costs

Para 3: Positives of a graying society and how to meet the challenges

Conclusion:

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306. Young people are often influenced in their behaviours and situations by others of the same age. This is called "peer pressure". Do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages?

Our peers, people our age who have experiences and interests similar to ours, surround us all. We make dozens of decisions everyday, and are influenced by each other's choices and behaviours. Similarly, young people are influenced by peers because they want to fit in, be like peers they admire, do what others are doing, or have what others have. No one is immune to peer pressure. Peer pressure can be both, positive as well as negative. Pressure has the power to create a diamond, but it has to be the "right" pressure.

There are many advantages of peer pressure if the peers are good. Good peers set plenty of good examples for each other. If peers are committed to doing well in school, or doing their best in a sport then they can influence those around them to be more goal-oriented, too. Secondly, peers who are kind and loyal can influence others to build these qualities in themselves. What is more, peers can help each other make decisions, such as what courses to take and even how to handle a family argument. Peers often give each other good advice. Peers might get each other involved in clubs, sports, or religious groups. One's world would be far less rich without peers to encourage or to offer moral support when one needs it most.

On the other hand, bad peers may pressurize each other into doing something wrong, such as shoplifting, taking drugs or drinking or taking dangerous risks when driving a car. Nearly everyone ends up in a sticky peer pressure situation at some point. Young people are going through a lot of stress in their life, as it is the time when the most crucial decisions of life have to be taken such as pursuing a career or choosing a life partner. It is very easy at such times to succumb to negative peer pressure.

Responding to peer pressure is part of human nature — but some people are more likely to give in, and others are better able to resist and stand their ground. I firmly believe that the stress of resisting unhealthy peer pressure can be buffered by good family relationships and a high self-esteem. So, the onus falls on the parents to give a stable family atmosphere and talk to their children about peer pressure. Explain what a powerful force it can be, and tell them that the excuse that "everyone did it" will never be accepted, and they will be held responsible for their actions.

To summarise, peer pressure is inevitable and it can be positive as well as negative. However, if parents teach their children how to handle negative peer pressure, it can be largely positive.

***Plan** followed*
Intro: Peer pressure can be both, positive as well as negative.
Para 1: How peer pressure can be positive
Para 2: How peer pressure can be negative
Para 3: How good family relationships can change the way children respond to peer pressure
Conclusion: peer pressure is inevitable and it can be positive as well as negative.

307. Society is based on rules and laws. If individuals were free to do whatever they wanted to do, it could not function. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that laws are made to maintain order and provide justice and security to the citizens of a society. I completely agree with the given statement that if the people of any society were given freedom to do whatever they want to, then there will be utter chaos and confusion, leading to the downfall of civilization. In this essay, I will give some arguments to support my view.

To begin with, laws are made for the humans to function in an orderly manner. No doubt, right to freedom is everyone's birthright. However, a civilized society exists only if the people respect each other's rights, lives and property. This can only be achieved if they are given a set of rules or orders to follow. Without these rules or laws, any society is deemed to fail. To add to it, it is human nature to pursue personal interests. If given absolute freedom to do whatever people want to do, there will be too many people who would certainly fall into bad habits and vices. With a majority of the people disrespecting others' lives, rights or property, we will never have a civil society.

In addition to the above mentioned points, laws are made for the people to feel secure in their homes, at their workplaces, or while they are out enjoying with family and friends. There are different types of laws, like corporate law, criminal law, civil law, constitutional law and so on. All these rules and laws help the society on the whole, to feel safe and secure, and at the same time, deter those who have a tendency to harm others or commit frauds of any kind. For instance, if there were no traffic rules, there will be a huge number of casualties in road accidents, and there will be too much chaos and confusion on roads. Also, no one will be afraid of speeding or jumping a traffic light.

Admittedly, law cannot be absolute and needs to be amended with the changing world and the societal demands and values. In the complex and global society of today's world, a law written fifty years ago may not be applicable. For example, till the first half of the 20th century, women in many countries didn't have the right to vote. In today's world, we cannot even think of having such laws. Moreover, laws are there not to judge people on the basis of their gender, occupation, religion or race. They are there to make people realize their moral and social obligation, and to respect another person's rights and freedom.

In conclusion, I would reiterate that law is needed in any society to maintain order, ensure safety and to make people respect other members of the society. Also, in the absence of law, the wrongdoers will go unpunished, and it will lead to more chaos and crime in any society.

Plan followed

Intro: agree.
Para 1: Rules are for orderly functioning of society
Para 2: Rules are for our safety
Para 3: Some rules are not befitting for today
Conclusion: the rules that we have are not too many but essential for the smooth functioning of any civil society

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308. History tells that people have often thought about creating an ideal society, but most of the times fail in making this happen. What is your opinion about an ideal society? How can we create an ideal society?

If we look at history, it is clear that since time immemorial, people have always wanted to create an ideal society, but have been unsuccessful. In the following essay, I intend to discuss what makes an ideal society, and how we can create one.

An ideal society is a society where needs of the people regardless of their race, religion or wealth are met. Many great thinkers, such as Plato, Thomas More and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have offered their opinions on this to the public over the years. However, these dreams failed because different people have different ideals about a perfect society. To make it happen, either the ideals of all the people have to be fulfilled, or all the people would have to have the same ideals.

A perfect society needs some kind of social inequality, or as I call it, a distinction in ability. Those, in the higher strata of society would be there because of their superior abilities and have greater responsibilities, and therefore, a higher social standing. Imagine a society with no crime, no terrorism, no warfare, no conflicts of cultures, no racism, no gender discrimination, no poisoned tongues, no killing, no lying, no stealing, no adultery and no excuses. Such a society can never exist. It would be wrong even to think of one. An ideal society should have some struggle. If you had no struggle in life would you be happy? No, because that takes all the fun and enjoyment out of the difficulty, the losing, the failures, and overcoming, the victory, the success.

There are many ways in which we can make an ideal society. First of all, there must be democracy and a strong government, which has the ability to rule over the country. It should try to make the citizens life better, by making better social and financial conditions to live. There should be no corruption in the government. Finally, I believe, one of the most necessary things of ideal society is freedom. No people and no society are happy and ideal when they are not free. However, we must remember that – 'One's freedom ends there where other's starts'. If we will feel free and not disturb others freedom, we will have an ideal society. An ideal society would allow complete freedom to everybody and complete individuality.

To sum up, a perfect society is difficult to attain as everyone has different concepts of an ideal society. However, if we all respect our freedom, and in doing so know our limitations, so that others can enjoy their freedom, then it can be called an ideal society.

Plan followed

Intro: In the following essay, I intend to discuss what makes an ideal society and how we can create one
Para 1: An ideal society is not possible
Para 2: A perfect society needs some kind of social inequality, or as I call it, a distinction in ability
Para 3: ways in which we can make an ideal society
Conclusion:

309. Some people think that in the modern society individuals are becoming more dependent on each other, while others say that individuals are becoming more independent of each other. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Whether we are dependent or independent of each other is difficult to say. In some cases, we heavily rely on others, but in others we are quite self-sufficient. In this essay I intend to delve into both views. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people think that dependence of people on each other is increasing. Today, people depend on others for every household task, which earlier they did on their own. For instance, working couples rely on laundry services for washing and ironing clothes, on house maids for cooking and cleaning, on private tutors for teaching their children, on nannies for childcare and on home nurses for looking after their elderly. Even at the workplace, because of the growing competition, the reliance on the network of customers has gone up.

On the other hand, those who say that inter-dependence has come down, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, because of technology, people can do a lot on their own without having to go anywhere or depend on office clerks. For example, people do not need to go to the banks. They can do net banking sitting at home. They can do online shopping. They do not need to go and depend on salesmen. They can entertain ourselves alone by computer games and the Internet. They can even study at home through online education and distant education. They are not dependent on teachers for imparting education. They can book railway and air tickets online and are not dependent on booking clerks. They can eat ready to eat food available in the market. They are not dependent on somebody in their home to cook for them.

I believe that man is a social animal and will always be dependent on others. This dependence may be direct or indirect. When people are seemingly independent, they are still dependent on people behind the technology. For example, when they do net banking, they depend on all those software developers who have made it possible for them. When they eat ready to eat food, they depend on those who cook and pack that food.

Summing up, every person is part of a society and it is not possible for him or her not to depend on others. This dependence, however, may be visible or invisible.

Plan followed

Intro: In this essay I intend to delve into both views and finally give my opinion.
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: we are all part of a society and it is not possible for us not to depend on others. This dependence, however, may be visible or invisible

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310. *Throughout the history, male leaders have always led us to violence and conflict. If female leaders govern a society, it will be more peaceful. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

Some people believe if women were leaders of society instead of men, there would be less violence and societies would be more peaceful. I do not agree with this notion and I believe that policy of peace or war depends upon the situation a society faces rather than the gender of its leader. I will give arguments to support my opinion in the upcoming paragraphs.

There are many reasons why the belief that women leaders would lead to less violence, is wrong. Firstly, the main reason why people think that women leaders would lead to less violence is that women are soft-hearted, patient, compassionate and more pliable. However, I think that such women would not get a chance to lead a society in the first place. Only women who are strong-willed, objective and confident would get the opportunity to head a nation or society.

Another reason is that to prove they are strong, women sometimes follow a policy of more aggression than normal. History has example of such leaders like Margaret Thatcher whose policies were very aggressive and not at all peace oriented. Thirdly, the policy a country follows depends upon the situation a country faces rather than the gender of the leader. For example, India and Pakistan have fought four wars and some wars have been under male leaderships while others have been under female leadership. The wars have not been due to gender of leadership, but because of conflicts like Kashmir and the past history of the countries.

Finally, if people want to really prove that women leaders would lead to less violence, firstly women should be given more opportunities in leadership positions. History has very few examples of women in leadership positions. Even countries like the US has never had a female President. Hence, without giving opportunities to women, we cannot form a judgement like this.

In conclusion, I cannot agree that women in leadership would lead to lesser violence than men in leadership positions.

Plan followed
Intro: disagree
Para 1: Why female rulers are thought more peace loving, but then refute to prove your point
Para 2: Female rulers have also caused wars
Para 3: More reasons to support my view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Written by: Indroop Singh

311. People are surrounded by advertising, which has an increasing effect on our lives. Do you think the positive effects of this outweigh the negative effects?

Whether it is on TV, radio or hoardings at the side of the road, advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. I believe that the beneficial effects of ads overpower the detrimental ones.

On the positive side, advertisements provide us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachchan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then, there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. For instance, when we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

However, adverts also have a downside. Because of advertisements, sometimes we buy what tempts us without the insight of what we need actually. Impressive images, videos, or captions are bound to leave an imprint on us. Secondly, ads are very disturbing at times. Television commercials are a great example of this. Just as we are enjoying a TV program, a commercial break occurs, forcing us to listen. Then, ads show dangerous stunts, which may be copied by children and they may get hurt. Finally, some ads target vulnerable children and so children pester their parents to buy things which can upset the family budget.

To conclude, adverts have their advantages and disadvantages. Indubitably, the merits outstrip the demerits. The onus lies on us to look into our real needs and not be swayed by adverts.

Plan followed
Intro – Agree
Para 1 – Advantages
Para 2 – Advantages
Para 3 – negative effects
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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312. Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us all want to do the same and look the same. Do you agree or disagree?

The role of advertisements in destroying individuality has sparked much debate in the recent times. Some people opine that advertisements eliminate individual sense of identity, making people indistinguishable from each other. I, however, disagree with this allegation.

To begin with, when any advertisement bombards people with any new product, then people rush to buy it and it appears that all people are doing the same. However, this similarity is very short-lived, as sooner or later they realize that it is a huge waste of time and money to spend on something that is not really appropriate for them. Therefore, ads cannot suppress individuality permanently.

Secondly, all people cannot afford all things shown in the adverts. Even when ads use famous celebs to endorse their products, and people want to purchase those things, even then they have to consider their pocket and requirement. For instance, when it comes to luxury goods, solely a marginal number of purchasers can afford the financial cost. Therefore, no matter how attractive and persuasive an advertisement is, never can it tempt people to make the same purchase. Most people cannot afford to upset the whole monthly budget just because of certain alluring ads.

Furthermore, when we talk of the latest fashions, all people do not wear the similar clothes because of ads. If people wear jeans, it is because jeans are comfortable, and in today's fast life people need comfortable clothes. Nowadays, everyone knows that only that fashion should be followed which suits them. If adverts show celebs in flared pants, those who are not blessed with a good height would surely not follow them.

To sum up, from what has been analyzed above, it is concluded that advertisement cannot dominate the market trends as all people have different requirements, different material wealth and different choices. If at all there are any similarities, they are very short lived.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Ads have short-term effects

Para 2: People have to see their pockets too

Para 3: Similarity is not because of ads. It is because of comfort.

Conclusion:

313. A large number of advertisements nowadays are targeted at children. Many people say this has negative effects on children and should therefore be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advertisements are ubiquitous nowadays and especially advertising targeting children, who are considered vulnerable target by companies. Many people are worried about this phenomenon. However, we cannot ban advertisements because they serve a lot of useful purposes as well.

Admittedly, in sensitive areas such as the toy industry, some censorship should be there to limit children's access to excess advertisement. This is because children under a certain age lack ability to make wise judgment as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisement and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising McDonalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health. Finally, children try to copy the stunts, which can be disastrous for them.

On the other hand, advertising provides us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachchan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

To conclude, it is imperative that regulations be imposed on advertisers who target children or who make false claims. However, advertisement is indispensable in this highly competitive market and produces much more positive effects than negative ones to the society as a whole. So, we should not ban advertisements.

Plan followed

Intro – We cannot ban adverts because they serve a lot of useful purposes as well.
Para 1 – Some people's view – bad ads
Para 2 – Good points
Para 3 – More good points
Conclusion:

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314. There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children, which encourages them to buy goods such as toys and snacks. Many parents are worried that these advertisements put too much pressure on children, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advertisements are all around us, especially advertising targeting children, who are considered vulnerable targets by companies. As a result, many parents are worried that their children are being wrongly influenced by ads. However, some advertisers claim that they provide beneficial information to children. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both perspectives. Both sides have valid arguments, but I believe that parents worry is justified.

There are reasons why parents' worry about the harmful effects of ads is justified. Children, under a certain age, lack abilities to make wise judgments as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisements and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things, and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising McDonalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health.

What is more, some ads show some stunts, and although it is written that children should not copy these stunts, children hardly ever read that part. In their ignorance, they try to perform those stunts and get hurt. For example, in my neighbourhood, one child tried to jump from one rooftop to the other after seeing the ad of Thumbs Up and ended up with a plaster on his leg. Therefore, parents are rightly worried.

On the other hand, those who say that advertisements provide beneficial information to the children, give their reasons as follows. For example, the advert of Colgate toothpaste, which tells that we should brush our teeth twice daily, is good for children. Then there are ads about health drinks such as Complan and Bournvita, which are good for children. Furthermore, advertisements also touch important issues, such as ads against wastage of water, ads for tree plantation, ads against wastage of electricity and ads for keeping the surroundings clean. Children are motivated by these ads and try to follow the good things they learn.

To conclude, even though adverts enlighten children in some ways by providing useful information, these have detrimental effects on children and should have some regulations,

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Plan followed

Intro – Discuss essay intro
Para 1 – Parents view
Para 2 – Parents view
Para 3 – advertisers view
Conclusion:

315. Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies. To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements? What measures can be taken to protect them?

Advertising is the heart of trade. To survive in the competitive market of today, every product has to be advertised. There is a huge impact of these ads on the people, which is both positive, as well as negative. This essay shall analyse these effects on the common man, and suggest ways to protect people from the negative effects of adverts.

There are many ways in which these ads are helpful. First, ads tell us about the new products that are launched in the market. They also tell us about the working of these products. After seeing the ads, consumers can go to the market and select things of their choice. What is more, the advertising industry provides jobs to many. Many models and other people make a living through this industry. Ads also touch social issues. For example, there are ads which aware people that they can stand up against domestic violence and female foeticide. We also have ads, which warn people about the harmful effects of smoking. Another big positive influence of the ads of today is the entertainment they provide. They are made so hilarious that you feel like watching them again and again.

On the other hand, advertisements promote consumerism. These ads can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. Not all parents are in the position to afford the goods, which the children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy among them. In addition to this, this materialism leads to workaholism. People are prepared to work long hours, or even turn to crime to get these goods. Finally, ads can be very irksome at times. This is especially true of Internet ads. The increasing number of advertisements and the never-ending list of ad-networks are making the Internet users' experience worse than ever. The ads, which have audio are very troubling and some ads are flash based. Telephone ads are also very irritating. When you are driving or in an important meeting, the bell rings and disturbs everyone.

The solutions are not simple, as advertising is a very persuasive medium. It would be unwise to ban ads, as this would cause more problems than it would solve. However, advertisements, which make false claims, should be banned. Advertisements for liquor and those ads, which show stunts, should also be banned. Then there should be consumer awareness programmes. Consumers should be warned against too much consumerism. Our celebs have a big role in selecting what products they should endorse. People, who follow these celebs would buy anything they say even without needing it.

To conclude, today we are influenced a lot by adverts, both in positive and negative ways. Without adverts we would lose a valuable source of revenue, which is used for the benefit of majority. However, many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative influence of ads.

Plan followed

Intro –
Para 1 – positive effects
Para 2 – advertisements have negative points
Para 3 – solutions are not simple
Conclusion:

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316. Research shows that overeating is as harmful to people's health as smoking. Therefore, the advertisements of certain food products should be banned, as the ads of cigarettes are banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is true that excessive consumption of certain types of food is bad for human health, just as smoking is. However, I disagree that adverts of these food items should be banned just as ads of smoking are. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many reasons for having a ban on smoking. The main reason is that smoking causes harm to the smoker as well as the non-smoker, who is in the propinquity of the smoker. Studies have proven that the passive smoker is even more at risk of lung cancer than the active smoker. This is because he inhales the second-hand smoke, emitted by the smoker. A pregnant lady, who is continuously exposed to these passive fumes, may give birth to a child with congenital defects. So, smoking harms the innocent non-smoker even more than the smoker. Therefore a ban on advertisements of cigarettes is justified.

However, a prohibition on ads of foods is simply unjustified. To begin with, there is little relation between the over consumption of a kind of food and its advertising. Ads just tell us about the various choices we have. I believe that taking care of one's health is an individual's responsibility, and also is a right to freedom of choice. Also, it has been found through a research, that taste is the number one factor, when deciding what to eat. So banning ads of food will not make a considerable difference to the consumption of unhealthy foods.

Furthermore, advertising of food items should also not be banned, because ads are vital for any country's economy. Businesses thrive on ads, and if ads are banned they will go into bankruptcy. Another important reason against banning is that it would be very difficult to decide which food item to ban, and which not to.

To sum up, a ban on adverts of certain food items is not a good way to battle against overeating. Overeating can also not be likened to smoking, as overeating does not harm the bystanders, as smoking does.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons for ban on ads of smoking
Para 2: Reasons for not banning food items
Para 3: More reasons for not banning food items
Conclusion:

317. Advertising encourages consumers to buy in quantity rather than promoting quality. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Whether it is on TV, radio or hoardings at the side of the road, advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. I agree with the former half of the given statement that adverts encourage people to buy in quantity. However, I disagree that adverts do not promote quality. I shall put forth my arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

On the one hand, advertisements make us pile up things in the home, which we may never ever use. For example, the one-on-one schemes, which those companies promote just to sell their old stock in bulk, lures us. For example, recently, I bought three pairs of jeans of Levis brand because there was a two-on-one offer. What I did not realize then was that the designs were outdated and defective. Now those jeans are just occupying space in my almirah.

Because of advertisements, sometimes we buy what tempts us without the insight of what we need actually. Impressive images, videos, or captions are bound to leave an imprint on us. For example, media is flooded with the advertisements of beauty products and they all claim to make you fair in a few days. Women, and these days, even men are crazy about these things and buy these things even without consulting their dermatologist.

On the other hand, advertisements are very crucial, given the fast pace of life today. The advertisements open our eyes to all the latest facilities and trends and with that give us the chance and opportunity of choosing from the wide range of products available for we have little time to make discoveries about what is required. Advertising links producers and consumers by providing relevant information of the latest products and services. Thanks to advertising, we know that there are so many nice things available. Moreover, an overwhelming majority of consumers are sensible enough to consider their options before they decide on a particular item.

To conclude, adverts promote quantity but they tell us about quality too. The onus lies on us to look into our real needs and not be swayed by adverts.

Plan followed

Intro – I agree with the former half of the given statement that adverts encourage people to buy in quantity. However, I disagree that adverts do not promote quality.
Para 1 – advertisements make us pile up things in the home which we may never ever use - we get lured by the one-on-one scheme
Para 2 – sometimes we buy what tempts us without the insight of what we need actually
Para 3 – advertisements are very crucial given the fast pace of life today – give all good points of ads
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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318. If a product is good or it meets people needs, people will buy it. So advertising is unnecessary and no more than an entertainment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advertising in modern society is ubiquitous - on the radio, TV, the internet and in our letterboxes. While it is true that a good product will sell even without any advertisement, I disagree that advertisements are unnecessary and just a form of entertainment.

It is irrefutable that advertising provides us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. This is because, there is a flood of consumer goods in the market and consumers ask for those products which they have heard of or seen in the market. Therefore in the initial stages, adverts are necessary but later on only those products will sustain in the market which are really good. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers.

Additionally, the advertising industry creates jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Jobs are also created in the manufacturing industries because of adverts. As demand increases, mass production has to be done and therefore more and more people are employed.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachchan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the clothes of Japan.

Summing up, adverts are not just a form of entertainment but they serve many other purposes as well. Even the good products need propaganda in today's competitive market.

Plan followed

Intro – I disagree that advertisements are unnecessary and just a form of entertainment.
Para 1 – In the initial stages, adverts are necessary but later on only those products will sustain in the market, which are really good
Para 2 – Good points
Ads provide jobs
Para 3 – More good points
Ads touch social issues
Ads are educative at times
Conclusion: adverts are not just a form of entertainment but they serve many other purposes as well

319. Because of the global economy, many goods including what we use as daily basics produced by other countries have to be transported for a long distance. To what extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Globalisation has revolutionized our world in many aspects. Now, we do not belong to a big planet Earth. We belong to a small global village. Everything is available everywhere. There are many advantages and disadvantages of transporting goods over a long distance. In my opinion, the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, transporting goods over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw the kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Earlier, we had very few shoe brands like Bata and Carona, but now the market is flooded with Reeboks, Nike, Adidas and other foreign brands.

Secondly, many people get employment in the import and export field. Small businesses have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another for economic success, then they would not go against each other.

On the other hand, importing goods can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as India where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. For instance, Indians used to give a lot of importance to the family meal, wherein all the members sat around the table and conversed with each other over dinner, but the young generation is going for fast foods and prefer to eat alone. Secondly, our diversity is being lost and everyone is wearing similar clothes, eating similar food, watching same TV programs and listening to same music. This is making the whole world dull and boring. Another major disadvantage is of pollution. When goods are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, it increases pollution from exhaust fumes.

To conclude, importing goods has both merits and demerits but the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

Plan followed

Intro: In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages
Para 1: benefits
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Disadvantages – loss of culture and pollution
Conclusion: importing goods has both merits and demerits but the pros outweigh the cons.

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320. Differences between countries are barely evident these days. Everyone in the world is wearing the same brands and watching the same TV channels and movies. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

It is irrefutable that because of globalization, similarities between countries are more obvious these days than in the past. In many ways people around the world are becoming more and more similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development. I personally believe that the advantages are much more.

The main advantage of this change is that communication is much better nowadays; people understand other cultures much better and have become more open in their outlook of life. This has resulted in more business and cultural contacts among different nations. Multinational companies have opened in many parts of the world providing jobs to thousands of people. There is also more efficient trade between different countries around the globe thereby improving the economies of developing countries. People have more opportunities to travel and therefore have awareness of other cultures.

On the other hand, the major reason why people consider such a situation negative, is that national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programmes, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. For instance, the international outlets like Reebok, Nike and Levi's can be seen everywhere. Food outlets like MacDonald and Starbuck's etc. can be seen in almost all corners of the world. People wearing the same type of clothes can be seen everywhere. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today. So, people feel that our diversity is disappearing.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there.

To conclude, similarities among people and their lifestyles cannot be denied. However, the similarities we see today are only on the surface. Total loss of national identities can never take place. Therefore, this situation is largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why it is positive
Para 2: Why it is negative
Para 3: Why the similarities are only superficial
Conclusion:

321. As we are facing more and more problems, which affect the whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that nowadays the whole world has become a global village and communication and trade between different countries is also becoming more frequent than ever before. At the same time, the whole planet is facing problems, such as environmental problem, terrorism, poverty and diseases. In my view, countries cannot solve these problems on their own and governments of different countries must cooperate to fight these problems.

To begin with, the environmental problems are affecting the whole world equally and need joint efforts to be ameliorated. It is a bitter truth that the Earth is facing the problem of global warming and if the whole world does not unite to fight this problem, then the day is not far when the whole Earth will become a boiling pot and life would not be possible here. The 2015 climate conference (COP21), was held in Paris in which many countries have pledged that they would take steps to bring down the global temperature by 2°C before 2005.

Furthermore, there are problems like terrorism, which are having a detrimental effect on our society. There are various global organizations, which are working towards eradicating these issues but it cannot be possible without trust and harmony between different nations. If all countries pledge not to shelter any terrorists, only then the terrorist activities will come to a halt and all societies will become pleasant places to live in.

What is more, the poor countries are getting aid from developed countries to develop their infrastructure and develop themselves. In these countries many people are suffering from starvation and poverty which can harm the neighbouring richer nations and that is why all nations realize the importance of maintaining good relations.

Summing up, good relations between different countries are absolutely necessary nowadays to solve these critical issues.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: To begin with, take environmental problems – Kyoto protocol

Para 2: Talk of problems like terrorism, which cannot be handled alone

Para 3: In poor countries many people are suffering from starvation and poverty, which can harm the neighbouring richer nations – so cooperation needed

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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322. *Some people say that some urgent problems in modern society can only be solved with international cooperation. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Today, the nations of the world are more closely tied than ever before. That is precisely why some individuals opine that all nations should shake hands with each other to solve the problems of the modern world. I believe they are absolutely right. In this essay I will provide arguments to support this belief.

To begin with, there are the economic issues, which the whole world is facing. There is the interdependence of the rich and poor nations. The gap between rich and poor nations can only be reduced with the joint effort of all nations. Although rich nations have provided aid and technical assistance to Third World nations, there is still a lot to be done. To add to it, economic events in one region, such as OPEC's decision to raise oil prices affect people around the world.

Another major concern is of the environment. Global warming is a problem, which does not recognise national boundaries. Unless all nations come together and fight this problem on a war footing, we are all heading towards doom. Both developing and industrialized nations face the difficult decision of how to produce enough for their people while preventing the destruction of the environment. Today, scientists all over are unanimously looking at alternative energy sources such as solar, water, and nuclear power.

Furthermore, certain species that human beings depend upon for our food supply are going extinct. If their numbers fall too low we may face extinction ourselves. Endangered animals need protection, which can only be done by joint efforts. What is more, the human population has burgeoned, but industrial pollution, unsustainable agriculture, and poor civic planning have decreased the overall water supply. Therefore, fresh water problem also needs to be tackled by joint efforts.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate that all nations should work unanimously to solve the problems of today's world. Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we are part of a global village. The problems are common; therefore solutions too need joint efforts.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: To begin with, there are the economic issues
Para 2: Another major concern is of the environment
Para 3: More issues
Animal extinction
Population, pollution, fresh water
Conclusion: The problems are also joint; therefore, solutions too need joint efforts

323. Many different countries have most shops and products as the same. Some consider it a positive development, whereas others consider it negative. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

It is indubitable that globalization has ushered in an era of similarities. People are divided on whether these likenesses are good or bad. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Those who say that the similarity in shops and products is negative, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, these similarities are diluting the national identities and diversity is disappearing. It is well known that diversity adds spice to life. Unfortunately, malls in any country have the same showrooms of the same brands that there is no charm of going anywhere for buying something unique. Another big demerit of all products being available everywhere is that the local businessman cannot compete with the international giants and is therefore going into oblivion.

On the other hand, the main reason why some people say that having similar shops and products is a positive development, is that people have more choices, as now everything is available everywhere. Earlier, only locally made products were available, but now people are able to enjoy things from all over the world. For instance, earlier there were only two popular brands of shoes available in India, which were Bata and Carona, but today we have Reebok, Nike, Adidas, Puma and so many more. Similar examples can be cited for infinite number of other products. Therefore, in this regard, having similar shops and products is a positive thing.

Secondly, people are becoming aware of other cultures and lifestyles through these products. They are becoming tolerant of each other. They have the choice of picking and adopting the best points of each culture, and as a consequence a global culture is emerging. The youth of today are adopting this culture and are wearing globally similar clothes, eating similar food, using similar cosmetics, having similar furniture in their homes and they are living similar lifestyles.

Another benefit of this similar situation is that relations between countries are improving. When countries import or export their products, they develop bonds with each other, which is good for both. For instance, India exports tea and iron ore to other countries, and imports automobiles, refrigerators and televisions etcetera. It is but obvious that countries, which are linked by trade, cannot afford to go against each other.

To sum up, similarity in shops and products has its dark and light side, but the pros definitely edge over the cons.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Other view
Para 4: Other view
Conclusion:

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324. Some developing countries invite large foreign companies to open offices and factories in order to help their economy. However, others feel that foreign companies should be shut out and instead the government should help the local companies to contribute to the economic growth. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is a highly debatable issue whether multinational companies (MNCs) should be encouraged by the governments of developing countries, or whether the local companies should be promoted. I firmly believe that MNCs are good for the economic growth. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement that MNCs should be shut out. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of MNCs. To begin with, these provide employment, which usually pays better than other available opportunities. What is more, they train local labour with more sophisticated techniques, which in the long run bring benefits to the host country. They also raise the growth rate of host nation by introducing new investment and new technology. To add to it, they promote efficient production and bring a broader range of products to the widest possible market.

Furthermore, such MNCs promote improvement or development of various supporting industries or complementary industries. For example, if an MNC opens in a place, then many businesses open in the neighbourhood, which cater to the workers working in these MNCs. In this way, these MNCs stabilize and stimulate local economies, and raise standards of living.

Another important advantage of MNCs is that they induce their local rivals to become more innovative and competitive. For instance, it is a well-known fact that Indian company Videocon has improved its standard to compete with MNCs such as Samsung and Sony. Finally, these companies promote positive values, such as diversity, and equality for women. They also create an environment of nonviolence and international cooperation.

To conclude, MNCs may have their negative points, but their pros far outweigh their cons. So, the governments of developing countries should promote them.

Plan followed:
Intro: I firmly believe that MNCs are good
Para 1: advantages of MNCs
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: more advantages of
Conclusion:

325. Due to developments in science and technology, lifestyles of people across the world are becoming more and more similar to each other. Do you think this a positive or a negative development?

Science and technology have ushered in an era wherein more and more people are connected to each other. This also means that in many ways people around the world are becoming very similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of these global similarities. To begin with, people have become aware of other cultures and so are adopting the good points of all cultures, as a result of which, a global culture has arisen, which is being embraced by people around the world. Secondly, there is more efficient trade between different countries around the globe, thereby improving the economies of developing countries.

There are also many reasons why some people think it to be a negative development. They say, that because of this cultural homogenization, national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programs, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today. They opine that the world is beautiful and enchanting because of its diversity. If the diversity is lost, it would become boring.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and we always call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there, even if on the face value it is apparent that people are similar.

To conclude, there are more advantages of similarities among nations. People are becoming tolerant of each other and are adopting the best of all cultures. Total loss of national identities can never take place as all cultures have their inherent strengths, which can never fade away.

Plan followed

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in the following paragraphs
Para 1: why similarity is good
Para 2: Why similarity is bad
Para 3: Own view refuting the opponents view
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Many people go abroad to see what other countries look like. However, the places all around the world are looking more and more similar. What do you think is the cause of this similarity? Do you think the advantages of this effect outweigh the shortages of it?*

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326. *Multicultural societies, in which there is a mixture of different ethnic peoples, bring more benefits than drawbacks to a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In a multicultural society, people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds live alongside each other. Multiculturalism can bring a great deal of richness to a society, but a multicultural society is not always plain sailing. However, the advantages of a multicultural society far outweigh its disadvantages.

On the positive side, a multi-cultural society can bring a wide variety of benefits to a nation in terms of economic, cultural and social development. To begin with, the majority of immigrants from different cultural backgrounds are high achievers, including experts, scholars, engineers, business people and other well-trained people. Their arrival means an inflow of expertise, experience, investments as well as a dynamic labour force, which are all key factors to the increase of competitiveness, efficiency and productivity of a nation's economy.

What is more, the new arrivals know very well the importance of respecting the local traditions and customs. Therefore, they cooperate and collaborate well with the natives. They work very harmoniously side by side in offices, factories and schools. In addition, with a rich blend of peoples, cultures and lifestyles, people in multicultural societies tend to be more open-minded and tolerant of other people's customs and religions.

On the other hand, multi-societies also have some problems. Sometimes, people from overseas try to maintain their unique ethnic cultures with their own distinctive characteristics. These differences may seem trivial, but they can cause some conflicts that make it difficult for immigrants to become assimilated into the mainstream of the local social life. But multicultural societies are usually based on equality and diversity, so these problems can eventually be dealt with successfully.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the multicultural societies definitely have more plusses, because of which many countries like Australia and Canada are making great efforts to attract more immigrants from abroad.

***Plan** followed*
Intro: agree
Para 1: Advantages of multicultural societies
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

327. These days the number of companies operating at multinational level has increased. To what extent are they responsible for the local communities in which they are located?

The advent of globalisation has brought about dramatic changes in the business world. Multi National Companies have opened across the globe. These corporate houses are having environmental, social and economic impact on the host countries. Therefore, I firmly believe that they should give back something to the local communities in which they operate. I believe that only if they will do so, they will sustain in the long run.

To begin with, these MNCs should shoulder social responsibilities. All MNCs should abide by the law, and never make profit by unethical means. In times of natural disasters, business houses are supposed to make generous donations and set an example. This would be a win-win situation for the business houses and local communities. When any business house donates for charity, the media spreads a word about their efforts and they get advertisement for free. These business houses do not need to spend extra for their adverts.

Secondly, these businesses should also fulfil economic responsibilities. These can provide a number of job opportunities, which can greatly reduce the pressure of social unemployment. These corporate giants can also spend on the beautification of local areas. For example, in my hometown, many parks and roundabouts are maintained by the textile, sugar and starch mill in my hometown. Providing scholarships to poor, meritorious students is another way these enterprises can take social and economic responsibility.

Furthermore, MNCs should also bear environmental responsibility by doing waste minimization and pollution prevention. Indeed, it is argued that these corporate houses should go beyond this and embrace tomorrow's clean technology. For instance biofuels can be used in place of conventional fossil fuels.

To sum up, MNCs are thriving on the local communities. Therefore, these should bear the responsibilities of these communities.

Plan followed

Intro
Para 1: Social responsibilities
Para 2: economic responsibilities
Para 3: Environmental responsibilities
Conclusion:

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328. The spread of multinational companies and the increase in globalization produce positive effects for everyone. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that the growing globalization along with the expanding multinational companies benefits all the people. Although, supporters of globalization claim that there are many benefits of MNCs, they are in fact damaging the quality of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

My first argument relates to their products. Supporters of globalization would argue that multinational companies produce high quality goods available to most people. While this may be true to some extent, it also means we have less choice of products to buy. When powerful multinational companies invade local markets with their goods, they often force local companies with fewer resources to go out of business. In consequence, we are obliged to buy multinational products whether we like them or not.

Secondly, it is sometimes said that MNCs and globalization are making societies more open. This is true to some extent but the fact cannot be ignored that as a result the human race is losing its cultural diversity. If we consumed different products societies all over the world would be more varied. This can be seen by the fact that we all shop in similar multinational supermarkets and buy identical products wherever we live.

Thirdly, defenders of multinational companies often point out that they provide employment. Although this is undoubtedly true it also means we have become more dependent on them, which in turn makes us more vulnerable to their decisions. When, for example, a multinational company decides to move its production facility to another country, this has an adverse effect on its workers who lose their jobs. What is more, the jobs MNCs provide are not paid as much as they have to pay for similar jobs in their country. So, in fact they are exploiting workers of poor nations.

To summarise, multinational companies do have their benefits, but they also have their drawbacks, and they benefit not everyone.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First point of the statement with my refutation – relating to more variety
Para 2: Second point of the statement with my refutation – relating to loss of cultural diversity
Para 3: Third point of the statement with my refutation – relating to Employment
Conclusion: multinational companies do have their benefits, but they also have their drawbacks and they benefit not everyone

329. The speeding up of life in many areas such as travel and communication has negative effects on society at all levels - individual, national and global. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that the IT revolution and faster means of travel have affected society at all levels. However, I disagree that all these effects are negative. The society has also benefited enormously from this speeding up of life which in other words we can say globalization.

At the individual level, we have more choices, more opportunities to travel, better job prospects and more awareness and tolerance of other cultures. Due to better communication, people are connected with their near and dear ones and distances are no longer a barrier. There has been a fall in face-to-face communication but the social network of friends that the young generation of today has is far more than ever before in the history of mankind.

At the national level, countries are getting closer and the boundaries are disappearing. Because of this fast era of today, nations are developing strong bonds doing successful trade with each other. The rich nations are opening Multi National Companies in developing countries and thus providing job opportunities to millions. This is narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor. No doubt the people working in such companies are underpaid but it is definitely better than being unemployed. Because of this the economies of the poor countries are improving.

At the global level, nations are joining hands to fight evils such as poverty, disease, terrorism and global warming. Who has not heard of the Kyoto Protocol.The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To conclude, the accelerating pace of life has both negative as well as positive effects. However, the positive effects are much more than negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: I disagree that all these effects are negative
Para 1: Benefits at individual level
Para 2: Benefits at national level
Para 3: Benefits at global level
Conclusion: the accelerating pace of life has both negative as well as positive effects. However, the positive effects are much more than negative effects

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330. Some people think the increasing business and cultural contact between countries brings many positive effects. Others say it causes the loss of national identities. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion.

Globalisation has resulted in more business and cultural contacts among different nations. This also means that in many ways people around the world are becoming more and more similar. Some people hold the opinion that globalisation is advantageous, whereas others think it is diluting national identities. In this essay, I will discuss both perspectives. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people see the good side of globalisation. To begin with there are more jobs because of globalisation. Multinational companies have opened in many parts of the world providing jobs to thousands of people. Secondly, there is more efficient trade between different countries around the globe thereby improving the economies of developing countries. People have more opportunities to travel and therefore have awareness of other cultures. What is more, today people have more choices of products because of globalisation.

On the other hand, those who say that national identities are being lost, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, people eat the same food, watch the same TV programmes, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. They have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today. That is why they say that the whole world is looking similar and the diversity is being lost.

I believe that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films people watch or the clothes they wear. For example, take the culture of India and compare it to the west. Indians may wear any clothes, but they never take the names of elders and always address them with respect. In the west, it is quite okay to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, people learn to respect their culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there.

To conclude, there are more advantages of increasing trade and cultural contact among nations. Whatever similarities seen today are only on the surface. Total loss of national identities can never take place.

Plan followed

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in the following paragraphs
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

331. The food travels thousands of miles from farm to consumer. Some people think it would be better to our environment and economy if people only ate only locally produced food. What extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. Some individuals are of the opinion that this imported food has detrimental effect on our economy and culture and it would be better if people ate only the local produce. Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, transporting food over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small farmers have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the other hand, importing food can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development, in an increasingly global world, I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

A second major reason to reduce imports is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the produce more expensive to buy and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that trade in food exports has existed for many years, I am convinced that a reduction would bring significant financial and environmental gains.

In conclusion, I am certain that if people ate locally produced food, it would have environmental benefits. It would also benefit the local economy because, in time, people would prosper commercially as the demand for local and regional produce would remain high resisting the competition from overseas.

Plan followed:
Intro: Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages
Para 1: advantages of transporting goods
Para 2: Negative effects on local culture
Para 3: Negative effect on environment
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Air transport is increasingly used to export types of fruits and vegetables to countries where they cannot be grown or are out of season. Some people say it is a good thing, but other people think it can't be justified. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

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332. People can eat a wide variety of food of other regions. As a result they are eating a lot of foreign food instead of locally produced food. Do you think the advantages of eating foreign food are more than its harms?

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. As a result, people are being lured towards the foreign food, and are not consuming the local produce. I believe, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, ready availability of food from across the globe gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small farmers have a chance to expand globally, and consequently it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries were dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the other hand, importing food can have a negative effect on local farmer. Locally produced food would not be able to compete with international produce. So, the local economy would suffer and people would go for other better sources of livelihood than agriculture. The local culture would also be threatened. This can be seen in countries such as India where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Earlier, people in India sat together to eat their traditional meals, but the fast food is generally eaten alone sitting in front of the TV. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development, in an increasingly global world. I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

Another major effect of imported food is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the produce more expensive to buy, and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that trade in food exports has existed for many years, I am convinced that a reduction would bring significant financial and environmental gains.

In conclusion, I am certain that if people ate locally produced food it would have environmental benefits. It would also benefit the local economy because, in time, people would prosper commercially as the demand for local and regional produce would remain high resisting the competition from overseas.

Plan followed:

Intro: Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages of transporting goods
Para 2: Negative effects on local culture
Para 3: Negative effect on environment
Conclusion:

333. In many countries traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods. This is having a negative effect on both families and societies. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is also no exception. I agree that international fast foods and restaurants have eaten up traditional foods and cuisines and this has had a detrimental effect on families and societies. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are a lot of damaging effects of international fast food on families. Firstly, in this torrid pace of life, people are working till their death. They have no time to prepare and enjoy traditional home cooked food. Ultimately, they switch to an easy option of restaurants. McDonalds have become a ubiquitous term in every home. Secondly, there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are eaten alone mostly because they do not appeal to the palate of the older members. As a result, family bonds and relationships are getting blurred. Moreover, the art of home cooking is suffering a lot.

Admittedly, this trend has harmful effects on individuals. Undoubtedly, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

There are tangible consequences on society too. Broadly speaking, as people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture, which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To summarise, it can be reiterated that international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has adverse effects on individuals, families and societies.

Plan followed:
Intro: I agree
Para 1: Effects on families
Para 2: Effects on individuals
Para 3: Effects on societies
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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334. Scientists say that junk food is harmful to people's health. Some say the way to ask people to eat less fast food is to educate them, while others say education does not work. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

It is irrefutable that junk food is harmful to people's health. It contains a lot of fats and salts which are detrimental to health. Therefore, some people say that people should be educated and made aware of its harmful effects. However, others opine that education does not help in making people eat less junk food. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both issues. I personally side with the latter view.

The main reason why some opine that educating people about the harmful effects of junk food can help in reducing its use is that people do not actually know what goes in the making of fast food. Fast foods are high in calories and low in nutrition. These foods are rich in harmful substances such as fat, salt, and sugar. Preservatives are also added in junk food. All these things can cause heart diseases, cancer, diabetes, and obesity. Obesity is one of the major problems in the world today. It is very important to reduce eating Junk foods for the healthy life. So, if people are warned about their bad effects, they would eat less of it. This can be done with the help of media such as TV, which is ubiquitous nowadays.

On the other hand, those who say that educating people won't help, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, junk food is very cheap, tasty and readily available. After a hectic day's work no one is in a mood to spend time in the kitchen and so junk food is very convenient. It is also not very expensive, and children love it. What is more, fast food outlets spend a lot to lure people with their ads. What people do not realize is that the celebs they use in these ads hardly ever eat such food themselves and if they do, then they also spend hours working out in the gym every day.

After considering the convenience of fast foods, I believe that educating people would not help. It would be better if these fast food outlets were educated about making fast food healthier. Strict rules should be laid down against using trans-fatty acids and saturated fats. Whole wheat breads could be used instead of white breads. Use of preservatives should be lessened and juices should be served along with such foods instead of carbonated drinks.

To summarise, fast food is harmful but still people eat it. Therefore, educating people would not help. Measures should be taken to improve the fast food. After all, all fast food is not bad.

Plan followed:
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

335. In many countries, people buy imported food rather than food produced locally. Why do people do that? How can people be encouraged to eat locally produced food?

Globalisation has ushered in an era in which tastes have become international. So, the demand for imported food has increased. This essay intends to look into the reasons why people prefer imported over local produce, and also suggest ways to motivate people to eat locally produced food.

There are myriad reasons why people prefer imported food. First, imported foods have better quality. When foods are imported, their quality is always checked, and only the best products end up in our markets. Regulations on local food are less strict, because there is less distrust. Ironically enough that means that local food isn't quality controlled as much. Another guarantee that we eat good-quality imported foods, is the fact that the reputation of the food importing companies is at stake. If these companies do not get good feedback from consumers, they will do everything to change the supplier and start offering foods that people will enjoy eating.

Secondly, importing food gives people access to more choices. Any country's climate and land do not allow growing all sorts of fruits and vegetables throughout the year. Because of imported foods, we can have fresh bananas, mangoes, tomatoes or potatoes anytime we desire. Another important reason why imported food is preferred is that it has become a necessity and not merely a choice. The number of people who are interested in working as farmers is constantly decreasing. This has led to a shortage of local food production.

Many steps could be taken to encourage people to eat local produce. People should be made aware of the benefits of local food. Local food is fresher and more nutritious, as local food is harvested shortly before ripening. When food is allowed to ripen on the plant before it's picked, and when it's eaten fresh, it has the maximum nutrients and flavor. Additionally, there is no need of adding artificial ingredients that increase the food's shelf life. So, when people eat with the seasons, they are eating foods when they are the richest in flavour and the least expensive. Government should also check the local produce for quality from time to time. If people get good quality local foods, they will be less likely to opt for foreign food. Steps should also be taken to increase local production of food.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people opt for imported food, but some steps can be taken to revive their liking for local foods.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons.

Para 3: Steps to make them like local food

Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Some people think imported food exerts positive impacts on our lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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336. Some people support the development of agriculture, like factory farming and scientific creation of fruits and vegetables, while others oppose. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Genetic modification (GM) and factory farming have been one of the most debated topics in the past two to three decades and no consensus has been reached so far. GM implies altering the genes of plants and animals, whereas factory farming implies intensive rearing of livestock. Some people are in favour of these practices, whereas others oppose them. Both views shall be discussed in this essay. I personally am for GM foods, but oppose factory farming.

There are numerous reasons why some people support GM foods. First, there is greater yield in much lesser time. This is very important to meet the needs of the burgeoning population. Secondly, genetically modified foods need little or no insecticides and chemical fertilizers. In addition, the quality of food has also improved. For example, fish gene has been added to tomato to make it frost resistant. A nut protein has been added to soya bean to increase the protein content. Another good example is of the arctic apple. The genes responsible for turning the apple brown after cutting have been removed and now this apple doesn't turn brown even after cutting.

Furthermore, these foods have greater shelf life, which means these can be transported long distances and would need no preservatives. It is well known that certain preservatives can cause allergies and may even have carcinogens. Therefore, GM foods are better for consumption. Factory farming is also the need of the hour. The aim of the operation is to produce large quantities of meat, eggs, or milk at the lowest possible cost. Factory farmers look into the nutrition and disease control of the animals.

On the other hand, those who oppose GM foods and factory farming, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, genetic modification is considered unnatural and as it is relatively new, people are also concerned about its long-term harmful effects. Secondly, the rich countries can use this technology and further increase the gap between the rich and the poor. Factory farming is also considered inhuman as animals are tightly packed in cramped spaces and this may lead to many diseases.

To summarise, GM technology and factory farming have their pros and cons. I reiterate that genetic modification of food is beneficial, but the conditions under which factory farming is done is not very good.

Plan followed:
Intro: This essay shall delve into the merits and demerits of these developments.
Para 1: advantages
Para 2: More positive effects
Para 3: Negative effect
Conclusion:

337. It is known to all that the technological and scientific advances have made great changes to the range and quality of our food. Some people regard it as an improvement while others believe that the change is harmful. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Science and technology have touched all spheres of life and the range and quality of food is no exception. Today, we have a lot of foods to pick from and the quality is also unsurpassed. It is a highly debated issue as to whether these advances are a blessing or a curse. This essay shall analyze the merits and demerits of these developments.

Those in favour of genetic modification, claim that because of these advances in food technology, there are such species of crops, which need little or no insecticides and fertilizers. GM crops do not require spraying with toxic insecticides, and as a consequence environmental damage such as the indiscriminate killing of insects and the contamination of soils and rivers is avoided. Moreover, since age-old times, farming methods have always involved selective breeding and methods of cross-pollination. In that sense, genetic modification is nothing new.

Another advantage is that the quality of food has also improved. For example, fish gene has been added to tomato to make it frost resistant. A nut protein has been added to soya bean to increase the protein content. Finally, technology has saved people from tedious work and in the meantime increased the production markedly. All this is needed to meet the demands of the burgeoning population.

The opponents of genetic modification say that GM crops are unnatural, and that by creating them their natural world is being altered. A more worrying argument raised by objectors to GM foods is that they could constitute a health risk, for example by causing allergies or even by being toxic. The final objection is strictly environmental. It is argued that crops, which are genetically modified to kill the pests, which attack them, may also kill harmless insects. This, it is claimed will have a disastrous effect on the wider environment beyond the crop themselves.

To conclude, GM crops offer increased agricultural productivity and foods of higher nutritional value, both of which are essential if the growing world population of the twenty-first century is to be fed. Indeed, these crops have the potential to improve the health of millions throughout the world while causing less environmental damage than standard farming methods used today. I think it is essential that GM foods should be encouraged.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: More positive effects
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion: GM foods should be encouraged

Similar essay: Food can be produced much more cheaply today because of improved fertilisers and better machinery. However, some of the methods used to do this may be dangerous to human health and may have negative effects on local communities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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338. Government needs to spend money to encourage the development of sport and art for school students, rather than to support professional sports and art events. Do you agree or disagree?

The professional sports and the cultural programs have been in existence for a long time and have played an important part in people's life. Therefore, I disagree that government should direct the funds allocated to such events towards encouraging sports and arts among school students. A number of arguments support my opinion.

To begin with, the professional sports bring name and fame to a country. Countries, which spend a lot on such sports, are always leading in sports in the Olympics, the World Cup and other such international competitions. Professional sports also boost the economy, as millions of spectators come to see and cheer for their favorite teams in the stadiums. There are also big benefits from advertisements on TV, as millions of people sit in front of TV and watch sports shows.

Secondly, government needs to spend on professional arts and sports because these preserve and spread our culture in the whole world. In the budding stages, these professionals do not have the resources to promote their art. If the governments do not support them, they look for other means of bread and butter, and so our art dies and with it our culture also dies. Furthermore, the sports and cultural programs are recreational sources that help people relax and reduce stress after work. Entertainment is as important in human life as food, clothing and shelter. So, the government should fund these arts and sports.

Finally, it is difficult to motivate children to take up sports and arts without naming and praising super stars in professional activities. The success from people such as Sachin Tendulkar (a cricket player) or A R Rehman (a musician) is even more important in encouraging children to participate in sport and art subjects than any other kind of motivators. How could we tell our children to put more efforts on arts and sports if it would not lead to any money and success in the future?

To sum up, it can be reiterated that spending on professional sports and cultural programs is imperative for the governments. Promoting sports in schools should also be there, but not at the expense of professional sports and cultural events.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons for promoting professional sports events
Para 2: Reasons for promoting arts events
Para 3: Another reason for promoting both
Conclusion

339. Some people believe that to improve public health, governments should increase the number of sports facilities; others believe that it has little effects and need other measures to improve it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals hold the opinion that new sport facilities are needed to improve people's health, whereas others assert that governments have to come up other ways to get people to live more healthily. This essay shall discuss both views. I, believe that the government should do both things as the health of people needs to be good for any nation to prosper.

Those who opine that government should add more sports facilities, give their main reason that in many places, sports facilities are being neglected. The lack of sports facilities has directly led to a sharp decline in the general public's involvement in sports activities. This is the major reason for ill health and excessive weight nowadays. If a wider range of sports and fitness facilities (swimming pools, basketball court and gymnasiums etc.) were available, then people would be more willing to spend time in these facilities to train their bodies and to improve their fitness, instead of living a sedentary life at home watching television, playing video games or using computers.

On the other hand, many people oppose the spending on sports activities, as they feel that such facilities may become a waste of time and taxpayers' money if they are built far away from where people live or if they are too expensive to use. They suggest that the government should be spending more on advertising healthier life style instead of just wasting money on facilities that are not going to be actively used by the people. For example, it is important for people to know that little things like jogging or taking the stairs provide as many benefits as using exercising equipment in a sports club.

As good health is a basic human need and healthy individuals lead to a healthy nation, I believe that government should do both – increase the number of sports facilities as well as take other measures to improve people's health such as awareness campaigns through various media. It is important that the sports facilities are easily affordable and accessible by the people.

All in all, the government should be spending more money on the campaigns of getting the people to be more involved in a healthier lifestyle and also spending some money on sports facilities that are affordable and within reach of the general public.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall discuss both views
Para 1: How the increase in sports facilities could help
Para 2: Why the government should be spending more on advertising healthier life style instead of just wasting money on facilities that are not going to be actively used by the people.
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

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340. Some people think that the government should financially support national teams and individual men and women who represent their country. However, others argue that they should be funded by non-government sources (e.g. Business, scholarships, etc.). Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is irrefutable that sports hold fascination for almost everyone and winning a game in international sports events such as the World Cup or the Olympic Games is a matter of national honour. It is a highly debatable issue whether governments or NGOs should fund the sports teams or sportsmen who represent their country. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both perspectives. I side with the former view.

Those who say that the government should support individual players and sports teams, give their reasons as follows. First, these sportsmen compete against opponents from all over the globe in international sports events for the whole nation. When they break a record or set up a new record in a world-class tournament, they inspire national pride and arouse patriotism among its citizens. Moreover, they also play a diplomatic function in competitions. They act as brand ambassadors for their country and their behaviour helps strengthen the relations between countries and also improve their nation's image.

On the other hand, those in favour of non-government sources funding the national sports teams argue that this would ease some burden off the government's shoulders. Moreover, these businesses are profit driven so they would provide the best coaching and facilities to their teams. The reason why they support a team or player is that they want to make use of their market influence to promote their products or services. So, they also get something back by doing so.

I believe that it would be better for government to support the teams because the less popular teams and athletes, who are equally important, are ignored by the businesses and organisations. Without stable financial support available, they would not be able to concentrate on training, and they would not remain dedicated to their sports. Besides, it is still controversial for some industries such as tobacco industry to sponsor sporting events.

To sum up, the government should financially support teams and individual players to achieve the desired performance.

Plan followed:

Intro: In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches.
Para 1: Why govt. should fund teams and individuals
Para 2: Why NGOs should fund
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

341. Nowadays, sport is becoming a business and more and more professionals and big companies are getting involved in sporting events. Do you think that it is a positive or a negative development?

It is irrefutable that sporting events have become quite popular with big business houses, which try to reach more and more customers by sponsoring such events. Nowadays, big corporate houses are also buying sports teams. It is obviously a win-win situation for both. Sports teams and individual sportsmen need money and companies need advertisement. However, I believe that the situation is not as rosy as it looks.

There are many advantages of big businesses funding professional sporting events. Now that companies pump in millions of dollars into many sports items, talented players are eager to enter the field. This is a definitely a positive development. Many sportsmen are now earning enough to concentrate in their game and not worry about providing bread and butter to the family. Earlier, many sports persons weren't earning enough and also the prize money wasn't good. This deterred many talented players from pursuing a career in sports. Now the situation is totally different. Today, sports have become the backbone of the economy of any country. Today's sportsmen act as ambassadors for their respective countries and provide name and fame to their country.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages if sports are supported by the corporate sector. When sports become a business, the focus can shift from talent to profit. This can also lead to vices like match fixing. It is not uncommon for international cricket and football players to get involved in match fixing controversies. What is more, the win at any cost attitude can also compel many players to resort to unethical means such as consumption of drugs to enhance performance.

Finally, the biggest sufferers are the non-glamorous games, which the private companies are unwilling to sponsor. For example, in India cricket is hugely popular so companies are eager to sponsor cricketers. All businesses ignore the players of other less popular games and events. The governments may try to cover up to some extent, but the government funding can never match that of private companies.

To conclude, it is not hard to see that corporates entering the field of sports is both good and bad. Big prize money and sponsorship deals will definitely encourage more people to pursue a career in sports. On the other hand, companies will always have business interest in their mind. Non-glamorous sports are ignored and also, sometimes, this can take the focus away from the game. Therefore, I believe that it is largely a negative development.

Plan followed:

Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development
Para 1: Positive effects – Talented people are opting sports as a career. Companies are getting ads.
Para 2: Negatives – match fixing – unethical means –
Para 3: non-glamorous games suffer
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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342. Some people think sports and games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It was man's desire for a healthy pastime and a method of self-evaluation and competition that gave birth to sports. Sports have been part of humanity from the earliest chapters of history. Some individuals are of the opinion that sports and games play a significant role in society whereas others say that they should be just taken as playtime activities. This essay intends to delve into both views. I personally side with the former view.

Those who say that sports are vital for society argue that these draw people together. Whether it is members of a team, or fans rooting for a certain team, sports have always bonded people of different backgrounds together with a common goal. Even thousands of years before professional sports, sport events were places where people could gather and socialize with other people from the same city while they watched events. Even though times have changed since then, sports still have the same unifying effect over people.

Secondly, all positive traits for a healthy mind and a healthy persona can be gained from sports. People who do sports remain physically fit. Healthy people make a healthy society. People's work efficiency also increases and so it benefits the society as a whole. Sports also teach us how to handle failures with dignity, while enjoying victories to the maximum. These also train people to handle crunch situations, where stress can try and pull them down. Sports can also be chosen as a career. Sportspersons are heroes of national and regional importance who are looked up to. They are role models for many and also raise the level of the nation proud in the whole world.

On the other hand, there are people who assert that sports should be only taken as leisure activities. Sports should only play the role of stressbusters. They believe that when commercialization comes into sports, then a win-at-all-cost attitude also comes up which does more harm than good to the society. Players resort to unethical means to win such as taking steroids or even harming the opponents in any way. Moreover, if sports are taken too seriously, then supporters of the losing team resort to hooliganism. Who can forget the Heysel disaster of 1985, in which Liverpool fans charged at rival Juventus supporters, which caused a wall to collapse, resulting in 39 casualties?

To sum up, sports have a great role to play for societies apart from being just recreational sources, but the ugly claws of commercialism should not be allowed to creep into the field of sports.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para 1: Importance of sports for society
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: Why some people say sports should be taken as recreational activities
Conclusion:

343. Holding International games such as the Olympic Games is an exciting event. Some people think it has positive effects while others argue it is a waste of money. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of hosting Olympic Games. Some individuals opine that it is advantageous to host such events, whereas others believe that this could be detrimental for the host country. This essay shall look into both arguments. I, however, side with the former view.

Those who are in favour of hosting international sporting events, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, such events boost the economy. A lot of international tourists come, which in turn mean a lot of tourist dollars. For example, during the Olympics many athletes, spectators, officials, sponsors and broadcasters come to the host country and spend money on hotels and restaurants. What is more, the country also earns by selling tickets and selling souvenirs. Additionally, many people get employment because of the jobs related to hosting such events. For instance, there are many new jobs in construction projects of stadia and hotels and also in advertising related to such events. All this improves the overall economy of the people and the country.

Furthermore, the host country gets recognition in the whole world because of media exposure. It is also an opportunity for the host country and its people to know about the culture of other countries. This broadens the outlook of people and helps to make them true citizens of the global village of today. Last but not least, the infrastructure of the host country develops at an accelerated pace. For example, when New Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games, many flyovers and stadia were built which changed the overall look of Delhi and now, all these new facilities are being enjoyed by the local people of Delhi.

On the other hand, it is also easy to see why some people are opposed to hosting such events. The main reason is that the development of that part of the country is at the expense of other parts. This is because the government of the host country usually allocates resources from other parts of the country to that part. Another reason why people are against such events is because of the Olympic drain associated with such events. In other words, the tourism in the neighbouring area suffers, as all visitors are attracted towards the host city. Finally, crime is another factor why people do not like such events. When many people get together at the same place then there are chances of petty crime and the host city needs to hire more police officers.

To sum up, looking at both arguments, it is clear that there are both – advantages as well as disadvantages of hosting such events, but on the whole the pros far outweigh the cons.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: - advantages
Para 2: advantage
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion: pros outweigh cons

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344. Health experts believe that walking is a good exercise for health. However, people are walking less nowadays. Why is this happening? How can people be encouraged to walk more?

Regular physical exercise is a vital part of maintaining our health and wellbeing. Yet, we are walking much lesser per day than our parents and grandparents used to do. This essay intends to look into the causes behind this phenomenon, and suggest some ways to motivate people to walk more.

There are many reasons why people have started walking less. Firstly, everyone is very busy nowadays. There are too many pressures and people have become workaholics. Another reason is that everything is spread out. We live far from the places we need to go. We have to drive to work. We have to drive to the grocery store. We have to drive our children to school. More time spent driving, means less time spent on other activities, including walking. On top of that, we do not walk because the car is right there. In short, we drive because we no longer have to walk. Finally, most people who want to walk but do not, is because it is not safe to walk. Modern cities are not built with the pedestrian in mind.

To encourage people to walk, it has to be made safer. People need to feel that walking is a safe, pleasant and convenient way for short journeys. If walking feels like a dangerous hassle, no one would like to walk. Why would somebody choose to walk the half-mile to the shops, if they have to wait at three or four separate 'red man' lights to cross one road, while their neighbor who took the car gets to cross the same junction in one go? The onus is on the governments to redesign the cities and have pavements on sides of the roads for people who wish to walk.

Furthermore, people have to be made aware of the potential health benefits associated with regular walking. Walking is good for our brain, our fitness, our memory, our longevity, our blood pressure, and our general health. This can be done through the media such as the TV and the Internet. Parks can be made and maintained by the authorities to encourage people to go for morning and evening walks.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people do not walk, but effective measures can be taken to motivate people to do so.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Why people don't walk
Para 2: Steps to encourage them
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion

345. Some people think health care should be free for everyone. Others think that people should pay for their medical costs themselves. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Nowadays, health care has become the focus of the people's concern. It is a highly debated issue as to who should pay for this service. There are those who argue that the government should pay for it, while others think individuals should shoulder the costs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. Personally, I think that primary health care should be on the government, but tertiary health care should be free for only those who are below a certain income level.

The main reason given by those who say that it is the government's responsibility to make health care accessible to everyone is that people pay taxes and so they are entitled to get something back in return. A nation's prosperity very much depends on the contribution made by its citizens who are in good health. So, it is the onus of the government to see to it that all people enjoy good health, and that no one suffers for want of health care.

On the other hand, those who say that individuals should be responsible for their health care argue that the advanced medical and surgical treatments are very expensive. So, instead of depending on government people should take some health insurance or save in any other way with the tomorrow in mind. If the government pays for the advanced health care, then it would be a big burden on its shoulders and many other essential areas, such as primary education would be ignored.

I believe that free medical treatment should be there for all. However, it would not be possible or practical for the government to provide advanced and costly treatment for everyone. So, those who are above a certain income level should bear that cost themselves. For example, in a country like India which has a population above 15 million, providing free primary healthcare is also a herculean task.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that basic healthcare should be borne by the government, but the advanced healthcare should be free for only the poor.

Plan followed:

Intro: I think that basic health care should be on the government, but advanced health care should be free only for the poor.
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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346. Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but other people claim that it is the individual's responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

Nowadays, health care and education have become the focus of people's concern. It is a highly debated issue as to who should pay for these services. There are those who argue that the government should pay for them, while others think individuals should shoulder the costs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. Personally, I think that primary and secondary health care and education should be on the government, but tertiary health care and education should be free for only those who are below a certain income level.

It is irrefutable that it is the government's responsibility to make basic health care and primary education accessible to everyone. The reason is that a nation's prosperity very much depends on the contribution made by its well-educated citizens who are in good health. After all we all pay taxes and are entitled to get something back in return. Private schools and private hospitals can be available for those who want and can afford it, but the free schools and free government hospitals should always be there.

On the other hand, individuals should be responsible for their advanced health care and higher education. Actually, the advanced medical and surgical treatments are very expensive. So, instead of depending on government people should take some health insurance or save in any other way with the tomorrow in mind. Even the higher education benefits the individual more than the nation. So, it is quite reasonable to pay for it from one's pocket.

There are, of course, some sections of society who cannot afford their own healthcare and tertiary education. The government should provide free healthcare so that nobody dies for want of treatment. As far as higher education is concerned, the government can have some system of interest free loans for the needy and meritorious students, who cannot afford their own education.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that basic health care and primary education, should be paid for by the government, but the individual should pay for advanced health care and education from his pocket.

Plan followed:

Intro: I think that basic health care and primary education should be on the government but advanced health care and higher education should be borne by the individual.
Para 1: Why govt. should spend on basic healthcare and education
Para 2: Why individuals should themselves pay for advanced healthcare and education
Para 3: How government can help the poorer sections of society for advanced healthcare and higher education
Conclusion: Reiterated opinion

347. Some people say that the public funds should be spent on promoting healthy living than on the treatment of people who are ill. Do you agree or disagree?

A healthy lifestyle is a valuable resource for reducing the incidence and impact of health problems. That is why, in recent years, there has been a growing body of opinion in favour of putting more resources into promoting a healthy lifestyle. I agree that by promoting a healthy lifestyle, there will be fewer people requiring treatment, and thus the amount spent on curing ill health could be reduced substantially.

My first argument in support of diverting public funds on promotion of healthy lifestyle is that many modern diseases are a consequence of our lifestyles. If people were educated about the demerits of a sedentary lifestyle, many expensive health problems such as diabetes or heart disease could be prevented. Unfortunately, most medical doctors today do not have the time to, nor are they paid to, teach patients how to make these changes to their lifestyle through diet or exercise. The government can take the help of pervasive media such as TV and radio to educate people.

Furthermore, there are many diseases, which if diagnosed early through proper screening tests can be treated very easily. For example, cancer of the cervix can be diagnosed with a very simple, inexpensive test called the Pap Smear. If the government spends a little amount to provide such screening tests free of cost, then a lot of money needed for expensive treatments could be saved later on.

It is understandable that some budget has to be reserved for treatment also. There are some diseases, which are not dependent on lifestyles, such as some cancers. Then people also suffer from accidents. When people are sick they want the best medical treatment possible, with access to the latest diagnostic equipment and expensive MRI scans. I still maintain that if funds were allocated for promoting healthy lifestyle, then many people would not require those expensive treatments and at the same time would enjoy a quality life.

To conclude, it would be definitely worthwhile to divert the health budget towards prevention of diseases. By doing so the nation would be healthier and automatically the cost of treatment would be cut down.

Plan followed:
Intro: Agree.
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: more arguments
Para 3: Some areas, which would still require funds
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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348. Nowadays, people are consuming more and more sugar-based drinks. Why do they do so? Suggest measures to solve the problem.

Modernization and advancement in technology has also brought about changes in the food and beverage industry. Sugar based drinks are one such development and these have become increasingly popular in the last few decades, and this has led to many health related problems. There are many reasons why the consumption of such drinks has increased, which I shall discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs. I would also suggest some steps that can be taken to ameliorate this problem.

There are a number of reasons for the popularity of such sugar-based drinks. The main reason is the advertising of such products. The companies that manufacture these drinks have very big promotional campaigns, spend billions of dollars on marketing and use the pervasive forms of media, like newspapers and television. They mostly target children and youngsters, who are easily swayed by these ads. They have famous stars as the brand ambassadors, and when people see their role models endorsing these drinks, they do not think twice before consuming such drinks, irrespective of their harmful effects.

Another reason is that some of these drinks contain certain substances that act as stimulants and are addictive, such as caffeine and other chemical stimulants. When people start consuming them, they get some kick out of them, and then there is no going back.

It has become increasingly important to deal with this issue at the earliest possible, because the increased consumption of such sugar based drinks have led to a plethora of health problems, like obesity, diabetes, increase in cholesterol levels, dental problems, and many other diseases. The first step needs to be taken by the parents. Children follow what they observe and parents need to act as role models. They also need to get their children into the habit of having healthier drinks, like fresh fruit juices, milk, coconut water, and so on. They should encourage their children to have natural sugars rather than artificial ones.

The government can also help by imposing more taxes on such drinks, so that people are discouraged from buying them. Awareness can be spread about the harmful effects of such drinks, through social messages on the TV, the Internet and through newspaper ads. Instead of having sugar-based drinks at theaters, restaurants, cinemas, etc., such places can promote healthier drinks, containing natural sugars and no additives.

To sum up, there are several reasons why the sugary drinks have gained popularity among the masses. However, many steps can be taken to mitigate the health problems that have arisen due to these drinks.

Plan followed:
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Solutions at personal level
Para 4: Solutions at government level
Conclusion:

349. Some people think that the government should make laws regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle, while others think that it is a matter of personal choice and personal responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The modern lifestyle, and the easy availability of junk food is leading to many diseases, which are eating away the health budgets of many governments. That is perhaps why some people opine that government should make laws and policies that promote healthy food and limit access to unhealthy food. However, others say that there should be no regulation on what they eat and how they live. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, personally side with the latter view.

Supporters of government role in regulating our lifestyle and nutrition, say that everyone does not have enough knowledge about health. Moreover, people go for the easily and cheaply available fast foods, which provide calories, but are bereft of essential nutrients. This increases the risk of diseases and therefore government should formulate policies such as taxing such foods heavily and making healthy foods available at subsidized rates.

On the other hand, those who believe that the onus of having a healthy lifestyle should be left to the individuals, give their reasons as follows. They say that the government cannot and should not force anybody to follow a healthy diet and exercise daily. It is people's right to eat what they wish and follow any lifestyle they want. The government should just aware the people about the dangers of unhealthy lifestyle, and then leave it on the people to do what they wish.

I believe that government should not make harsh laws about nutrition and healthy lifestyle. In other words, it should not impose taxes such as a fat tax, but should have mild policies, which encourage people to go for a healthy lifestyle. For example, in Mexico City, those who do 10 squats are allowed a ride in the subway for free. In many offices, $25 incentive is given to every employee who walks 7000 steps per day, five days a week.

To conclude, there should be now laws on what people eat and how they live, but government intervention is needed to make healthy choices available to people, and to alert them about the consequences of a bad lifestyle and eating habits.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why government should make laws
Para 2: Other opinion
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: governments should promote healthy lifestyles both for the benefits of individuals and overall economy.

Similar essay: Some people think government should ensure the healthy lifestyle. of people, but others argue that it should be decided by individuals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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350. Some people believe that sport competitions are a source of emotional stress for young people. Therefore, youth should be banned from participating in sport competitions. Do you agree or disagree?

I completely disagree with the notion that the youngsters should not be permitted to compete in sports, as competition makes them emotionally stressed. There are a number of arguments that support my view, which I will be putting forth in the upcoming paragraphs.

There are numerous benefits of competing in sports. Such competitions promote skills like self-confidence, team spirit, developing strategies, overcoming obstacles, and so on. Admittedly, there is a feeling of competitiveness that can cause some amount of emotional stress. However, that is not just limited to the field of sports. Competition is there in every aspect of life, starting with the school life, and continues onto when we start working. Sports competitions teach the youth how to overcome challenges, accept failures and keep trying to succeed, which helps them overcome other obstacles in their lives as well.

To add to it, sport is a very popular career option for many youngsters. Through the state-level and national-level sporting competitions, the best of the talent can be identified. These youngsters can then move on to competing at an international level, and bring name and fame to the country. The government also provides job opportunities to the sport laureates. Furthermore, such competitions promote harmony, when people and teams from different cultures, countries and backgrounds compete with one another and strengthen relationships.

The proponents of the view that the youth should not be permitted to participate in sport competitions say that the pressures of winning are too demanding for the players and lead to deleterious consequences, like the win-at-all-cost attitude, not being able to accept failure, drug abuse for better performance, etc. However, this kind of stress is faced by children everyday at schools, and competing in sports only helps them become more confident and tough enough to face the challenges they face in their personal and professional lives.

To sum up, the children and the youth should be encouraged to participate in sport competitions, to promote their overall development, and to inculcate in them the life skills, like self-confidence, sportsmanship spirit, feeling of fraternity and many more. I am certain that when done in purposeful and developmentally appropriate manner, which places the needs of the children well ahead of winning, competitive sports can and should be a great experience for kids.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of sporting competitions
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Other view, and then refute it
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

351. Some people think government should ban dangerous sports, such as skydiving and rock climbing. Do you agree or disagree?

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. Although I do not support an outright ban on such sports, I do feel that the government should regulate such sports, so that they are played under supervision, which will minimize the risks.

Those who maintain that the government should ban dangerous sports activities argue on the grounds that a government has a responsibility to protect its population. In other words, the law should be there to prevent citizens from taking risks themselves, whether deliberately or unintentionally. These sports can be highly dangerous and sometimes life threatening. More than that, it is not just the participants who are at risk, but spectators too can be seriously injured. If, for example, a Formula 1 car crashes, the driver may not escape unharmed, and there is also a chance that a bouncing tire or debris may fly into the crowd. Because of all these dangers, it is understandable why people call for the authorities to take action.

However, banning such sports is not the answer. Instead, the government should ensure that the companies or centres, which provide the facilities for such sports should meet the required, legal safety standards. Another argument against banning is that then people would play these sports in hiding, and then they would be at even more risk. After all we all know that forbidden fruits taste sweeter.

A further point is that in statistical terms there is a low probability of injury in many so-called dangerous sports, and people are at greater risk carrying out everyday activities such as crossing the road or cooking a meal. With the rapid development of advanced technology and medical insurance in our society, the security system of those extreme sports is absolutely mature enough to protect people who take part in these challenging activities.

What is more, those sportsmen who excel in such sports bring name and fame to their country. They break records set by others, and when they do so, the name of their country shines in the whole world. I also believe that people should be allowed to go for whatever risk they choose. So, if someone wishes to freefall from a plane at 30,000 feet, then he should be free to do so and it should be accepted that it is not the place of the government to dictate how people lead their lives. Not infringing citizens' freedom should be regarded as a government's priority.

To sum up, it can be said that such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of experts. Dangerous sport companies should require a license for providing such training. To lay a prohibition on such sports is not the answer.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Arguments for banning
Para 2: Arguments against banning
Para 3: Arguments against banning
Para 4: Arguments against banning
Conclusion: should not be banned but regulated

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352. Some people believe that the fittest and strongest individuals and teams always succeed in sports. Others think that success in sports depends on mental attitudes. Discuss both views and give your opinions.

People are divided on the reasons for success in sports. Some individuals opine that only those who are physically fit succeed in sports. However, others believe that a positive mental attitude is required for succeeding in sports. In this essay I shall discuss both views. I believe that both – physical fitness and mental attitude are needed for success in sports.

The main reason why some people say that fitness and strength is very important for success is that a player who is not physically fit cannot excel in sports such as rugby, soccer, wrestling, volley ball and many more. That is why the coaches and trainers make the players work out for hours every day so that players can build both strength and stamina and succeed in their respective sports.

On the other hand, those who say that players can succeed with positive mental attitude and good game plan give the examples of players who have succeeded because of these virtues. For example, Sachin Tendulkar is very short, yet he can do wonders with his bat. Anil Kumble is one of the best bowlers in the game of cricket. He can read the mind of the batsman opposite him and that's why in one match he managed to take 10 wickets. In Hockey too, winning depends on teamwork, attitude and co-operation.

Furthermore, there are many examples where players have reached pinnacles of sports career despite severe physical limitation. Swimmer Amy Dyken suffered from asthma but went on to win 4 gold medals in Olympics. Jeff Blatnick suffered from cancer, but won gold medal in Roman wrestling in 1984. Simon Keith had a heart transplant but still he plays soccer. Yuvraj Singh, the famous Indian cricket player fought with lung cancer and is back in his team only because of his positive mental attitude.

To sum up, no doubt physical fitness and strength have a role, but mental attitude is also very important. A successful sportsman needs a combination of physical and mental power.

Plan followed:

Intro: In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the role of both in our lives.
Para 1: How physical fitness is important
Para 2: Importance of positive mental attitude
Para 3: Examples of success because of positive mental attitude
Conclusion: No doubt physical fitness and strength have a role but mental attitude is also very important. A successful sportsman needs a combination of physical and mental power.

353. Some people prefer to go to health clubs and gyms for health care, but some say that walking and climbing stairs are more effective. Discuss both and give your opinion.

Nowadays, people are becoming more and more health conscious, and are therefore more inclined to develop their health through physical exercise. Many go to gymnasiums to work out using machines, while others just maintain a physically active lifestyle by walking and climbing stairs. This essay intends to discuss the pros of both approaches. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people prefer to go to health clubs and gyms. The instructors in such places can guide them depending on their level of fitness and age. They make them warm up properly and then do the more vigorous or demanding exercises, which reduce the risk of injury. A cool down after the workout is almost as important as a warm-up, and this is all done very well in gyms and health clubs. A healthy and active lifestyle is not enough, as all muscles are not worked out in that way.

Secondly, gyms and health clubs give a person the motivation needed for such physical activity. Today's lifestyles are too sedentary, and whatever walking or using the stairs people do, they cannot fulfil their body's needs of exercise. People also tend to take things easy and become too complacent regarding their health. When they go to the gyms, they see other people exercising over there, which gives them the impetus to workout. Finally, the equipment and the guided environment there make exercising easier. Perhaps that is the reason why there has been a mushroom growth of gyms in the past few years.

On the other hand, there are some reasons given by those who believe that health can be maintained by just doing simple day-to-day physical activities. Firstly, they find it difficult to take out special time for the gym. They say that walking over short distances and briskly climbing staircase and avoiding the elevator can help in maintaining good health. It also saves the additional expenditure needed to go to gyms. Once people are habitual of these activities, these become a part of life.

After considering the pros of both approaches, I believe that one cannot depend on just routine physical activities. Joining a gym is better because one can focus on those muscles or areas of body, which are not touched by simple day-to-day physical activity.

Plan *followed*
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of gym
Para 2: More advantages of gym
Para 3: Advantages of routine day to day activities
Conclusion: Own opinion plus conclusion

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354. Science tells there are activities that are good for the health. However, some people still continue doing unhealthy habits. Why is this so, and what changes can be done?

People of the modern world are better informed than ever in the history of mankind. They are well aware of what is good or bad for their health. Despite that they keep on indulging in activities, which are detrimental for them. This essay intends to look into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first reason for ignoring their health is the fast-paced competitive era of today. People know that exercise and healthy food is good for them but cannot find the time to do exercise and cook healthy food. They have become workaholics in a bid to live a life of luxury, and as a result their lives are becoming sedentary. They choose to go by car even for short distances and eat fast food to satiate their taste buds. Fast foods are rich in salts and unhealthy fats, which are not good for health, but are cheaper, tastier and more readily available. Some unhealthy habits such as drinking and smoking are done for showing their status, or to forget the stress and strain of life.

The solutions are not simple, mainly because people are themselves choosing those activities despite knowing that they are bad for them. The government should take the help of media to motivate people into doing exercise and going for healthy food. Gyms should be set up at negligible membership costs so that people avail them easily. Bicycle lanes should be made so that those who want to do cycling can do so safely. For example, Denmark has 19000 km of bicycle tracks, as a result of which most people have adopted bicycles as their favourite means of transport for short distances within the country.

Furthermore, there should be strict rules and regulations for food outlets to provide healthy food without trans-fats and excess salts. The Food and Drug Authority should regularly have surprise checks. It would be a better approach than to ask people to refrain from fast foods. Moreover, working hours should be fixed so that people have time for themselves and their families.

To sum up, it is true that people are doing unhealthy activities even after knowing they are unhealthy, yet some steps can be taken to motivate them to change their sedentary lifestyle and eat healthy food.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: solutions
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion

355. People should look after their health as a duty to the society they live in rather than personal benefits. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Good health is a basic human need. The given statement says that people should look after their health as an obligation to the society and not think about their own benefits. I, however, feel that compliance would be much more if we were to look after our health for our own interest and the benefits to the society would automatically ensue.

There are many benefits to the individual if he/she looks after his/her health. Good health means a person leads a quality life. He does not have to spend on expensive medical treatment and he has more productive life. He can work better and enjoy all the good things that life has to offer. Moreover, if a person suffers from any infectious disease and takes timely treatment then he does not spread it to others. Later on he does not stand the chance of getting re-infected by other people.

Furthermore, if people looked after their health for personal reasons, the benefit to the society would be there automatically. For instance, a lot of government budget, which it has to spend on providing healthcare would be saved, and this saving could be used in other areas. The government could provide better roads, public transport and other things to the people.

Admittedly, as a part of society, we all have an obligation to the society. If all people are healthy then the society is also healthy. A healthy society means a more energetic workforce, which would in turn raise the level of society. However, selfishness is a basic human nature. People would be more willing to do something if it benefits them. So, adopting a healthy lifestyle would be observed to a greater degree if people know it is for their benefit. Society would also benefit involuntarily.

To sum up, we should all look after our health. It does not matter whether it is for the society or ourselves. We are all inextricably linked to the society. If we do something good for ourselves, the society is benefited and if we do something for society then we are benefitted, but we will do something for ourselves with more enthusiasm.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: benefits to the individual if he/ she looks after his/ her health

Para 2: as a part of society, we all have an obligation

Para 3: more on the view

Conclusion:

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356. Some people say that the government should give priority to health care whereas others say they should spend on other important priorities. Discuss both views and give your opinion

People are divided on the issue of the allocation of funds for healthcare by the governments. Some opine that health care is a crucial factor that governments have to pay attention to. Others, however, believe that there exist other areas on which governments should attach equal or even more weight. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally believe that equal priority should be given to healthcare and other sectors.

The main reason why some people say that government should focus on healthcare first is that prioritizing healthcare would lead to a healthier and happier society. It is quite obvious that the people would be less economically burdened if governments prioritize health care. It would make it more convenient and cost-effective for the public to see a doctor. For example, the financial support from governments is likely to make various medicines and treatments more affordable to people who are not so well off. Compared with the situation where citizens have to bear the cost totally by themselves, the economic pressure will be much relieved.

On the other hand, those who say that government should spend on other areas give their reasons as follows. Firstly, governments' investment should not be confined to health care. Education, which concerns the long-term development of the whole nation, should also receive similar funds. Primary education should be free and mandatory. Higher education should be highly subsidized for students whose families are under the poverty line.

Apart from education, it is also advisable that taxpayers' money should be distributed to public facilities, which will not only benefit every citizen's daily life, but also attract more investment and create more job opportunities. Public transport should be improved so that more and more people like to opt for it. Condition of roads should be bettered. Facilities for the elderly cannot be ignored in the greying society of today.

To sum up, the allotment of governments' funds should equally go to more sectors, which will exert more influence on public and the society as a whole, although the importance of health care cannot be underestimated.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of spending on healthcare
Para 2: Other important issues
Para 3: More important issues
Conclusion:

357. Nowadays the football supporters behave violently. What is the cause? How we can solve it?

Football hooliganism is not a new phenomenon. It dates back to 14th century England, when this sport was banned by the king of that time. In the modern form of football, such violence has also been reported many times. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this phenomenon, and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason of violence by football supporters is that football is a competitive, physical sport, which is played by and attracts an audience, which is youthful and aggressive. The supporters of the teams form gangs, and these gangs want to assert themselves over their rivals. They have strong emotional ties with their teams. The Heysel stadium disaster is an example of such hooliganism, in which Liverpool supporters and Juventis supporters had a fight, because of which a wall collapsed and there were 39 casualties.

Secondly, the influence of alcohol is there on football violence. There were clear evidences that most of those involved in football hooliganism were drunk. Finally, the media is also considered a culprit in contributing to football violence. Studies have suggested that the language of war and combat employed by the media in covering football, incited the young supporters to indulge in violence. For instance, the Daily Mirror's headlines "Achtung! Surrender" before the match between England and Germany in 1996, was very provocative for the young supporters.

Many solutions have been proposed and tried, which has resulted in a significant decrease in football hooliganism. Such measures should be implemented more stringently to completely eradicate the menace of football violence. First of all, sophisticated policing measures should be employed. Spotting and barring the hooligans to attend further matches would be very helpful. Alcohol consumption during the matches should be banned. Finally, the media should be wise enough to play its role in such a way that it does not give air to hooliganism.

To sum up, football violence is a problem, but many effective steps can be taken to address the issue and prevent further mishaps.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

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358. Everyone should become vegetarian because they do not need to eat meat to have a healthy diet. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A lot of scientific evidence indicates that wholesome vegetarian diets offer distinct advantages compared to diets containing meat. However, I disagree with the given statement that everyone should adopt a meat-free diet to be healthy. In this essay I intend to support my opinion with my arguments.

Undoubtedly, there are many benefits of a vegetarian diet. To begin with, vegetarian diets are easy to digest, whereas meats can be difficult to digest. The fats in meat are saturated, which means they are unhealthy and contribute to higher cholesterol levels. Plant sources of food, on the other hand, are rich in fiber, complex carbohydrates, magnesium, folic acid, vitamin C and E, carotenoids and other phytochemicals. Dietary fiber helps prevent colon cancer, which is more prevalent in meat-eaters.

However, a totally vegetarian diet can be deficient in several nutrients including protein, iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin B12 and A, n-3 fatty acids and iodine. Although vegetarians can consume protein through legumes and nuts, these protein sources are incomplete. A complete protein contains the essential amino acids that your body needs, and animal products provide a complete protein. Many animal products are also high in iron and vitamin B12. Iron found in animal products is easier for your body to absorb. A deficiency in iron or B12 can result in fatigue. For women, who lose iron through menstruation, getting enough iron through their diet is important.

Proponents of vegetarian diet claim that veggie diets have high-protein gems like cottage cheese, nuts, and tofu. I still believe that people who go vegetarian may have to take a lot of supplements, and would definitely need to put in a lot of effort to have a balanced meal full of essential macro and micronutrients. A purely vegetarian diet, which is not planned well, may prove very bad for health. People, who are non-vegetarian, can easily have a mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian diet to remain healthy. They can cut down their meat intake to avoid the detrimental effects of a non-veg diet.

To sum up, I reiterate that although a vegetarian diet has several benefits, I differ with those who say that everyone should turn vegetarian to be healthy.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: advantages of vegetarian diet
Para 2: Advantages of non-vegetarian diet
Para 3: More advantages of being a non-vegetarian
Conclusion

359. Some people think that government should subsidize fruits and vegetables to make healthy food cheaper. Others argue that tax should be set on unhealthy food. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The increase in the consumption of unhealthy fast food has led to a rise in health-related problems, and it is becoming a cause of concern in most countries. Some individuals opine that government should subsidize healthy foods, whereas others say that the solution is in levying a 'Fat Tax', which means a tax on fast food. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main argument given by those who support 'Fat tax' is that unhealthy food habits have led to an increase in health problems. The health of the general public is not only an individual's responsibility, but also the responsibility of the government. Moreover, the revenue earned can be utilized towards providing better health care, medical research and other such issues, which will in the development of the nation.

On the other hand, those who say that healthy food should be made cheaper, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, a major reason for a higher consumption of fast food is that healthier food options are not affordable by everyone. For instance, a glass of sweetened soda is cheaper than a glass of milk. Therefore, instead of making the fast food more expensive, subsidies should be provided for producers of healthy foods, like vegetables, fruits, milk, etc. They also say that implementing the 'Fat Tax' is not an effective method as it penalizes the poor more.

I believe that taking care of one's health is an individual's responsibility and also is a right to freedom of choice. Measures should be taken to make people aware of the consequences of the choices they make. It would not be wise to implement a fat-tax, as it will not be practical for the government to decide which food product should be taxed and which should be exempted. Also, it has been found through a research, that taste is the number one factor, when deciding what to eat. So, increasing the tax on fast food will not make a considerable difference to the consumption of unhealthy foods.

To conclude, implementing the fat-tax is not an effective solution to the health problems. Subsidizing healthier food options should be done, so that those who want to refrain from eating unhealthy foods should have healthier options within the reach of their pocket.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay
Para1: For Fat Tax
Para 2: Other viewpoint
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

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360. New research has shown that overeating has become a bigger problem in the world than hunger. What are the reasons of this problem? How can you solve it?

In today's world, we are enjoying the best of the facilities and consequently, a change in our lifestyle and eating habits. An adverse effect of these changes is the increasing health problems associated with the over-consumption of food, which are much more than those arising from under-nutrition. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this phenomenon and suggest solutions to mitigate the problem.

One of the main reasons why over-eating has become a global health crisis, is the change in our diet due to the adoption of the western culture and lifestyle, in almost all parts of the world, barring a few under-developed countries. People are consuming unhealthy fast foods in high amounts, due to a change in their routines. They have become too busy to be able to cook healthy and nutritious food at home. This has led to a trend of having food on the go. As a result, we are seeing international fast food chains, like McDonald's, KFC, Burger King, etc. mushrooming in the developing economies, like India and China. Consequently, the number of health problems arising from such unhealthy eating problems is increasing at an alarming rate.

In addition, low-priced fast food outlets are opening at every street corner, and these are within the reach of the common man's pocket. For example, one can get a burger from a street vendor at just Rs20/-, whereas the same at some international food chain would be 10 times more costly. To satiate their taste buds, even the poor income group is consuming these things, which are overloaded with low quality fats and excess oils. So, the body is getting an overdose of the wrong type of calories.

The solutions must be taken on a war footing else the obesity pandemic will cost the people and the governments heavily. Obesity is a major cause of the chronic diseases, like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac diseases, strokes, etc. The solutions at individual level could be to avoid ready made unhealthy and fast food. It has become increasingly important that we take good care of health, by eating healthy, home cooked, nutritious food and having a good exercise routine. The government can impose fat tax on the fast food outlets. This would increase the prices of such foods and people will be discouraged to buy and eat such foods. Also, awareness should be spread through advertising or by conducting activities like marathons. This will motivate people to be prepared for such events, and they would exercise regularly.

To sum up, it can be said that it is not too late to get a hold on the problem of over-eating becoming a health crisis, and we can take simple measures, both at the individual and state level to solve this problem.

Plan followed:
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

361. Now the machine is very complex, and a lot of difficult work is automated. Does this machine automation have more pros than cons?

Modern technology has equipped us with machines, which are working like robots. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for work and increases output. In the words of Oscar Wilde – "On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends."

Moreover, computer machines or robots manage our banks and even the tickets at the airport are issued by machine-robot. The computerization certainly relieves human beings from dull repetitive tasks without any human error. What is more, robotic surgery is being done to overcome the limitation of human beings such as trembling of human hands. Microscopic surgeries and eye operations can be better done with the help of robotic surgeons.

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses. Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals, especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are a failure where creative work is required. For example, machines cannot reproduce the unique and original work done by many artisans. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men, but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the positive effects of machines outweigh the negative effects on the individual and society. However, in developing countries, in order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

Plan followed

Intro: Overall the pros outweigh the cons
Para 1: Advantages of machines
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: pros more than cons

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362. Scientists believe that computers will become more intelligent than human beings. Some people find it a positive development while others think it is negative development. Discuss both points and give your own opinion.

Artificial intelligence is about designing machines that can think. Some take it as a blessing, whereas others take it as a curse. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss both viewpoints. I believe that these are ultimately human creations and so can never rise above the human brain. So, AI would be positive, if in the right human hands, else it will be negative.

There are many reasons why some people think that Intelligent machines will be a boon for humanity. Firstly, intelligent robots can be used where humans have limitations. For example, these can be used for dangerous tasks like exploring space, mining and digging for fuels and reaching the depths of the ocean. Secondly, these machines can do repetitive and time-consuming tasks efficiently. Because there is intelligence programmed in them, such machines can shoulder greater responsibilities and be programmed to manage themselves.

Furthermore, these intelligent machines are very beneficial in the medical field. Robotic radiosurgery can precisely give radiation to the tumour, and so save the normal surrounding tissue. Surgery simulators use machine intelligence to train doctors. Finally, machines do not require sleep, or breaks and can work without pausing.

On the other hand, those who say that the development of AI is negative, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, if intelligent machine-robots replace human being's work then this would cause many to out of work. Secondly, with the heavy application of artificial intelligence, humans may become overly dependent on machines, losing their own mental capacities. Another disadvantage is the cost incurred in maintenance and repair. Procedure to restore lost code or data may be very time consuming and costly.

In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence has several pros, but it has disadvantages as well. These should be carefully weighed before using these machines for human convenience. Otherwise, in a bid to play God, man may destroy himself.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Positive view
Para 2: More positive view
Para 3: Negative view
Conclusion with own view.

363. Some people think that robots are very important to human's future development, while others think they are dangerous and have negative effects on society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Robots are artificially created intelligent electro-mechanical devices. Some individuals opine that these robots would be pivotal in the future development of mankind. However, others are skeptical and fear that these robots will have negative effects on society. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss both views. I believe that it is ultimately on the humans to see to it that these machines are all positive.

There are many reasons why some people say that robots are a blessing. To begin with, robots speed up the production process and are very good in repetitive tasks. What is more, robots can be operated 24 hours per a day, which can also raise the productivity of the companies. Secondly, in the field of medicine, robots have been used to do complicated surgeries. For instance, in robotic eye surgery there are no tremors in the hands of robots and therefore the scope of serious errors is much reduced with the help of robots.

Robots can also work in extreme conditions where humans are helpless. For example, robots helped a great deal in the rescue operations when the tsunami hit Japan and were used in nuclear environments to close the reactors of Fukushima. Robots can help people to do household duties like cleaning the house or washing the dishes. This way, people have more time to do useful work, or spend the time with family or friends. Robot toys can play with children and help them in their development. Home security can be done by a robot, which can keep his attention up constantly and look out for unfamiliar situations like a fire or burglar.

On the other hand, those who think that robots may negatively affect people's life and also be extremely dangerous, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, there could be increase of unemployment in the future. It is expected that robots could replace many people at their working place. One of evidence for this is that few robots have already started to teach children at schools, others have been working as servants for several families. And it is clear, that some employers will choose cheap robots instead of humans, as they would work round the clock and also not take sick leave or coffee break.

To sum up, robots can make people's lives easier and increase their general living comfort. However, people should know where to draw the line in their use so that they get the best out of them minus their disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of robots
Para 2: More advantages of robots
Para 3: Disadvantages of robots
Conclusion:

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364. There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What forms do they take? Do the problems of mobile phones outweigh the benefits?

Mobile phone is one of the most important inventions that have brought people tremendous convenience and efficiency. Admittedly, if misused or overused, it may cause some social, medical and technical problems. However, its pros far outnumber its cons.

The social problems of cell phones cannot be understated. People are busy on their apps and social contact is going down. Spending time with friends, family and stranger can strengthen the social bond. But smartphone apps and games are somehow making the social distances larger. Cell phones also keep people connected to their work, as a consequence of which, people fail to draw a line between their personal and professional lives, which causes stress and strain within the family, leading to spoilt children and broken homes.

There are many medical problems concomitant with the use of cell phones. First, they emit radio frequency waves, which although are of very low frequency, can still have negative effects if there is too prolonged use of the cell phone. Second, excessive use of cell phone can increase stress levels and affect the mental health of young adults. Moreover, the increased touching of the cell phones can harbor germs on the handset, which can be more disease prone than those found on the toilet seat.

Cell phones are technological gadgets and so are bound to have technical problems as well. Network coverage may not be there at some places, which may cause too much stress. Charging issues, battery life and unwanted calls are some other technical glitches faced by the cell phone users.

However, despite all these negative issues, the advantages of cell phones have an edge over the disadvantages. Mobiles have helped people remain connected with the world from wherever they are. Distance is not a barrier any more there is a sense of security if the person knows he has a gadget with which he can be in touch with his near and dear ones. At the time of emergencies and calamities, they are one of the most used tools for supplying immediate help.

Mobile phones also provide facilities like messaging, camera, recording and the Internet. As a matter of fact, now they can serve as a good replacement of laptop. Business transactions can also take place at any time of the day and family commitments can also be fulfilled while at work. Cell phones also serve as entertainment tools as many games can now be played and some phones have FM radio connection too.

To sum up, the advantages of the mobile phone far outweigh its disadvantages. Mobile technology definitely has brought a revolution and changed the way to work, to socialize and to entertain, but we must be more wise and responsible in using it.

Plan followed

Intro: its pros far outnumber its cons.
Para 1: Social problems
Para 2: Medical problems
Para 3: Technical problems
Para 4 and 5: Advantages
Conclusion: the advantages of the mobile phone far outweigh its disadvantages.

365. Mobile phones have made life easier: anyone can use a mobile phone to answer/make work calls or home calls at any place 7 days a week. Do you think this development has more positive effects or negative effects on the individual and society?

Mobile phones have revolutionised the concept of communication. They have a big role in transforming the society into a 24/7 society. This development has its pros and cons but the advantages definitely outweigh the disadvantages.

On the positive side, mobile phones have simplified people's lives. Today, people are well connected with their family and friends all the time. Earlier, if a person was late from work, his family would be worried about him till he returned home safe and sound. Today, a person can inform his family of his/her whereabouts. Today, if something goes wrong with anyone's vehicle and heis stranded on the road then he can immediately call someone for help.

Nowadays, the shopkeeper does not miss an important customer just because he had to go home for five minutes for some urgent work. Even in offices which require fieldwork, a person can take advice from his seniors any time and fro anywhere. Some businesses, in fact, thrive on the mobile phone.

On the other hand, cell phones can take away your calm and quiet. A person with a mobile phone cannot draw the line between work and leisure. If he doesn't answer the mobile phone or keep it switched off in his off-duty hours, then he is considered rude and if he answers, then his family life is in jeopardy. What is more, if he listens to a mobile phone while driving then he can cause accidents. Finally, the ads, which are shownon cell phones, can be very bugging especially when the personisin the middle of an important meeting.

Summing up, mobile phones actually make life simpler and more convenient. It is in our hands to know where to draw the line and use them to our benefit only.

Plan followed

Intro: This development has its pros and cons but the advantages definitely outweigh the disadvantages.
Para 1: Positive effects on family
Para 2: Positive effects on business
Para 3: Negative effects
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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366. The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places and so mobile phones should also be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Although smoking and the nuisance of mobile phones are both antisocial activities, I disagree with a ban on cell phones. I believe that smoking does not have any good side to it and therefore, its ban is justified, whereas the cell phone has its own set of advantages and so should not be banned.

To begin with, smoking causes harm to the smoker as well as the non-smoker who is in the propinquity of the smoker. Studies have proven that the passive smoker is even more at risk of lung cancer than the active smoker. This is because he inhales the second-hand smoke, emitted by the smoker. Similarly, in public places, the cell phone can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the uses of mobiles. They are one's easily available help in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cellphones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Comparing the cell phone to smoking and banning the cell phone would not be practical.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: why ban
Para 2: Why not ban
Para 3: Why not ban
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

367. The use of mobile phones should be banned in public spaces such as libraries, transportations, and shops. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Mobile phone etiquette has become an important issue, with mobiles ringing at funerals, weddings, movies and plays. Therefore, some people advocate their prohibition in public places. I, however, disagree with a ban on cell phones in all public places. I would like to suggest that in some places where "silence" is necessary, such as in concerts, meetings, and cinemas, the use of pagers and mobile phones should be banned. However, in public places such as restaurants or buses and public transports, where "silence" is not so strictly needed, the use of pagers and mobile phones can still be allowed.

Undoubtedly, using mobile phones in public places can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the usefulness of mobiles. They are very helpful in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones, when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not at all practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cellphones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Banning the cell phone would not be practical.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: why ban
Para 2: Why not ban
Para 3: Why not ban
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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368. Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that people do not entertain themselves as much as they used to because of modern technology. I believe that modern technology has not made people less artistic. In fact it has changed the definition of leisure and the lifestyle of people, and has also given people more options for creativity.

Modern technology has changed our definition of leisure. Earlier, leisure meant going out and meeting people, playing outdoor games, going to cinema to watch movies and so on. However, today, leisure time is full of choices. We have so many things to do within the four walls of our house. We can watch countless programs on national and international channels; we can play online games; we can chat with friends and relatives in any corner of the world; we can do armchair tourism by which we can visit any historical place or museum sitting in our armchair. That is why perhaps it looks as if we people do not entertain ourselves as much as we used to in yesteryears.

Another reason why people do not entertain as much as before, is also not because of technology. Technology has, in fact, given us more time to enjoy but we can't strike a balance between work and leisure. We have become workaholics. Life in the past was simpler. People worked for basic needs. Now work is not just a way of life. It is for personal fulfillment. We set goals for ourselves such as a house or a car. We choose this way of life. Now we have improved standard of living but this has come at a very high cost.

Finally, I would like to state that the given statement is flawed, because nowadays people specially take out time to entertain themselves. This can be evident from the mushroom growth of leisure centres such as hotels, restaurants, fun parks and spas. Tourist places are full of people, and train and air reservations have to be done well in advance.

To sum up, technology has not made us less creative. We entertain ourselves more than earlier times but the ways of entertainment are different and technology has given us more choices than before.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: How modern technology has changed our definition of leisure.
Para 2: Another reason why people don't entertain as much as before is also not because of technology.
Para 3: the given statement is flawed because nowadays people specially take out time to entertain themselves.
Conclusion:

369. The rapid development of communication technology, such as smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices, has more disadvantages than advantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that the speedy advance in communication technology has more negative effects than positive. I believe that without these brilliant technological gadgets, human life would not be the same and the society would not be as prosperous as it is today.

To begin with, the modern gadgets have accelerated the pace of communication, and now we are able to communicate with anyone in any corner of the world. Long distance communication has also become much cheaper than before. Newer jobs have been created because of these technologies. Many people work in the programming field, as systems analysts and as web designers.

Furthermore, businesses can expand globally, with very little investment. They can develop a network of customers and get instant feedbacks on their products or services. Payments can be sent and received by wireless terminals, like PayTM. Another big advantage is to the students. Students can create documents and immediately upload them to a teacher's electronic folder. Teachers can then view the documents immediately, and keep them permanently stored. It works in reverse, too. Teachers can upload assignments, links, or feedback for students via these shared resources or folders.

Moreover, these gadgets have proved an asset in healthcare also. The tablet and smartphone are becoming nearly as ubiquitous in healthcare as the stethoscope. One survey in 2013 discovered that 86% of physicians used smartphones. In one handheld device, doctors can access patient information, research medical literature, and securely communicate with patients and colleagues.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of mobile communication technology cannot be overlooked. First, the elderly are not very comfortable with these gadgets. Then, these are not very reliable, as you are not sure whom you are talking to, unless it is a video call. When you text or email, there's no vocal tone and you can't see facial expressions. So, there is an increased chance that your message will be misunderstood. Additionally, there is the issue of cyber-crime. You may be the victim of cyber bullying. The wrong people could gain access to your personal details, which could result in you or your business losing money and reputation.

To sum up, the pros of modern communication technologies are far more than their cons. The onus is on us to use these gadgets judiciously, so that the negative side can be minimised.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages – speed and cost
Para 2:Advantages – businesses and students
Para 3: Advantages – healthcare
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

Similar: *Some people have benefited from modern communications technology, but some people have not benefited from it at all. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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370. Today, people can work and live anywhere they want, because of the improvement of communication technology and transport. Do advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

It is irrefutable that because of the advances in telecommunication technology and travel, today's person can live and work in any part of the globe. The advantages of this definitely outweigh the disadvantages. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of being able to live and work from anywhere. First of all, people have more choices of jobs because of technological advances. Not only can you work in any part of your home country, you can work for any company in any part of the world by telecommuting. Secondly, modern wireless technology has made work easier and created more time for self and family. What is more, people can lessen their work hours and still do their work more efficiently. Another advantage is that people can manage more than one work at a time. This is the need of the day as inflation is touching the sky and people need to earn more and more.

Furthermore, the modern transportation modes like the metro and light rail have lessened the travel time and also made it more convenient for commuters. This has also decreased the need for people to live in the cities to do jobs because now it is possible to work in cities and come back to peaceful countryside in the evenings because of modern transport systems. This has decreased the overcrowding of cities, which was making cities unbearable to live in.

On the downside, this is leading to a sedentary lifestyle, as people do not need to travel. Another disadvantage is that people become so dependent on technology that any network failure may lead life to come to a standstill. Nevertheless, I still believe that these minor disadvantages are of no importance if we look at the plethora of advantages this situation has to offer.

Summing up, people can live and work anywhere today and this situation is more of a boon than a bane.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: The situation is more of a boon than a bane

371. More and more people work at home and study at home with the development of computer technology. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is true that the Internet has become an important part of modern life. Telecommuting, which means working from home with the help of telephone lines, and, online and distance education have become very common. This situation has both, advantages as well as disadvantages.

The most important benefit is that it saves time and money of employees and students. They do not need to waste time going and coming from work or college. They save on the fare also. What is more, they can set their own timetable of work and study. On top of that, people find more time for their hobbies and family commitments. This situation also benefits the physically challenged and those living in remote areas. You can get online education from any university in any part of the world and you can work for any office in any corner of the world. So, technology has given birth to many opportunities for many people for whom none existed earlier. In this sense it is narrowing the bridge between the rich and the poor.

Another big advantage is to the environment. As less people have to move out of their homes, less petrol and diesel is used and less pollution is caused. Traffic congestion, which is a big problem in the cities, is also lessened. We all know that at peak hours, traffic moves at a snail's pace because of which people are forced to slow down the tempo of life even in this fast-paced world.

On the negative side, there is a decrease in face-to-face communication, which is isolating us socially. Working alone from home can be very boring at times. When you are in a proper office, there is a work atmosphere, which keeps you going. Moreover, I do not think it is possible for a computer to be as effective as a real teacher. Many jobs and subjects involve physical action. For example, it would not be possible to study dance or drama without contact with others. If everybody worked and studied from home, imagine how unhealthy and lazy they would become.

Summing up, technology has eased our life in many ways and this is both a negative as well as a positive development but on the whole the positive side outweighs the negative side.

Plan followed

Intro: This situation has both, advantages as well as disadvantages.
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: big advantage is to the environment
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: on the whole the positive side outweighs the negative side.

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372. More and more people are using mobile phones and the Internet to communicate. Therefore, people are losing the ability to communicate face to face. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Today, it is impossible to imagine a life without the modern communication devices, such as the smart phones and the Internet. These gadgets have revolutionised the concept of communication. Although, people are communicating less in-person, I disagree that their ability of face-to-face communication has been lost because of technology. I will support my perspective with my arguments in the following paragraphs.

Undoubtedly, the excessive use of smart phones and the Internet has weakened our offline relationships, including face-to-face interaction. The sight of people looking at their cell phones, ignoring their friends and family sitting next to them, has become common. People would rather text or call someone than take time out to meet in person. This has made people lead isolated lives despite the fact that they have the largest circle of online friends than ever in the history of mankind.

However, technology is not snatching their ability of direct communication; it is just giving them other options, which they find more interesting and beneficial. It has become exceptionally easy to contact each other electronically and share information instantaneously in a community. They can share photos and videos simultaneously with many people. Gone are the days, when people could use only fixed telephone or write letters, which took days to reach. Obviously, people have gone crazy over these cutting-edge technologies, which have made possible, what seemed impossible, not very long ago.

Furthermore, people are not having face-to-face communication because they have become workaholics. They cannot, and should not blame technology. They have the ability to communicate, but they are themselves choosing not to. There are people even today who find time for each other and enjoy each other's company. It is a matter of personal choice.

Face-to-face communication, however, must be kept alive, and it can only be possible if we, ourselves, make efforts to do so. We cannot just sit back and blame technology for taking away this ability from us. Technology makes communication less personal, because when you text or email, there's no vocal tone and you can't see facial expressions. According to a research it was calculated that 55 percent of the message pertaining to feelings is in facial expression alone. So, there is an increased chance that your message will be misunderstood if you are not engaged in face-to-face dialogue with the person you are talking to. Body language is also very important in communication, which can be masked in communication through technology.

To conclude, I reiterate my view that even though, the smart phones and the Internet have reduced the face-to-face communication, these gadgets have not reduced our ability to do so. The onus is on us to keep the face-to-face communication alive.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: How technology has affected communication.
Para 2: How technology is not to be blamed
Para 3: Another reason why technology cannot be blamed for less face-to-face interaction.
Para 4: How face-to-face interaction can be kept alive Conclusion:

Similar: Mobile phones and the Internet play an important part in the way, which people relate to one another socially. Is this a positive or a negative development?
Similar: The development of technology changes the way people connect with each other. In which way does the development of technology change the types of relationships that people make? Does it have positive or negative effect on the relationships?

373. Some people think that the development of technology has made our life more complex, and the solution is to live a life without that technology. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is difficult to think how we managed our lives before the widespread use of everyday technologies such as the Internet and mobile phones, which we now take for granted. Therefore, I disagree with the view that modern technology has really made our lives more complicated and it would be wiser to revert to the older and simpler ways of life.

To begin with, the technological development does not complicate our life, but instead it makes our life much simpler. While there are plenty of examples of this, the way that e-commerce has changed our life may be best to describe it. In the past we had to travel long distances to stores in multiple locations in order to purchase the items we wanted. Today online shopping has made it possible for us to sit at home and buy almost everything we want with just a few clicks. There are other examples such as teleconferences, which save the trouble to bring people from different parts of the world together, and software like Skype and Face-time, which allow users in different places to communicate "face-to-face". In fact, the goal of new technologies is to simplify people's life instead of complicating it.

Moreover, inventors throughout the ages have thought of practically every device imaginable to assist humans in conducting their everyday affairs, from baby strollers to life-support machines. In fact, we are flooded with technological gadgets in this modern world and there is no sign of a reversal in this trend occurring. Imagine for a moment, if there were no television or computers. How would we know who had won the latest cricket match? Or what was going on in the world? What would the weather be like tomorrow?

On the other hand, the problem with modern technology is our increasing inability to tune out from an overload in information and our growing reliance on machines that perform mindless tasks, which we could simply do for ourselves. It is not rare to see people who choose to get away from the online social network for some time. Their feedbacks are generally positive but eventually they all come back because simply living without the technology is not the solution.

In conclusion, it seems to me that the purpose of technology is not to make life complex, but quite the opposite, to solve problems in our life and make life easier. Therefore, giving up technology is not the way to have a simpler life. Instead, we should know where to draw the line so that this technology does not take over our life completely.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Examples of how technology has simplified our lives

Para 2: More examples

Para 3: Reasons for the opposite view but still the solution is not to live without technology.

Conclusion:

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374. Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent technological developments. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Earlier technological progress had been great with many far-reaching breakthroughs, especially in the early period of the last century. However, the benefits and changes brought by the earlier technological developments to the lives of ordinary people cannot compare with those brought by recent ones. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement. In the following paragraphs, I intend to support my opinion with my arguments.

Undoubtedly, recent technological developments have benefited and changed our life so much that we enjoy almost all the comforts and conveniences that life can ever offer. Today, we can breakfast in Japan, lunch in Singapore and dine at New Delhi. This is all because of the faster means of travel. The Internet has revolutionised communication. Today we send and receive e-mails at the click of a mouse. We chat and do video conferencing with our kith and kin in any part of the world. These are just two examples of how dramatically recent technological developments have benefited and changed our life.

Furthermore, in the field of medicine, we have gadgets to diagnose cancers and many other diseases at such early stages that almost complete cures are possible. Also, if we look at the means we use to go to work, the electrical appliances we use at home, the devices we use in offices, the facilities and equipment we use in factories, we can say with certainty that recent technology has transformed our lives beyond imagination.

Admittedly, earlier technological developments did benefit and change the lives of ordinary people from the time when they were achieved, especially after the Industrial Revolution. However, it is self-evident as to what benefited and changed people's life more, telegraph or mobile phone, Phonograph or Mp4, Steam train or the monorail?

To conclude, recent developments of technology have certainly benefited and changed our lives more than the earlier ones did.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Recent developments

- *IT revolution*
- *Developments in travel*

Para 2: More examples

- *In medicine*
- *In other fields*

Para 3: Earlier developments – they also changed the life of the then people

Conclusion: recent developments of technology have certainly benefited and changed our lives more than the earlier ones did

375. Technological progress in the past century has its negative effect, despite its remarkable contribution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Technological progress began in the late 19th century and the 20th century but that brought about more benefits than harms but the technological progress of the 21st century has crossed all boundaries that human beings could ever envisage. I definitely agree with the statement that technological progress has its dark side also despite its stupendous contribution.

The most significant progress in the 21stcentury is in the field of Information Technology. It has brought a revolution in the field of communication. Distances are no longer a barrier and the whole big planet Earth has become a global village. However, the same technology when used by terrorists can cause havoc in the life of humans. For example, who has not heard of the 26th November terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India? Terrorist with the help of the latest communication technology did all the planning.

In the field of transport, we have superfast jet planes and international tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world, but this has also lead to environmental pollution and excessive consumption of fossil fuels, which is a non-renewable energy source. It has been rightly said that, "Modern technology, owes ecology, an apology." What is more, in the quest for an unending source of energy, progress has been made in the field of nuclear technology but the construction of a nuclear power plant can also cause major threat to human life if a radiation leak occurred.

Technological progress has left no place untouched. Even in homes, people have the microwave ovens, dishwashers and washing machines to make life simpler but what is seen is that people have lost moral values and face-to-face communication has taken a back seat. In offices, computers finish work in minutes, which earlier took days to complete, but it has been seen that the expectation for work has also risen and men have had to become workaholics. Automation has made possible mass production but unemployment has also risen.

Summing up, technological progress has both pros and cons and the onus lies on us to use it for our benefit only otherwise it can become a boomerang for humanity and ultimately destroy our planet.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree.
Para 1: Most significant effect – on IT
Para 2: Effects on transport
Para 3: Effects on homes
Conclusion: technological progress has both pros and cons and the onus lies on us to use it for our benefit only otherwise it can become a boomerang for humanity and ultimately destroy our planet

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376. With technology speeding up, more and more young people begin to use mobile phones and the Internet, but old people have little chance to be exposed to them. What ways could mobile phone and the Internet be useful to old people? How can old people be encouraged to use this new technology?

It is irrefutable that the young generation of today is technophile and is very comfortable with mobile phones and internet whereas the elderly are uneasy with the latest technological devices. This essay shall delve into how the mobile phone and the Internet could be useful for the senior citizens and ways to encourage them to use such technology.

Mobile phones and the Internet could be beneficial to old people in various ways. To begin with, we all know that a major problem the elderly face is of social isolation. Nuclear families predominate these days and even in nuclear families, children have to leave their parents to seek greener pastures abroad. Through these technologies the elderly can connect with their kith and kin that live far away from them. For example, through the Internet, they can chat with their grandchildren and also see them through web camera.

Furthermore, the elderly face a lot of health problems, for which they can use the technology to get timely help. Through mobile phone they can call the ambulance or their relatives any time and get timely medical help. Through the Internet they can get consultation of any doctor in any part of the world by showing their digital x-ray or MRI scan. Another advantage of such technology to the elderly is that they can entertain themselves through these gadgets. They have a lot of free time and they can listen to religious hymns, visit sacred and holy places on the net, which they can't otherwise visit because of failing health. They can also do net-banking, online shopping and also book their rail tickets and air tickets online.

There are a lot of ways to motivate the elderly to use these gadgets. Firstly, they can be made aware of the various ways such things can help them. The government and NGOs can open free training centres to appraise them with this technology. Grandchildren can teach their grandparents about these gadgets. Too many features on mobile phones deter the elderly from using them. So, user-friendly models could be made especially for them. Finally, these gadgets could be made available to the elderly at subsidized rates.

To sum up, there is an unending list of how mobile phones and internet could help the elderly but a little effort is required to make them techno-savvy.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into how the mobile phone and Internet could be useful for the senior citizens and ways to encourage them to use such technology

Para 1: How mobile phones and Internet could be useful to the elderly

Para 2: More uses

Para 3: How the elderly can be motivated to use these technologies

Conclusion: there is an unending list of how mobile phones and internet could help the elderly but a little effort is required to make them techno-savvy

377. Some people think that access to Internet is necessary to live a full life? Do you agree or disagree?

With growing presence of Internet in our lives, questions about its importance in life have also arisen. In this context, some people are of the opinion that to enjoy a full life, we need Internet. I agree with this notion as well. A number of arguments support my opinion.

There is no dearth of examples, which depict that Internet usage, is more than just a luxury today, and has become a basic human need. The first and foremost area where the Internet has become indispensable is employment. Internet know-how is not merely a job requirement today but also pivotal in getting jobs, as a lot of companies nowadays only advertise job opportunities online. Moreover, some of the application forms for the exams have to be filled online.

The second area where Internet access is paramount is social networking. Social networking does not mean making friends online, as it still happens offline, but it is about maintaining friendships, which seems almost impossible without Internet today. To cite a personal example, I have lost touch with many of my friends who do not have a presence online or are not active online. On the other hand, some of my friends who are active online are closer to me than they were when we became friends. Furthermore, the governments have also started acknowledging Internet as a basic need today and this is evident by the inclusion of Internet in basic consumption baskets that is used to determine poverty line in developing countries like India.

Admittedly, just a few years back when Internet's presence wasn't so all encompassing, people still lived without any issues. And there are still many countries in the world, where people do not have Internet access. Rather than thinking of Internet as a necessity many individuals believe Internet to be nuisance, which has actually made us selfish and more self-absorbed. Similarly, some consider its use to be an addiction. News about children acting out and committing suicides due to the issues like cyber bullying, etcetera does add weight to their argument.

In conclusion, it can be said that the Internet has become key to succeeding in this integrated world of today. As for the downsides of this development, it is an individual's responsibility to use the Internet wisely and mitigate the associated problems.

Plan followed

Intro: Paraphrase, Agree
Para 1: Internet a necessity for employment
Para 2: Role of internet in everyday life
Para 3: Negative aspects of Internet
Conclusion:

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378. In the last century when a human astronaut first arrived on the Moon he said: "It is a big step for mankind". But some people think it makes little difference to our daily life. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Almost every day we read something in the papers about the latest exciting developments in the space race. Many people are of the view that all the money and energy spent on space exploration and research is a complete waste because it has no effect on our daily life. I, however, disagree. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss how space research has touched our lives in more ways than one.

Space research has touched the life of the common man in myriad ways. The secondary uses of space research are called spin-offs. The common smoke detector used in homes was first prepared for spacecrafts as a warning system. Computer bar codes in retail stores, shock absorbing shoes used by tennis players and athletes, lightweight materials used for helmets and sporting materials and nonstick coating used in pans, were all first developed as part of space research.

Space technology has provided many benefits to the medical field as well. Pace makers used to treat cardiac as well as remote monitoring devices for intensive care patients, and portable medical equipment carried aboard ambulances are but a few applications of space technology providing daily benefits in hospitals, offices and homes. Artificial limbs of lesser weight are also a byproduct of space research, and these are a blessing for the physically challenged.

Not only that, it is well known that global warming will soon transform our Earth into a boiling pot. Then it would be very essential to find alternative places to live. If we were able to find signs of life elsewhere in space, it would be a jackpot for mankind.

To sum up, space exploration and research has touched our everyday lives in numerous ways. So, it definitely is a big step for mankind.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: Some spin-offs of space research, which have touched the common man
Para 2: More ways in which space research has touched the common man – in medical field
Para 3: Why it is necessary to see possibilities of life in space
Conclusion: So, it definitely is a big step for mankind.

379. In the future, it seems it would be more difficult to live on Earth. Some people think more money should be spent researching on other planet to live such as Mars. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Global warming is occurring at an unprecedented speed, and if the present trends continue, it will become increasingly difficult to sustain life on Earth. I agree that it is vital to tackle this problem, but I disagree that we should waste our resources in finding a new planet to live. I firmly believe that some other more practical solutions should be researched upon.

To begin with, there is no doubt that life is not as easy as it was in the past. The main problem is the growing level of environmental pollution, which has affected life adversely in all parts of the world. The rising consumption of natural resources such as gas, oil and coal has resulted in an enormous amount of carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere, which has spoiled the air quality and hastened climate change. If things go on like this the future scenario is apparently going to be bleak.

However, spending money on finding another home in space for all people on Earth would not be an effective measure. First, there is little hope of seeking a planet that has favourable conditions for life. In addition, the cost of researching such a planet would be exorbitant. At a time when millions of people are suffering from poverty, homelessness and illiteracy, it would be better to spend on the present problems and leave the future in the bucket list.

I believe that instead of spending on research on space, a much better solution would be to invest in environmental projects and encourage people to lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. For example, green energy should be harnessed and made more available to replace our dependence on fossil fuels. People should also opt for public transport rather than driving their vehicles. Such actions can cut exhaust emissions and slow down the effects of global warming, making the earth a more desirable place for us all.

To conclude, I reiterate that although global warming is making Earth uninhabitable, researching outer planets for scope of life is not the plausible solution. It would be more worthwhile to spend those resources on improving life on Earth.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why life on Earth is worsening
Para 2: Why spending money on other planets is not the right solution
Para 3: What can be done instead
Conclusion:

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380. Animals are in danger of extinction. Some people say that we should protect only those animals, which are useful to humans. Do you agree or disagree?

Animal extinction has become a matter of great concern. I disagree with the given statement that we should conserve only those animals, which are beneficial to humans. I believe that all animals have direct or indirect effect on mankind. It has been rightly said that plans to protect wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.

The most important reason for saving all animals is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value and the fur of the mink is very valuable. The recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behavior. Such study has helped scientists understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that working for their conservation has become a necessity.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that saving all the animal species on the verge of extinction is well justified. All animals have direct or indirect relation to humans. So we should not work to save only those few species, which have a visible effect on humans.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Part of ecological chain – interconnected
Para 2: Provide us many things
Para 3: Aesthetic appeal
Para 4: we humans responsible for the damage to them
Conclusion:

Similar: Some animal species, such as the dinosaurs and dodos, became extinct as a result of natural causes. Thus, extinction is a normal part the world's evolution and actions should not be taken to prevent the disappearance of today's endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree?

381. Many animal species in the world are becoming extinct nowadays. Some people say that countries and individuals should protect these animals from dying out, while others say we should concentrate more on problems of human beings. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In the past few decades, animal extinction has become rampant because of human activity. Therefore, some people opine that it is imperative to save these dying species, whereas others believe in focusing more on human problems. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main reason why some people are in favour of conserving endangered species is that these species are part of our ecological chain. The removal of a single species can set off a chain reaction affecting many others. For example, the gray wolf was once on the verge of extinction but has now been restored to Yellowstone National Park. These grey wolves control the growing population of elk, which had been over consuming the trees that grew along streams. These trees are now cooling the stream water, which is benefitting native trout. These trees are also the habitat for migratory birds. Beavers now have willow branches to eat, and beaver dams create marshland habitat for otters, mink, and ducks. So, it can be seen that saving one species has led to benefit many other species, which would have otherwise also gone into extinction.

Another benefit of conserving endangered animals is their contribution to the field of medicine. Each living thing contains a unique reservoir of genetic material that cannot be retrieved or duplicated if lost. More than a quarter of all prescriptions written annually in the United States contain chemicals discovered in plants and animals. Furthermore, many species of animals are benefitting agriculture. Farmers are using insects and other animals that prey on certain crop pests, as well as using plants containing natural toxins that repel harmful insects. They are a safe, effective, and less expensive alternative to synthetic chemicals. Therefore, each and every species has its own unique value and so should be saved.

On the other hand, those who say that the governments should focus on other more pressing issues instead of endangered species, argue that in many countries, human beings are still suffering from poverty, famine, epidemics and natural disasters. If the limited government budget is allocated to animal conservation, many people will face huge difficulty making a living. Therefore, many people believe that protecting basic human rights should be the top priority of these countries.

In conclusion, protecting wildlife is of great significance, as it is a vital cornerstone of the survival and future development of mankind. However, funds should also be allocated to the other basic needs of humans.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of conservation
Para 2: more advantages of conservation
Para 3: other view
Conclusion:

Similar: Some people hold the view that we should spend money and time on the protection of wild animals, while others suggest that the money should be spent on populations living in the poorest areas of the world. What is your opinion?

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382. Some people say that too much attention and resources are given to protect wild animals and birds. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In recent times, there has been a great hue and cry over the money and efforts being spent on conservation of wild animals and birds. However, I disagree with the given statement that 'a lot' is being done for them. I believe that whatever is done for them can never be 'too much'. It has been rightly said that – "Animals gone, Trees gone, Humans gone".

The most important reason for saving wild animals and birds is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value, and the fur of the mink is very valuable. Moreover, the recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behavior. Such study has helped scientists understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that spending an exorbitant amount on saving them has become a necessity.

To sum up, the resources spent on these animals and plants, are well justified. Wildlife is Mother Nature's greatest treasure. To protect it, we must take every measure.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Part of ecological chain – interconnected
Para 2: Provide us many things
Para 3: Aesthetic appeal
Para 4: We humans responsible for the damage to them
Conclusion:

Similar Essay: *Wild animals have no place in the 21st century, and the protection is a waste of resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

383. Human activities have negative effects on plant and animal species. Some people think it is too late to do anything about this problem. Others believe that effective measures can be taken to improve this situation. Discuss both views and give our opinion.

Human activities, such as deforestation and urbanization, have narrowed the space for other species on the Earth or even threatened their existence. Some believe that the damage is irreversible and so we can do nothing, whereas others persist in carrying out effective measures to alleviate the current situation. This essay intends to examine both perspectives. However, I personally side with the latter view.

Those who say that nothing can be done to address the loss of animal and plant species give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they give examples of the species which have already been lost and cannot be brought back. For example, the South Andean toad became extinct in 1968, and the Sri Lanka legume tree died out completely in the 1980s. They even point out that if these species are brought back, there is no room for them to survive today. The dinosaurs are a good example in this context. If, by some miracle, these come back, there is no room for them to grow and proliferate. Finally, they claim that it is futile to save the weak species, unless these species themselves are able to continue their life.

On the other hand, the main reason why some people say that steps can be taken to conserve the endangered animal and plant species is that if humans took simple steps, then the species on the verge of extinction could still breed and multiply. For example, if overexploitation of natural resources is reduced, hunting and smuggling of wild animals is banned, overgrazing and over cultivation is stopped and afforestation is encouraged, then many animal and plant species would not go into extinction.

I believe that we should not give up hope and try to do something for saving these species. For example, there are many successful steps taken by the government and the NGOs to prove that if we try, we can achieve. For instance, the 'Royal Bengal Tiger', our national animal, was once on the verge of extinction, but with the efforts of our government and some NGOs we have succeeded in bringing up their numbers. People also donated a lot for the 'Save the tiger' project, which was advertised through the media. Many other steps, such as using pre-fabricated materials for doors and windows, has reduced the cutting of trees for wood.

To sum up, although human activities have done a lot of harm to the animal and plant species, it is still not late to make a beginning. Although we cannot reverse the damage, we can stop a lot of further damage, which is otherwise imminent.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: First perspective – why it is too late

Para 2: Second perspective – we can still do a lot

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: There is still time and it is never too late to begin.

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384. Far too little has been done to prevent animals and plants from dying out, although people have been aware of this problem for a long time. Why do people do so little about it? Give your suggestions on how to solve this problem.

It is irrefutable that people know about the endangered animal and plant species but do not take enough efforts to save them. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss the reasons why people are so indifferent towards this problem and suggest some ways forward.

There are many reasons why people are doing so little about it. Firstly, people nowadays are very busy coping with the pace of the 24/7 society that this global village is offering. They are running mad in the rat race of material comforts and working hard to achieve them. They have become victims of this consumerist society and as a consequence, have become workaholics. They do not have time to care about animals and plants. They do not even know that their luxuries are at the cost of animal and plant life.

Another reason for people's indifference towards extinction of animals and plants is that they are unaware about the consequences of the extinction of animal and plant species. For instance, they do not know that if the ecological chain is disturbed, it would have an impact on them only in the long run. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. Some of these plants are important for medical research and the development of medicines.

The solutions need to be implemented on a war footing. There should be increased awareness about consequences of this phenomenon. Secondly, with funding, biologists and naturalists can use their years of knowledge to help in the breeding of various animal species. Furthermore, since people are often responsible for habitat destruction, it is only right that they use some resources to help preserve whatever important wildlife habitats are left. Trees should not be cut for housing and furniture. Instead, high-rise buildings should be made and aluminium doors and windows should be used.

Summing up, people should be made aware of the consequences of animal and plant extinction and active steps should be taken to preserve these species.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss why people don't do enough and suggest solutions
Para 1: People have no time
Para 2: People don't know the consequences
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusions:

385. Some people think people can exploit animals for any purpose they need, while others do not think so. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

The discussion about whether or not animals should be used for the benefit of humans is a very debatable one. Some individuals are of the opinion that we can exploit animals for our benefit. Others hold the opposite view. In this essay I intend to look at both sides of the argument. I personally side with the latter view.

Those who say that it is acceptable if humans exploit animals argue that humans have always used animals in many different ways, for example, as food, for work, and in research. To begin with, using animals for food reflects what happens throughout the animal kingdom where carnivorous, or meat-eating, animals kill other animals for food. Moreover, humans have achieved dominance over animals and are able to use them to work, for example in the fields or to pull carts and other transport. Finally, animals undoubtedly suffer during medical research, but this research may prevent humans from suffering in the future.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people argue that it is wrong to cause suffering to animals for the benefit of humans. Firstly, meat is not a necessary part of people's diet, and there are many healthy vegetarians around the world who prove this. Secondly, technology has largely replaced the use of animals in the fields and for transport. Finally, research carried out on animals is often not valid for human cases as an animal's reactions may be very different from those of a human. There are useful alternative forms of research available now, such as the use of tissue cell cultures. More and more people are unhappy to cause suffering to animals if there is an alternative.

In conclusion, I believe that animals should not be used for human gain. It is time to concentrate resources on developing alternative sources of food and methods of research and allow animals a pain-free existence.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at both sides of the argument before forming an opinion.
Para 1: Why animal exploitation is justified
Para 2: Why animal experimentation is not justified
Conclusion:

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386. *In the modern world, it is no longer necessary to use animals for food or use animal products, for instance, clothing and medicines. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Trying to live without exploiting animals for food, clothing or medicine can certainly be done nowadays, and people in the modern world seem to agree that it is not at all justified to eat meat, clothe in leather, or use animals as medical research subjects. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that we can do without animal products.

To begin with, a vegetarian diet has proven to be a healthy choice. The earlier beliefs that vegetarian diet is deficient in proteins and other micronutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, have been challenged successfully. On top of that, a vegetarian diet, is rich in fiber, prevents cancer of the colon, which is the most prevalent cancers in the West, where people mostly eat non-vegetarian food. Even the vegans, the very strict vegetarians, who do not even use animal products such as milk and eggs, have not been seen to be suffering from any malnutrition. So we can safely spare the animals from becoming our source of such nutrition.

Talking about clothes, today pure leather shoes and garments can be easily replaced by faux leather, which is just like pure leather and only a true connoisseur can tell the difference. Such products have the added advantage of being easier on the pocket, as their initial cost is also less and the maintenance cost is also lesser that of pure leather products. So, even for clothing, animals can be left alone.

It is true that animals have been used for experimenting new drugs and are also the source of many medicines, but for that too today we have computer-simulated experiments, which give better results than those done on animals. Therefore, animals are not needed anymore in this field also. It is beyond argument that for this Earth to go the distance, we must respect nature and its elements. We mustn't abuse or exploit the animal kingdom because preserving those results in long term and ultimate good for mankind.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that it is definitely possible to lead a good life without depending on animal products, and so we have no right to exploit animals.

Plan followed:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: no need to use them for food
Para 2: no need to use them for clothes
Para 3: no need to use them for medicines
Conclusion:

387. Some people think that using animals for experimentation purpose is cruel, but other people think that it is necessary for the development of science. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Animal experimentation has been a debated issue for many decades. Some people believe that scientists locking up animals in a laboratory environment is not what nature intended, whereas others believe that laboratory animals perform a great service for humans. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

Those who are against animal experimentation, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, animals are also sentient beings, and people have no right to exploit them for their selfish motives. Secondly, animals are very different from humans and so what is tested on animals cannot be applied to humans. Finally, unnecessary experiments are done just for new cosmetics, which are not even needed, which is bad.

On the other hand, the main advantage cited by those in favour animal experimentation is in testing newly discovered drugs. For many years now, scientists have been working hard to develop cures for diseases. From time to time, new medicines and drugs are created, which may be a solution to a serious illness affecting mankind. In order to determine if there is any level of danger in these drugs, these are first tested on animals. For example, In 1952, a drug, Thalidomide, was used for vomiting of pregnancy. Obviously, it was not tested properly. All the children born had seal-like limbs. By the time it was known that thalidomide was responsible, it was too late, and much harm had been done.

Another reason for justification of animal experimentation is that the effect of any drug can be seen over generations. We all know that the life span of guinea pigs used for experimentation is very small, only 3-4 years, and so the effect of drugs can be tested over generations. Even if humans volunteered for testing, it would take many years to test whether the effect passed from one generation to the other.

Summing up, animals are not humans. Although the life of animals in a lab is regrettable, I much prefer a guinea pig to die than a human being. The human need must always come first. It is sad that any living thing must suffer, but the use of laboratory animals in testing new products made today, would go a long way towards helping humankind enjoy a better tomorrow.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion: Animal experimentation is justified

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388. Some people think that the government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists including painters, musicians and poets, etc. However, other people think that it is a waste of money. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Many people's lives are richer because of art - music, paintings, calligraphy, pictures, sculpture, poems and dance. There are some who claim that it is important to support the artists, and others who are opposed to government funding. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people say that the government should fund artists. To begin with, art is a means of communication and of diffusing tradition. For example, people learn about their history, traditions and culture through movies, songs and paintings made by artists. So, artists are the ambassadors of culture and play a vital role in elevating the level of civilization of the country. Art is a major form of cultural abundance. Another important aspect is that artists entertain us. Finally, government should fund artists because earning a livelihood from art is difficult, especially in the budding stages.

Opponents of government funding on artists say that money spent on the arts should be used for considerably more vital purposes. They have strong reasons as a nation's health and wellbeing should be paramount. The idea that elderly people are forced to wait for essential operations, whilst the money required to increase available medical provision is spent on opera and ballet is plainly immoral. There are also more deserving social causes for the money that should be considered before the arts. Homelessness, unemployment and illiteracy - all of these deserve to be addressed before money is spent on what is essentially little more than entertainment.

I believe that spending on art is as important as spending on other areas, as art is also a basic human need. Art is what differentiates humans from animals and makes humans the most superior of all animals. Art gives people a reason to live their life. So, spending on art can never be a waste of money.

To summarise, I would like to say that even though both sides have strong arguments, spending on arts is a must, but funds allocated for spending on basic healthcare and education should not be diverted to the Arts. There should be separate funding for Arts, as it is as important as other basic necessities.

Plan followed:
Intro: I shall discuss both sides of the argument and finally give my opinion
Para 1: why government should fund artists
Para 2: More contribution of artists
Para 3: Opponents views
Conclusion:

389. Some people say that the government should not put money on building theatres and sports stadiums. They should spend more money on medical care and education. Do you agree or disagree?

It is a highly debatable issue whether the government should spend money on healthcare and education rather than on theatres and sports stadiums. In my opinion, all these things are important for the people and therefore, the government should allocate equal resources for both.

On the one hand, basic medical care is very important for the general public. If people are healthy, there will be more productivity of work and the country will prosper as a whole. There are many people who live below the poverty line and it is the government's responsibility that they should receive medical aid whenever needed. There are also the elderly who have paid taxes throughout their working life and now need good medical care.

Moreover, good education facilities are also the duty of the government. Today, there are a number of children from deprived backgrounds who get substandard education. They would definitely require a high quality of education if they were to succeed in later life. What is more, an educated society has less crime and violence and the country gets good recognition in the whole world if its people are educated.

On the other hand, theatres and sports stadiums are equally essential for people. Art and entertainment is also a basic human need. Theatrical shows provide entertainment and at the same time preserve our culture and tradition. Our artists earn name and fame for our country. Sports stadiums, similarly, attract millions of spectators to watch matches every year. Many more millions watch games on television, read about them in newspapers, and discuss them with their friends. Therefore, we cannot say that these are unnecessary expenditures and therefore the government should ignore them.

Summing up, medicine and education are needs that we recognize, but theatrical or sports events are also basic needs. Therefore, governments should allocate resources for both these things.

Plan followed

Intro: The government should allocate equal funds for both
Para 1: Importance of spending on health
Para 2: Importance of spending on education
Para 3: Importance of spending on theatres and sports stadiums
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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390. Many countries spend a lot of money in art. Some people think investment in art is necessary, but others say money is better spent on improving health and education. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

There are some who claim that it is important to maintain the arts, and an equal number of people who are opposed to continued government funding. In this essay I shall discuss both perspectives. I personally believe that the government should reserve equal funds for the arts and other essential services, as arts is also a basic human requirement.

There are many reasons why some people say that investment on arts is essential. To begin with, art is a means of communication and of diffusing tradition. For example, people learn about their history, traditions and culture through movies, songs and paintings made by artists. So, artists are the ambassadors of culture and play a vital role in elevating the level of civilization of the country. Art is a major form of cultural abundance. Another important aspect is that artists entertain us. Finally, government should fund artists because earning a livelihood from art is difficult, especially in the budding stages.

On the other hand, the strongest point against spending on arts is that this money should be used for considerably more vital purposes. Firstly, a nation's health and wellbeing should always be given priority. The idea that elderly people are forced to wait for essential operations whilst the money required to increase available medical provision is spent on opera and ballet is plainly immoral. In addition to health concerns, there are also more deserving social causes such as homelessness and unemployment. These deserve to be addressed before money is spent on what is essentially little more than entertainment. So, enough funding should be reserved for the education sector.

I believe that spending on art is as important as spending on other areas, as art is also a basic human need. Art is what differentiates humans from animals and makes humans the most superior of all animals. Art gives people a reason to live their life. So, spending on art can never be a waste of money. Undoubtedly, health and education are important, and so the government should reserve enough funds for these sectors, but arts should not be ignored.

To sum up, I would like to say that even though both sides have strong arguments, spending on arts is a must. The funds allocated for spending on basic healthcare and education should not be diverted to the Arts. There should be separate funding for Arts, as it is as important as other basic necessities.

Plan followed:
Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

391. Today, the advanced science and technology have made great changes to people's life, but artists such as musicians, painters and writers are still highly valued. What can arts tell us about life that science and technology cannot?

It is irrefutable that artists as well as scientists bring many benefits to society. The role of art as well as science is different yet inextricably linked. In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the role of both in our lives. What is certain is that both types are valuable, priceless and irreplaceable for every society.

The contributions of artists to the society are very essential. Art can bring out people's creativity, views and personalities. For example, we learn about our history, traditions and culture through movies, songs and paintings made by artists. Art also entertains us. Another important aspect of this is that art is an ancient means of communication. Our language is a result of people's need to communicate. Appreciation of art is what differentiates us from animals.

From the other side, the contribution of scientists cannot be exaggerated. All humankind is indebted to the scientists because of their work and achievements. Scientists make our life easier. We have cars and aeroplanes to move fast from one place to another. We have microwaves and ready-to-eat foods to make cooking much easier. We have different devices that simplify all we do. Finally, scientists are making great achievements in medicines that make our life longer and happier. Nowadays people have a great opportunity to do many things faster by use of computers.

Science and technology give us better life but arts tell us how to live that life. In Science truths are proved and phenomena are explained. In art they are interpreted. We enjoy what science brings to us. But we cannot be satisfied with the material things. What we want most is the emotion from their deep hearts, which can only be obtained from art. Art cannot be valued as certain amount of money, not like the productions of science. Take Van Gogh's painting for instance. It cannot be rated by the value of dyes and canvas. The sensation in mankind's heart is priceless. That's why art isn't equal to science. Art makes people enjoy life, gives people the pleasure of living from the mental level. That's where art differs from science.

To conclude, artists nourish our souls when scientists and technology feed our minds. So, we cannot eliminate or underestimate one of them.

Plan followed:

Intro: In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the role of both in our lives.
Para 1: Contribution of artists
Para 2: Contribution of scientists
Para 3: comparisons (a beautiful paragraph)
Conclusion: artists nourish our souls when scientists and technology feed our minds. So, we cannot eliminate or underestimate one of them.

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392. Governments should focus their spending on public services rather than on arts such as Music and Painting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people argue that arts like painting and music fail to directly improve people's quality of life and consequently government should allocate money on other things like infrastructures to promote people's quality of life. However, I disagree with this view. In this essay, I will explain why I think that arts, such as music and painting, is as essential for people as other public services.

The advantages of spending money on arts cannot be overlooked. The arts clearly make people's lives better. To begin with, the arts give us immense joy and relaxation. Consider listening to a beautiful song sitting on the sofa after a whole day's work; it really relieves the tiredness and we feel rejuvenated. Paintings, photographs and other pictures add color to our lives and often inspire people to create works of art of their own. I am not only thinking of artistic works produced by renowned artists, but also those produced by children for their parents to attach to refrigerators using magnets.

Furthermore, the arts like music and painting are part of our culture and give identity to the country. Arts also bring people together. By appreciating arts, individuals from different parts of the nation could feel connected and related. Moreover, arts like music and painting can help us express our emotions. It is a basic human need to be able to express themselves. Art is what differentiates us from animals. As humans, most of us need an outlet for our creative and emotional needs and the best way to express this is through arts like music and painting.

Many people feel that the government should spend money only on certain things, such as defense, health and education. Whilst I agree that these things are important, I think that governments should be able to find a little money to spend on arts, not only because they raise our quality of life, but because they can remind us of our heritage and show the world what kind of a country and people we are.

To sum up, our government is responsible for improving the quality of people's lives both physically and spiritually, therefore proper amount of money should be allocated wisely on arts. Only by this can we progress our society in a more balanced and more sustainable way.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Benefits of arts
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

393. Some people think music plays an important role in society. Others think it is simply a form of entertainment. Discuss both sides of this argument and give your own opinion.

Music is a unique language, which is understood by everyone on this planet. It is the soul of the universe. There are different views as to the importance of music. Some say it is purely for entertainment. Others opine that it has many other functions. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, personally, side with the latter view.

The main reason why some people say that music is just a type of amusement, is that it helps to cheer everyone up. When people come home after a hectic day's work and they need some entertainment, they play music and it calms them and they feel relaxed. Music is also played in parties and ceremonies to entertain everyone. Young people dance to the beat of music and release their pent-up energy.

On the other hand, those who say that music plays a vital role in society, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, music links people to their culture and tradition. For example, the folk songs sung by great artists like Gurdas Mann are on everyone's lips. His lyrics contain many things of Punjabi culture, which are alive today because of these folk songs. Otherwise, under the influence of western culture people are forgetting their roots. Moreover, music is a lucrative profession these days. Famous singers and musicians of India, like Lata Mangeshkar and A.R. Rehman have earned millions from music and are famous in the whole world because of their musical talent.

Another role that music plays is of connecting people. When people go to a musical concert, they are with those people who share their musical tastes. Together, they feel the emotions that the music evokes. Music has always been a part of ceremonies because it has the ability to make people feel connected. To add to it, music improves concentration. Students can concentrate better if light music is played in the background because it kills the other disturbing noises.

To sum up, music is not just for entertainment. It has many roles in society such as connecting people to each other and to their culture, making them rich and famous and also relaxing them. Music is all around us. Right from the first lullaby that the mother sings to the cradle, to the dirge of the funeral pyre, music accompanies everything of life.

Plan followed:
Intro: I shall put forth both sides of the argument
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Other view
Conclusion:

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394. Towns and cities are attractive places. Some people suggest that the government should spend money putting in more works of art like paintings and statues to make them better to live in. Do you agree or disagree?

It has long been an issue of debate whether some part of the national budget should be spent on the beautification of towns and cities through works of art, like statues and paintings. I believe that it should be done, and in the following essay I will put forth my arguments in support of my views.

Art has always been an inseparable part of our lives, as it helps us express ourselves and instills happy feelings in us. Putting up statues or sculptures in open areas, gives an opportunity to people to enjoy it and acts as a distraction from the monotony of everyday activities. Research has proved that appreciating art helps people relieve stress. In addition, during tough times, people need some form of art to release tension. It could be through music, dance, painting, etc. Having sculptures, statues or murals in public places, gives an access to people from all strata's of society to enjoy art and refresh their mind.

Moreover, installing statues in public places is not only a way to commemorate a famous historical figure, but also is an interesting way for children to learn about the history or the accomplishments of that person. India has a rich culture and history and in most of the towns and cities there are statues of famous persons or those depicting historical events. For example, in my hometown, there is a statue of Dr. B.R Ambedkar. Everyone who passes by that statue reads about him and children are fascinated by it and know all about Dr. Ambedkar.

Another added advantage is that statues become a tourist attraction and people like to visit places, which have a rich history, art and culture. This helps the local business and thus, helps make the economy of the place better. For example, the Rock Garden in Chandigarh has modern sculptures made of trash, which attract a lot of tourists from all over the world.

No doubt, the government should focus more on other more important issues, like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, etc. However, art should also not take a backseat and should be focused on to make the cities and the country more beautiful and attractive, for the residents and for those who visit.

In conclusion, I would reiterate that art cannot be separated from our lives and importance should be given to making a place more appealing, by installing works of art, like sculptures, statues and paintings in public places.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: More reasons
Para 4: Opponents view with refutation
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

395. Some people say that museums should be free, whereas others opine that some entry fee should be there. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

One very complex issue in today's world is the funding of museums and art galleries. Some people argue that they should be free to the general public and funded by governments, while others believe that there should be an entrance fee, like that of other tourist attractions. This essay intends to discuss both views. I, personally side with the latter view.

Those who opine that museums should be free say that that institutions like museums are a public service, and therefore there should be free access to the man in the street. If, for example, there was a charge, only the wealthy could afford to enjoy works of art. This would not be fair as they are educational institutions and everyone should be able to learn from these museums.

On the other hand, the argument given by those in favour of charging an entry fee, is that both museums and art galleries need do so if they are to survive in the modern world. Governments do not have sufficient funds to subsidize all such institutions and there are other priorities for public money. Therefore, these galleries and museums need to charge their customers, not only to survive, but also to update their exhibitions and make new purchases. To cite an example, the Pushpa Gujral Science City in Kapurthala could not have sustained without revenue from the entry tickets.

Considering the standpoints of both sides, I believe that without an entry ticket, it would be difficult to maintain the museums. However, a day could be fixed per month when the entry could be made free for a few hours so that the common man can also go there on that day. For instance, in the Houston Museum of Natural Science, entry is free on the second Tuesday of every month, and so school trips and many other people frequent the museum on those Tuesdays. The other days are enough to earn from the entry fees.

To sum up, there is no harm if museums charge some fees for entering the museums, but it should not be very high, and then one free day could be there every month for the poor people also.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

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396. Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is irrefutable that nowadays, because of technology, armchair tourism through which we can see historical objects and works of art on a computer, has gained popularity. However, I disagree, that public museums and art galleries will no longer be needed. In fact, I believe that their popularity will grow even further.

First of all, computers can never replace real public museums and art galleries. No matter how real and vivid computer images are, they are only images and can never be likened to the historical objects and works of art that we see in real or even might be allowed to touch with our fingertips. The difference can be compared to seeing the picture of a mango rather than actually eating it.

Secondly, visiting real museums and art galleries is a rewarding experience in many respects. For one thing, it is a good exercise. While we are making the trip to a museum or art gallery and then strolling about on site, we get some exercise, which does a lot of good to our health. We generally go with family and friends and enjoy a lot. We also learn about the culture and tradition of the place. All this broadens our horizons, which can never be done by the passive activity of seeing something on the computer screen.

Finally, I believe that after seeing these objects and museums, our craving to actually see these increases even more and so we make efforts to go and see these places. The overwhelming number of tourists to these places that has been increasing year after year can prove this. At certain times, especially when it is temporarily impossible for us to visit museums and art galleries in person, we can get a rough picture of what are on display on site. However, what we see from a computer screen is, after all, not exactly the same as what we see and feel with our own eyes on site.

In conclusion, armchair tourism is there today but museums and art galleries will still be needed

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Plan followed:

Intro: I disagree, that public museums and art galleries will no longer be needed. In fact, I believe that their popularity will grow even further.

Para 1: computers can never replace real public museums and art galleries - The difference can be compared to seeing the picture of a mango rather than actually eating it

Para 2: Why visiting real museums and art galleries is a rewarding experience in many respects.

Para 3: I believe that after seeing these objects and museums, our craving to actually see these increases even more

Conclusion: armchair tourism is there today but museums and art galleries will still be needed

397. Some people think museums should be enjoyable places to attract and entertain young people, while others think the purpose of museums should be to educate, not entertain. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Museums are places where important objects of cultural, historical and scientific value are preserved and shown to the public. This function makes them play an extremely important role in disseminating human civilization. It is a topic of debate whether the main purpose of museums is to only educate or do both educate as well as entertain. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I believe that museums should do both - educate as well as entertain.

The reason given by those who opine that the main role of a museum is to educate, is that when people visit museums, they want to know the history behind the objects displayed there. Museums such as the Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad, The Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Louver, and the National Palace Museum are eye-opening experiences. Actually, the majority of those who visit museums expect to know more about the pieces of art and antiquities. Therefore, museums should focus on providing all that information in a nice and easy manner.

On the other hand, the reason given in favour of museums becoming entertainment sources is that in this way the people visiting these will increase and more revenue will be generated for the maintenance of the museums. If museums focus only on education and do not make things interesting, then they will not be visited much and even their function of education will not be fulfilled. If museums will be fun places to visit, then young people would be encouraged to learn more about history and culture from the various things that museums display.

I believe museums should do both – educate as well as entertain. Today's interactive museums are always crowded. This is because people enjoy and learn at the same time. In the planetarium, one feels one is actually in space. This arouses curiosity to know more about the planets and satellites. However, museums should not overdo the entertainment and go astray—by which I mean museums should make it clear that they are not purely a source of entertainment, like a disco bar, cinema or amusement park.

To sum up, museums should try their best to educate people and this can be better done if they make learning fun especially for today's youth.

Plan followed:

Intro: It is a topic of debate whether the main purpose of museums is to only educate or do both educate as well as entertain
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: museums should try their best to educate people and this can be better done if they make learning fun especially for today's youth

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398. Museums and art galleries should concentrate on local works, not showing the cultures or artworks from other countries. To what extent do you agree?

Today many local artists and painting are not finding patrons and the recognition they deserve. In this context it is considered that museum and art galleries should focus only on indigenous art and culture instead of foreign art. I disagree with this notion though I do feel local artists need increased support as well. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The opinion that museums should concentrate only on local art stems from the very fact that local art and traditions are dying in many places. Museums and art galleries provide a platform for local artists to showcase their art and talent. Art connoisseurs can meet new and upcoming artists from the area and encourage and provide them patronage if they like their work.

Another reason for this belief is that museums are a big attraction for tourists. It gives them a chance to know about local culture and traditions. However, if museums are portraying works from foreign artists, then where will the tourists get information about local culture and traditions? It might also impact tourism as tourists may lose their interest in such museums.

On the other hand, the main criticism against museums only showcasing local culture is that it might actually impact their appeal, amongst local people. If museums and art galleries were only limited to local artwork then local people would lose a reason to visit such places. Local people get a chance to know about foreign cultures, history, and foreign artwork by visiting museums and art galleries, which promote global artwork.

The second argument for promoting global art is that if there were not enough local art, museums might be forced to also show some lackluster work, which might fail to attract visitors. The fears about local artists not finding platforms are also overrated, as in my opinion if the art is good, it would definitely find patronage and recognition.

In conclusion, museums and artwork should showcase all art, local as well global. True art knows no boundaries and we shouldn't try to impose any on it as well

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why people say only local art should be shown
Para 2: Another reason
Para 3: In favour of global art
Para 4: In favour of global art
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

399. Many countries construct modern buildings to give good view of towns and cities. Some people say that countries should make new buildings with traditional style to preserve their culture as part of their identity. Do you agree or disagree?

Architecture plays an astronomical role in our lives. Modern buildings have their own aesthetic appeal, because of which planners are constructing such buildings. Although traditional buildings give an identity to a place and preserve the culture, I disagree that modern buildings should be built in traditional styles. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, in most large cities, land is scarce and consequently it is very valuable. This has led to the construction of tall buildings, which occupy only a small area of land while providing lots of floor space where people can live or work. We also have to meet the needs of the growing population for which tall buildings are the answer. Moreover, there would be no need for deforestation to provide more land.

Secondly, modern materials are more practical. Now we use concrete and steel instead of stone, timber or brick. Because of these things buildings can be built comparatively quickly using prefabricated materials. They do not use local materials, such as stone, timber or brick, which used to give character to those buildings. Finally, changes are taking place in climate and energy sources are depleting fast. So we need energy efficient houses. Modern buildings use double glass front walls and POP (Plaster of Paris) ceilings, which lessen the energy requirements. Moreover, now we need smaller houses as family structure is changing.

However, I believe that every city should preserve the already existing historic buildings, which give character and identity to the city. The various forts and palaces in Rajasthan, India have been preserved and are being used to attract tourism. I agree with this kind of initiative taken by the government.

To conclude, it is the need of the day that modern buildings should be built in today's contemporary styles. However, to give identity to a place one or two historic buildings may be preserved in every city.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Land is scarce – population growing – tall modern buildings are the answer

Para 2: Secondly, modern materials are more practical Finally, changes are taking place in climate and energy sources are depleting fast.

Para 3: importance of traditional buildings, which are already there

Conclusion:

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400. There are more new towns being built nowadays. It is more important to include public parks and sports facilities than shopping centres for individuals to spend their free time. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Building healthy, functional, and productive cities is perhaps the greatest challenge facing humanity today. A key part of these cities is the public spaces. I disagree with the given statement, which says that parks and sports facilities are better than shopping centres as public spaces. I firmly believe that shopping centres are as important as parks and sports facilities, so when designing new towns, all these public spaces should be given equal importance.

To begin with, public parks if developed as "places" and planned around major public destinations, build social connection and human happiness — both precious commodities in an increasingly congested urban landscape. A great urban park is a safety valve for the city, where people living in high density can find breathing room. Public parks are places where all people feel safe to play and relax, and can relieve stress. Another benefit is that crime rates and gang activities go down when more people are out on the street and know their neighbors. These places also have substantial environmental benefits. Trees reduce air and water pollution and thus they help to keep cities cooler.

Furthermore, sports facilities need to be designed and constructed so as to be functional as well as attractive in a way that encourages people to do sports and boost their feeling of wellbeing. Modern lifestyle is very sedentary, and such public spaces such as stadia and playgrounds would definitely promote active living and provide important physical, psychological and social health benefits for individuals and the community.

Visiting a shopping centre is one of most desirable activities of people everywhere in the world. Today, it is observed that shopping centers are used as public spaces by many urban inhabitants. Shopping centers have become places where social life is experienced and leisure time is spent through a wide range of activities offered besides shopping. For example, some shopping malls have skating rinks, where parents and children can spend good time together and have fun. The elderly come there for sitting and relaxing on the sofas and couches placed at regular intervals.

To sum up, public parks, sports facilities and shopping centres are all equally important public spaces. They are different, but have a common role of improving the life of urban residents in their own specific way.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of parks
Para 2: Importance of sporting facilities
Para 3: Importance of shopping complexes
Conclusion:

401. It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing a building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree?

It is understandable that the utility of buildings is more important than beauty. However, I disagree that architects should not make efforts about making artistic buildings. I believe that today's architects have the expertise and the resources to design buildings, which are both – beautiful and useful.

A good building should satisfy the three principles of durability, utility and beauty. It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition. It should be useful and function well for the people using it. It should delight people and raise their spirits. A good architect should strive to fulfil each of these three attributes as much as possible.

To begin with, the burgeoning population and the scarcity of land today have raised the debate whether the buildings of today should only be useful and not beautiful. However, the skyscrapers of today are the answers to both these problems. They accommodate a lot of people in the least amount of space and these skyscrapers are architectural marvels in terms of beauty.

Secondly, the natural resources are limited and it is the need of the hour to make energy efficient buildings. For example, using solar panels and other energy saving measures are the need of the day. Today's architects have been successful in designing aesthetically appealing solar panels, which need less space. The climate changes that are taking place because of global warming, need buildings that need less air conditioning and yet remain cool.

To summarise, it is imperative for architects to understand function, and aesthetics both. It is a big responsibility to have buildings, which are both useful and beautiful and architects of today have the capability, to do so.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree.

Para 1: What should a good building have

Para 2: The modern skyscrapers are both – beautiful and utilitarian

Para 3: Need of the hour is to make energy efficient buildings –

Conclusion: It is a big responsibility to have buildings, which are both useful and beautiful and architects of today have the capability to do so

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402. Some people say that vertical city is best where people live and work in tall buildings. Others say that horizontal city is better where there are few tall buildings. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

As the global population is rising, and cities are becoming more crowded, the planners are in a dilemma as to which way to spread. The traditional spread is horizontal, in which cities grow outwards, whereas the vertical spread is upwards in which cities are growing upwards. Supporters of both have their arguments, which shall be discussed in this essay. I personally believe that horizontal cities are better for a good quality of life, but vertical cities would be the need of the coming times.

The concept of the 'Vertical City' is fascinating and attractive to some people, for many reasons. In these types of cities there are tall buildings, which accommodate a larger number of people. We all know that the population is burgeoning, and it is estimated that by 2050, more than 75% of the population will be in cities. Land is scarce and so the only option is to go upwards.

Secondly, such cities also prevent the loss of farmland and allow green spaces for parks, which are the lungs of the community. Moreover, water supply, central heating and cooling, waste disposal etc. are more efficient when done in small spaces. Additionally, tall buildings are more attractive.

On the other hand, supporters of horizontal spread of cities cite a host of benefits. First, horizontal cities in which most buildings are low-rise are better in case of natural calamities such as earthquakes. Secondly, highly skilled architects and engineers are not needed for low-rise buildings. To make skyscrapers, which can withstand the wind forces and can tolerate the brunt of earthquakes is not every builder's cup of tea. So horizontal cities are more economical as compared to vertical cities.

Moreover, people who live in horizontal cities can enjoy a better quality of life. Horizontal cities can provide people with more natural light, views and ventilation. In horizontal cities, because of limited accommodation, the population is extremely small. Basically, low density of population ensures a higher quality of life. Moreover, the competition is not so intensive than that in vertical cities. Therefore, people in horizontal cities have a better quality of life.

To conclude, the present dream of people is a big house with a two-car garage, but as the population continues to grow and land becomes scarce, vertical cities may become an option worth considering.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of vertical cities
Para 2: More Advantages
Para 3: Advantages of horizontal cities
Para 4: More advantages
Conclusion:

403. Some people believe that government should spend on new public buildings, such as libraries and museums, rather than renovating old buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Our public buildings -- museums, post offices, town halls, libraries, schools -- are a reflection of who we are as a community, and as a people. The given statement says that the authorities should invest on constructing new public buildings, instead of revamping the old ones. I vehemently disagree with this perspective. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Proponents of the given statement say that it is more simple, beneficial and cheaper to build new buildings instead of preserving the old ones. They opine that the old, withered and worn out, buildings should be demolished, and shiny new ones made instead. They argue that replacing the old with the new is part of progress. However, they are forgetting the benefits of keeping our heritage intact.

First of all, preservation and restoration plays a cultural role. Old buildings teach us about the history that happened before we were born, and promote the respect for those who lived in different times and different societies. Architectural monuments cultivate pride of our past and heritage, making us unique in the world. For example, Kapurthala is known for a string of beautiful buildings, which were made by the then Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, during the pre partition days. These buildings are now the pride of the people there. Historical structures bring character and certain charm to the neighborhood that people live in.

Secondly, economy is an important merit of keeping the old. Architectural monuments are great attractors of tourists. Everyone likes to experience the "spirit" of the place, which most often is represented through architecture. To cite an example, the Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad Telangana, was once the residence of the Salar Jung family, who served as Prime Ministers to the Nizams, who were the erstwhile rulers of Hyderabad. It has the biggest collection of antiques from all over the world, and thousands of tourists visit this museum everyday. Tourists provide locals with jobs and extra income. In this way restoration works contribute to boosting the economy.

Finally, restoring old buildings is environmentally friendly. Building new green buildings and energy-saving houses is important, but restoring the old ones is as "green" as it can get. Preservation and restoration is the ultimate form of recycling. It helps reduce construction waste, and saves the energy that is usually spent on manufacturing and transporting building materials and tools.

To sum up, although building new buildings may be cheaper and simpler than restoring old ones, I firmly believe that old is gold, and should be preserved.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Proponents view
Para 2: Old buildings have a cultural role
Para 3: Tourism
Para 4: Environmentally friendly Conclusion:

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404. Some people believe that living in big cities is becoming more difficult. Others believe that it is getting easier. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

One of the most striking features of the industrial age is the growth of urban life. Some individuals are of the opinion that this growth has provided tremendous comforts and opportunities to the human race. However, others argue that it has opened new sets of challenges for them. In this essay, I will discuss both perspectives. I personally believe that despite a few difficulties, city life is becoming more comfortable day by day.

Those who believe that living in big cities is becoming easier, give their reasons as follows. First, there is ease of access to everyday things, which is making life a breeze. Compared to a small town or a village, the ease of access to needs like healthcare, education, entertainment and transportation is better than ever before in the metropolis. For example, with the introduction of rapid transport systems such as the metro trains in Delhi, traveling in Delhi is both comfortable and safer. Secondly, no one can deny the fact that technology has been one of the most important contributing factors in making our lives easier, and with increasing access to high speed internet connections in the cities, people can do things lot more easily, while sitting in the comforts of their home.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people say that there are problems arising in urban life. The first glaring problem that comes to everybody's mind is the environmental pollution caused due to increasing number of cars and construction activities. As a consequence, countless citizens are suffering from asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. The second major concern is that life expenses in metropolises have skyrocketed in recent years. This has resulted in an increasing number of homeless people with extremely low living standards, which can be witnessed in cities like New Delhi and Mumbai.

I believe that in spite of all the difficulties arising, cities are attracting more and more people. This clearly implies that life is better in cities. The problems that are arising are due to the unprecedented growth of urban population. However, if the city planners make the necessary changes, then the problems can be alleviated and life in cities would be much better.

To conclude, I would like to say that despite a few problems, living in city certainly makes our lives lot more comfortable, and it provides ample opportunity for everyone to fulfill their dreams.

Plan Followed

Introduction
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion

Written by: Ravpreet Singh

405. In many countries, the quality of life in the large cities is becoming worse. What causes this problem? What measure can be taken to solve it?

It is irrefutable that urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately, this development does have some negative aspects. This essay intends to analyze the causes of this situation and suggest some solutions to address this problem.

The main reason for the deteriorating quality of life in large metropolitans and mega cities is the high population pressure on these cities. This means that there is always a demand supply gap, which further means that there is a shortage of infrastructure because of which the price of real estate and other products is always higher than normal. This high population density also leads to a high density of private vehicles on roads, which leads to traffic jams and high air pollution. Thus, city inhabitants have to deal with increasing commuting times and a poor quality of air leading to stress and health problems.

Another reason for the worsening city life is poor planning. Most city planning is done with regards to the current city conditions and problems rather than the problems expected in the future. Creation of slum areas in cities is because of housing shortage due to poor planning, which fails to account for increasing population and migration into cities. Finally, a huge problem faced by city dwellers these days is the rising crime. This is due to shortage of law and order personnel, which is again a failure on the part of the urban administration.

The solutions are not simple, but many of these problems can be solved with proper planning. Firstly, the government can tackle the problem of high population density by controlling the migration to cities. This can be done in many ways, such as by creating livelihoods in nearby towns and villages. If these jobs employ the people living nearby, they would not have to move into large cities. Government and the real estate businesses can also try to plan affordable housing in different areas of cities to ensure that slum areas are not created. A second measure could be to create high speed connectivity between nearby towns and cities. This would ensure that people commute to cities rather than move there. This has been successfully done by the South Korean government by constructing high speed rail to control the population influx into Seoul in Korea. Lastly, technology like CCTV and surveillance cameras can be used to reduce crime to a certain extent.

To sum up, high population pressure and poor planning on the part of urban administration are the main reasons that have impacted the quality of life in large cities. However, these problems can certainly be addressed by proper measures.

Plan followed:

Intro:
Para 1: causes
Para 2: More causes
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *Some people think the standard of living only benefit cities more than rural areas. What problems might this situation cause and how to reduce the problems?*

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406. An increasing number of people choose to live in big cities. What problems will this bring about? Should the government encourage people to live in small towns?

Cities act as magnets to many from rural areas, as a consequence of which, many problems arise in the cities. This essay will discuss these problems and also give opinion on whether or not the government should encourage people to live in small towns.

There are many negative consequences owing to rapid urbanization in cities. A major problem is the pressure on the cities' infrastructure. For example, as more and more people crowd into cities, water delivery and sewerage disposal systems are often found to be inadequate to cope with demand. Moreover, unlicensed construction of dwellings usually leads to further problems for water and sewerage systems. Roads and transport services also suffer when they are overused. As more and more people attempt to travel, the roads quickly become overcrowded and traffic slows. Examples of this situation can be found in many cities throughout the world. Not only this, these congested roads become more and more accident-prone.

Certainly, if the government encourages people to live in small towns, it would have a positive impact on the overcrowding of some cities. There would be less traffic, less people in the city centre, and this would obviously be highly desirable. In addition, there would be less strain on the services offered by the city – banks, public transportation, restaurants and the like. This would mean a reduction in queues and faster customer service.

However, the problem would be that a dramatic reduction in numbers of people in the cities would mean that many businesses would go broke. Restaurants, cafes and other service areas would suffer tremendously. What would happen is that overcrowding would occur in the small towns. More and more people offering services would spring up - restaurants, shopping centres and other businesses would be needed to service the increasingly larger numbers of people who live in that area. So, although the idea seems good in theory, it would be very impractical. The better solution to the problem would be a careful planning of the city keeping in mind the future population predictions.

Summing up, because of migration of people from rural to urban areas, many problems arise in cities but the solution is not in encouraging people to live in small towns, as this would be a shortsighted approach.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay will discuss these problems and also give opinion on whether or not the government should encourage people to live in small towns.
Para 1: A major problem is the pressure on the cities' infrastructure.
Para 2: Some benefits of asking people to relocate
Para 3: Problems that would arise because of relocation
Conclusion: encouraging people to live in smalltowns as this would be a shortsighted approach.

407. The movement of people from agricultural areas to cities to work can cause serious problems in both places. What are the serious problems and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?

The world is steadily becoming more urban, as people move to cities and towns in search of employment, educational opportunities and higher standards of living. This situation can cause serious problems in both, villages and cities, which I shall discuss in this essay and also suggest some ways forward.

There are many negative consequences owing to rapid urbanization in cities. First, there is a lot of pressure on the resources such as land, water and infrastructure like public transport, health care and law and order etc. Secondly, there is an increased demand for land, which pushes the property prices. This also leads to encroachment of pavements and creation of slums. There is increase in demand and consumption of water. Limited access to drinking water poses serious health hazards and easy spread of water borne diseases across the masses. Health hazards resulting from urbanization are also connected to air pollution, as well as crime, traffic and lifestyle. There is also a sharp growth in urban traffic and the public transport system of the urban cities is choked.

Villages also have to bear the brunt of urbanization. To begin with, it affects the demographics of rural areas. There are less young people and more dependent population, as most people who migrate are young men. It also impacts the upbringing of children in the families of such migrant workers. Secondly, migration of young people leads to shortage of agricultural labour impacting agricultural productivity.

The solutions are not simple. What must be understood is that we cannot stop urbanization. Urbanization is synonymous with progress. Growth of cities is not bad; unplanned growth is bad. Careful planning of cities with the future in mind is required. This will reduce the creation of slum areas. Finally, strengthened and improved rural-urban linkages can make important contributions in improving the situation. If cities and villages were linked well with efficient public transport, many people would not shift to cities.

Summing up, urbanization per se is not bad but it can have some serious consequences if it is not managed well. Steps must be taken to regulate so that the negative impacts can be minimized.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Problems in cities
Para 2: Problems in villages
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

Similar essay: *The major cities in the world are growing fast, as well as their problems. What are the problems that young people living in cities are facing with? Give solutions to these problems.*

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408. Housing shortage in big cities can cause severe social consequences. Some people think only government action can solve this problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Big cities act as magnets for everyone. Therefore, it is increasingly difficult for ordinary people to have somewhere to call home in big cities due to housing shortage, especially the lack of affordable housing. Some people think only government has the power to solve this problem. I disagree with this statement. I believe that in addition to the government, people in the real estate sector and ordinary people can also do a lot to mitigate the issue.

There is no doubt that the government has a major role in alleviating the problem of housing shortage. The government has land banks in city centres where the housing shortage is the most pronounced. Secondly, housing goes hand in hand with other government objectives, such as poverty reduction and employment generation. Thus the resources for one scheme can be shared with those of other schemes. For example, in India, the government promotes both housing and employment by giving jobs to local masons and construction workers.

However, government is not solely responsible to address the issue of housing. The real estate companies can also address the issue of housing shortage in many ways. They are experts in the building and construction sector, and they can assist the government in providing low cost housing. For instance, in places where the houses made by the government have not proved upto the mark, there these companies can step in and fill the void. In this way they can improve their image and also fulfil the housing deficit. In places where these housing companies have provided low cost housing, slum areas have stopped developing further and this has improved the situation considerably.

People also have a responsibility to help the government in addressing the problem of housing shortage. They must see to it that if government is taking steps, then they also proactively back the government. For instance, when governments come out with housing schemes, people should come forward and invest in those. As governments do not have the financial capital to address the housing requirement completely, so if people come forward then the problem can be addressed faster and better.

To conclude, it is irrefutable that governments have a major role in providing low cost housing, but the real estate companies and people themselves can definitely back them. So, it would be would be wrong to say that only governments can solve the issue.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Role of governments
Para 2: Role of real estate companies
Para 3: Role of people
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

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

City planners incorporate urban development to facilitate tourism, growing populations, and the citizens' needs for modern public facilities. In this quest, they arrange shops, educational institutes, offices and residential complexes in specific areas, which are separate from one another. There are advantages and disadvantages of this policy but overall the advantages are much more.

The first and foremost advantage is that such planning helps in organizing traffic. Such places are also generally well linked by public transport because public transport is also part of urban planning. When all offices are in one location then people using their own cars can also do carpooling. For example, if five persons of one residential complex have to go for work in one area, then each one can take his car for one day in a week. It would be a win-win situation for both the people and the environment.

Another advantage of such a planning is that it keeps the residential areas free from noise and traffic and worth living in. The cost of land in residential areas is also in control, as these areas are not commercial areas, which are relatively much costlier. Effective green spaces such as parks can also be maintained with this careful planning. What is more, if all shopping is confined to one area then such places can also attract tourism. For example, sector 17 Chandigarh is a well-known shopping centre and is an attraction for tourists. Finally, such planning is cost effective because it is cheaper for the government to concentrate water supply and sewerage disposal in restricted areas.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of such a segregation of areas. It encourages the use of cars because people have to cover long distances to go for shopping or to their work places. This is not good for the environment. It also wastes a lot of time of the students because they have to spend lot of time commuting to and from school. Some residential areas may be very far off from schools, which is not suitable.

Summing up, careful urban planning is the need of the day. Shopping complexes and offices should be in separate areas and away from the residential areas. However, each school should feed a residential area, so that students are benefitted. Overall, the pros of city planning outweigh the cons.

Plan followed

Intro: There are advantages and disadvantages of this policy but overall the advantages are much more
Para 1: advantage - such planning helps in organizing traffic
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion: Overall, the pros of city planning outweigh the cons.

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410. In some cities, there are few controls on the design, construction of homes, office buildings, and the owners can decide on the styles of their houses. Do the advantages of this outweigh its drawbacks?

In some parts of the world, there are no regulations and rules to be followed for building design and construction. Although the supporters of this freedom have their arguments to justify it, I believe that there are more disadvantages of there being no laws and rules than its merits.

To begin with, having no control on the design of offices and homes may lead to compromising the safety of the residents of the respective building. For example, if there are no fire safety regulations followed in a building, it may lead to destruction of property and loss of lives in case of a fire. Also, some regions are prone to natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, etc. In such regions, the buildings need to be designed keeping in mind these situations, so that the loss of life and property is minimized.

To add to it, the design of residential buildings, offices, educational facilities, hospitals etc. should be made keeping in mind the special needs of the disabled people. This can be regulated if there are rules made by the government, making it compulsory for all such buildings to have proper ramps, lifts etc. to cater to the needs of the elderly and the disabled.

Furthermore, if there are rules then cities can be planned better. There would be no encroachments onto another person's property or on public property. Proper utilization of space can be done and also it gives a more aesthetic appeal to the city. For example, in Chandigarh there are limitations to the height of buildings and there are no random constructions allowed. Areas for constructing offices and other businesses have also been segregated. Proper approval is required before any new building is to be constructed. This has helped make the city more beautiful and appealing for the visitors.

Another very important reason for having design restrictions is that otherwise the new constructors may obstruct the light and air of the older houses, which may lead to bitterness among societies. For example, in Punjab, the PUDA (Punjab Urban Design Association) has made it mandatory to leave a certain amount of space in the front and back of each house. So, such rules are in the interest of everyone.

Some people argue that it restricts the creativity of the architects if they have to conform to the rules of the design. It hinders the creativity and stops them from creating beautiful and unique buildings. There are many famous buildings all over the world that are known because of their unique design. For instance, the Marina Bay Sands hotel in Singapore, the Opera house in Sydney, the Guggenheim museum, etc., which have become great tourist attractions because of the building design. They have given an identity to the cities they are in.

To summarize, it is true that there are a few benefits of giving people independence to design their homes and other buildings, but the drawbacks are much more. Normal residential areas should conform to certain rules and regulations. Unique buildings should need special approval, and should not be many in number. Normal residential areas should conform to certain rules and regulations.

Plan followed
Intro: Disadvantages are more
Para 1 – 4: Disadvantages
Para 5: Advantages
Conclusion:

411. It is important for all towns and cities to have large public outdoor places like squares and parks. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Public spaces such as squares and parks are social spaces, which are very much needed in today's era where people otherwise lead isolated lives. Therefore, I strongly agree that is imperative for all urban areas to have such outdoor places.

There are many advantages of having outdoor places such as squares and parks. Firstly, if such places are not there, people may not even know their neighbours. Earlier, most people in the world grew up, and died within 10 or 20 miles of where they were born. Everybody knew everybody, within that radius. Now, with emigration and greater physical and social mobility, many of the world's people find themselves in places far from home. As a consequence, they may not know their neighbors at all. It is often necessary to bring people together, so that they can get to know one another, learn about one another's cultures, and develop common interests, concerns, and goals. Therefore, large public places are the need of the day.

Secondly, parks are the lungs of the concrete jungles that we live in today. A city park can also serve as a neighborhood focus, with playgrounds, sports fields, and other facilities bringing together adults and children from all corners of the area. State and national parks are also places where significant interaction usually takes place. The fact, that everyone is there with a common goal – to see the features of the park – make conversation easier, and break down social barriers.

Another important reason for having such public spaces is that they add identity to a place and act as places of tourist interest. Thus, they can boost the economy. For example, the Trafalgar Square in the UK, the Times Square in New York and the St. Peters Square in Rome are frequented by tourists across the globe.

Finally, most town squares are the most suitable places for open markets, music concerts, political rallies, and other events that require such large open spaces. Being centrally located, town squares are usually surrounded by small shops such as bakeries, meat markets, cheese stores, and clothing stores. At their center is often a fountain, a monument or a statue. Many of those with fountains are actually named Fountain Square.

To conclude, large open spaces such as parks and squares are absolutely essential for all towns and cities, as they serve many important purposes.

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Reason 1 – to enhance community life
Para 2: Reason 2 – green spaces – neighbourhood interactions
Para 3: Reason 3 – identity and economy – tourism
Para 4: Reason 4 - most suitable places for open markets, music concerts, political rallies, and other events
Conclusion:

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412. The restoration of old buildings in major cities in the world involves a lot of government expenditures. This money should be used in new housing and road development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Old buildings are there in almost all major cities around the globe. Some opine that it is pointless to spend money on their restoration and upkeep, and that it would be better to spend that money on roads and new buildings. I partially agree with their view. I believe that those old buildings which are neither beautiful nor useful, should be demolished, whereas those buildings which add character to a place, give it a unique identity or have a historic significance should be repaired and renovated at all costs.

There are many arguments in favour of making new buildings and roads. The new modern buildings, of course, look much more glamorous and function better than old ones. Modern architectural techniques give modern buildings an advantage that they can accommodate more people in lesser space. New roads are also in need due to the fast progress of trade and business. There is also an economic factor regarding this practice. Constructing new buildings consumes more materials, which can boost related industries such as steel, iron, lumber, cement and so forth.

Moreover, the newer buildings could be made in such a way that they are energy efficient by using newer technologies, which could save a lot of energy later on. For example, double glass panels could be used for insulation and the terraces could be made as to accommodate solar panels. All these measures are the need of the hour considering the rapidly occurring climate changes and the burgeoning population.

On the other hand, there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place, and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings, which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The UmedhBhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. We would be losing a lot of our historical and cultural background if we demolish such buildings.

To summarise, the decision to preserve or demolish old buildings should be made after considering many factors. If the old buildings can be used effectively or be made into tourist attractions or are giving a unique identity to a place, these should definitely be preserved. Only if a building is occupying a lot of space and is unfit to live in, it should be demolished.

Plan followed:
Intro: I partially agree with their view.
Para 1: Advantages of newer buildings
Para 2: Advantages of newer buildings
Para 3: there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today
Conclusion:

Similar: Some people think that too much money has been spent looking after and repairing old buildings, so we should knock down old buildings and build modern ones instead. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

413. Nowadays, some buildings, such as offices and schools have open-space design instead of separate rooms. Why is it so? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

A comfortable environment in classrooms and at the workplace is very essential as we spend a lot of time there. Contemporary architecture is promoting open layout in such places. This essay intends to analyse the reasons for this. I believe it is largely a positive development. In the upcoming paragraphs, I shall give arguments that support my opinion.

Considering the advantages (which are also the reasons) of having open plans for schools, the most obvious advantage is the cost. The cost of land has increased a lot in recent years especially in urban areas. Having an open design is a lot cheaper. In addition, without doors and walls, a lot more students and staff can be accommodated in the same space.

Secondly, openness promotes sharing and this in effect promotes cooperation and productivity. In open offices, employees have to share equipment like stationary, which leads to more communication. Additionally, there is better collaboration in open spaces. Furthermore, in open classrooms, children can see each other's progress and help each other. For example, children who are strong in mathematics can help other students with the difficult concepts like calculus, algebra etc. All these above-mentioned pros explain why such architecture is becoming popular.

On the other hand, open offices have some negatives too. The high levels of noise in open offices can be very distracting. Teachers may have to shout to express themselves. Moreover, the lack of privacy can decrease comfort levels and impact performance. Saying this, it is also true that comfort is also dependent upon interaction between employees, which is certainly higher in open offices and classrooms.

To sum up, the clamor for open office and school design is certainly justified owing to their umpteen advantages like reduced costs and increased cooperation. Although this open layout has some disadvantages as well, I still consider the growing trend of open offices and classrooms as a positive development.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages and reason 1
Para 2: Advantages and reasons
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion

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414. As transport and accommodation problems are increasing in many cities, some governments are encouraging businesses to move to rural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh disadvantages?

It is true that the world's largest companies are located in large cities. In the city many people expect to find better employment opportunities, often with bigger, secure companies. As cities become overcrowded, problems relating to housing and transport arise, because of which some people suggest that the larger companies should relocate to the countryside. While this may have some advantages, I firmly believe that the disadvantages would be far more than the advantages.

It is reasonable to think that moving thousands of employees from large companies out to remote areas would have a positive impact on the overcrowding of some cities. There would be less traffic because of less people in the city centre, and this would obviously be highly desirable. In addition, there would be less strain on the services offered by the city – banks, public transportation, restaurants and the like. This would mean a reduction in queues and faster customer service. To add to it, housing would also become affordable. It is generally seen that because of too many people wanting to live in the city, land prices and even rents of houses start touching the sky.

On the other hand, many new problems would rise if businesses were shifted from cities to the rural areas. The main problem would be that a dramatic reduction in numbers of people in the cities would mean that many businesses would go broke. Restaurants, cafes and other service areas would suffer tremendously. What would happen is that overcrowding would occur where the new, large organisations relocate. More and more people offering services would spring up - restaurants, shopping centres and other businesses would be needed to serve the increasingly larger numbers of people who moved to the area. In addition, the rural area may not be able to provide the enormous quantities of housing, electricity and raw materials required to run a huge company.

Furthermore, relocating businesses to rural areas may upset many households. Children also may have to change schools. So it would not be practical to do so. Transport and accommodation problems in cities need to be sorted out by connecting the villages and cities by very efficient public transport, so that people come to work in the cities and live in rural areas. Newer businesses should be encouraged to open in the suburbs; the already existing ones should continue to be where they already are.

To sum up, relocating the companies would assist with the overcrowding problem in some cities. However, a new set of problems would surface, which would be far more than the benefits. Therefore, I reiterate my point that the idea of moving larger corporations out to rural areas would not be beneficial.

Plan followed

Intro: the disadvantages would be far more than the advantages.
Para 1: Advantages of relocating
Para 2: Problems that would arise
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

415. How important is it for individuals and countries to think about the future, rather than to focus on the present?

It is pivotal to keep the future in mind and not fritter away everything to enjoy the present. One should always remember that the future would one day become the present, and when it eventually does, it should be safe and secure. The same holds true for nations. This essay shall discuss, why it is so important to be prepared for the coming time.

The most important reason for the nations to keep the future in mind is that the mortality rate is coming down and the span of life is increasing. So, population is going to increase, especially that of the elderly, who would need support from the government. If only today is looked into and no planning is done for tomorrow then crime and violence would increase in society and everyone would suffer. Relations with other countries should also be maintained. After all we all live in a well-connected global village today.

Another reason why countries should plan for the future is that if wise spending is done today it may save a lot later on. For example, if countries do screening tests for early detection of certain cancers such as breast cancer and cervical cancer, then it may save a lot on very expensive treatment later on. It has been well said that – A stitch in time saves nine.

Individuals should also always save for the future. Lifespan is increasing but the period of earning is comparatively limited. Nobody knows how long he would live, but the age of retirement is generally fixed. One cannot work indefinitely. Therefore, during one's earning span, one has to put aside enough money for the later years, when it will be impossible to work any more. Further, the requirements in old age are sometimes more than a person's needs during the period of his youth. Deteriorating health translates into higher medical bills and hospital charges. Being weak and infirm, one needs to spend more on commuting. He will need to hire assistants to help in the house.

To sum up, it is imperative that people and countries plan wisely for the future. If one has saved enough, one can sit back and enjoy peace and comfort in one's later years and even witness the smile of joy on the faces of one's children. If countries plan well for the future, everyone would have a better tomorrow.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Why nations should think about the future
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why peoples should think about tomorrow
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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416. As housing is a basic need for people, governments should provide free housing for everyone who can't afford it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Homelessness is a big problem faced by the developing and under-developed countries. However, I do not agree that the governments have the obligation to provide free homes to everyone, as it would not be a practical and sustainable solution to homelessness and would annoy the taxpayers. I would like to support my opinion with my arguments in the following paragraphs.

First of all, if government started providing homes to all the people, it would imbalance the economy. The government has so much on its shoulders. Providing basic education and healthcare and maintaining other infrastructure of the country, is also the onus of the government. Moreover, the taxpayers would not be happy about it as their money, which they pay as taxes, would be helping some people who may be unemployed just to get government benefits. If people knew they would get free housing, they would stop working hard and become complacent. Such a policy would not be good for the economy of any country.

The government should provide free housing only if homelessness is because of its inefficiency. It is a well-known fact that the economy of any country depends on internal and external factors. A government can be held responsible for the internal conflicts that might be causing homelessness. However, no government in the world can effectively control external affairs. For example, a lot of people lost jobs due to the economic crisis in 2008. Consequently, they became homeless. In fact, the US recession caused job loss in countries like India and China. It affected India's booming outsourcing industry. And because it was an external factor, the government in India couldn't be held responsible for this situation. So, it is not possible for any government to provide free housing to one and all.

Undoubtedly, it is the responsibility of the governments to improve the living standards of the poorer sections of the society. In India, for example, the government has launched several schemes to provide housing and employment to people. Although the country still faces these problems, the situation has considerably improved in recent years. This is a clear indication that political willpower and proper governance can improve the economic status of a country and its people.

To sum up, it is difficult for governments to provide free housing to all its citizens. Of course, the governments have a role to play in easing the problem of homelessness, but cannot, and should not provide free housing to all.

Plan followed

Intro: I do not agree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: In which case should the government provide free housing
Para 2: how good governance can help ease the situation
Conclusion:

417. People's shopping habits depend more on the age group they belong to than other factors. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that the age of a person is the main determinant of consumer behaviour. I believe that apart from age, there are numerous other factors, which have equal impact on how and why people buy things.

Undoubtedly, age is an important factor affecting people's shopping. A consumer does not buy the same products or services at 20yearsand at 50 years. His lifestyle, activities, hobbies and habits evolve throughout his life. Accordingly, his shopping needs also change. For example, during his life, a consumer could change his diet from unhealthy products, such as fast foods, to a healthier diet to avoid health problems. His clothing preferences also would change with age. Therefore, age does affect the shopping habits.

Another factor, which is as important as age, is the gender. In general, men have a different attitude about shopping than women do. In fact, women are responsible for two-thirds of all household product purchases, whereas men buy about three-quarters of all alcoholic beverages. Their personal needs are also different. The clothes, toiletries, accessories etcetera, all requirements are different.

Furthermore, the socioeconomic status of the person also determines buying choices. The upper strata of society, is very brand conscious. The middle and lower income groups have to see their pocket. Brands are like sour grapes for them. Peer pressure is another important element, which controls purchasing choices. If one friend has an I-phone, the other also buys the same. Advertisements, which keep bombarding people with info about any product, also affect consumerism.

Finally, there are individual differences. Two consumers can be similar in age, personality, gender, and so on but still purchase very different products. On top of that biological and chronological age are very different. A 60 year old may be young at heart and buy clothes, which a 20 year old may find too flamboyant.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that shopping habits depend on age, gender, financial status, family, friends and many other factors equally. To label any one of these factors, as the most important would be wrong.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: influence of age
Para 2: Gender
Para 3: Other factors
Para 4: Individual differences
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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418. There are an increasing number of people who do not know their neighbours. What causes this situation? How to solve it?

It is undeniable that in today's contemporary society, more and more people are leading self-centered lives, unaware of who their neighbours are. This essay intends to look into the causes of this situation and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

The first reason is workaholism, which may be by choice or due to the pressures of the highly competitive era of today. People work late hours and so whatever time is left is hardly sufficient for one's own family. Therefore, socializing with neighbours is out of question. People work more because they want more and more materialistic things. The consumerist society lures people with glittering things, which need money to buy, because of which people are becoming workaholics and this ultimately becomes a way of life. A vicious cycle is created and people find it difficult to come out of it.

Secondly, people do not meet their neighbours because they do not need to do so these days. They have become self-dependent and their entertainment sources are also within the four walls of the house. Earlier, neighbours used to meet after work hours and chat and play with each other, but now all the recreational activities are at home only such as watching TV and surfing the net. Earlier, people did shopping from local small shops where one could accidentally bump into neighbours, but now the mall-culture has even deprived people of such accidental collisions.

The solutions are not simple but the onus is largely on people themselves. Neighbourhood associations should be set up and neighbourhood parks should be maintained. People should take time off on festivals and celebrate them together. As all are busy, potluck lunches and dinners could be organized which would be welcomed by all. Children should be encouraged to play outdoor games with other children of the neighbourhood.

To summarise, we are forgetting the community spirit and do not interact with their neighbours. Whatever the reasons, steps should be taken to spend more time and know our neighbours. After all, neighbours are our family apart from our family in today's time of nuclear families and neighbours are the people with whom we share our walls.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Reason one
Para 2: Reason two
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

419. Intelligence is the most important quality for a leader. Do you agree or disagree?

A leader is a person who leads and inspires a group of people, an organization or a country. There are several qualities a good leader must have, and intelligence is just one of those virtues. I disagree that the most essential quality to be a good leader is for him/her to have intellect. There are myriad reasons that support my view.

The first and foremost reason why I believe that intelligence is not the most important quality needed by a good leader is because any single trait is not enough to be a good leader. It has to be a blend of many traits. Of course, intelligence is needed to be good at any work, in any field. We need to have good knowledge and awareness for any work we specialize in. But, intelligence alone cannot make any person a good leader. For instance, an analyst in any field has an immense knowledge about his field of work and can work very well with data to improve processes. However, all the analysts cannot become leaders.

To further add to it, there are many other characteristics that make someone a front-runner. Some abilities like good interpersonal skills, communication and oratorical skills are essential, as it is only through these abilities that a leader can inspire, motivate and encourage his/her team or followers on the path of success or progress. In addition, it is often said that integrity and optimism are the foundation of a good leader. People seek honesty, integrity and positivity in leaders, be it a politician, a team manager or a project leader. If any of these attributes are missing in a person, he/she cannot be an effective leader. A very good example of such a leader is Late Dr. Abdul Kalam, who was not only a genius in his field of work, but also a very good orator, he was honest and inspires the youth of India, even after his demise.

There are many more skills that make a leader lead effectively. One more important skill is to be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the team members. By doing this very good results can be achieved by the appropriate assignment of work to the team members, as per their caliber. So, even if a person is not very intelligent himself, but has the ability to recognise the intelligence of others, he can be a good leader. Another important characteristic of a good leader is that he/she should be a visionary. A leader should be able to envision the best way to achieve the goal and how to make it work effectively for many years to come.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that intelligence alone cannot be deemed as the most important attribute of a good leader. It is an amalgamation of several characteristics that make and define a virtuous and respectable leader.

Plan followed

Intro – Disagree
Para 1 – Any single trait is not enough. A blend of many traits is
Para 2 – Other traits required
Para 3 – A person who can recognise the abilities of others can be a good leader.
Conclusion:

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420. More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is irrefutable that branded products and services have become increasingly popular nowadays. This essay intends to discuss the reasons for this increasing brand consciousness. While there are some drawbacks of this trend, I consider it to be far more beneficial.

There are many reasons why people are going after brands. The first reason is that these are considered a status symbol. Brands speak about the person who is buying them. Secondly, advertising and the media have spread awareness about these brands like wildfire. Branded items are also shown to have better quality and thus people prefer them over other products. Moreover, these brands have come within the pocket of the ordinary person. With the growing economy, the purchasing power of people has gone up, which also makes them go for brands.

The increasing brand focus and consciousness has many advantages. The main advantage is that companies now emphasize on quality and customer service. Businesses know that to survive in today's competitive world, they need to have a good brand reputation, and hence people are offered better services. To cite an example, if a person buys a branded cell phone, but unfortunately it stops working for some reason, he gets a full replacement, provided it is within the warranty period. Companies are also benefited as it becomes easier to introduce new products into the market. They need to spend less on marketing, if they already have a good brand image. Another positive effect is that these brands have led to the emergence of another big industry, which is of imitations or copies. This secondary industry is catering to a far bigger population and is adding a lot the economy.

On the downside, brands provide a feeling of inadequacy among those people who cannot afford them. Sometimes, people end up overspending on such items and this upsets the family budget. Some people may even resort to petty crime such as shoplifting, pickpocketing and chain snatching. Finally, people are becoming workaholics to buy such products, and are failing to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family, which is adding to their stress and strain.

To sum up, brand heedfulness can be attributed to many reasons. Despite the few drawbacks, I believe this rising lure of branded products to be a positive development overall.

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Why it is a positive development
Para 3: Why it is a negative development
Conclusion:

Written by: Indroop Singh

421. The tendency of human beings to copy one another is shown in the popularity of fashions in clothes and other consumer goods. Do you agree or disagree?

Undoubtedly, in the contemporary society most people are following the same fashions and buying the same consumer goods. The given statement implies that because people want to copy each other, we have similar fashion and similar things. However, I disagree with the statement. I believe that this similarity is because we all have access to the same clothes and the same material things, and not because we want to imitate each other.

To begin with, widespread purchase of the popular consumer products is not because people want to imitate one another, but because they have the knowledge of the best things available around the globe. They can compare things and check the reviews and then choose to buy anything if it suits their pocket or needs. People do not buy anything just because the other person has it. For example, the Apple I-phone is widely accepted and used by an increasing number of people around the world due to its extraordinary functions and ease of use.

Secondly, people wear similar clothes because these are comfortable and not because they want to imitate others. Even after watching the fashion shows on TV, people do not rush out to wear all that stuff. They buy and wear only what is comfortable to them and suits them and not because others are wearing the same clothes. For instance, jeans and T-shirts are worn all over because they are the most comfortable clothes for casual wear. So, even though it looks as if everyone is wearing similar clothes because of a tendency to copy one another, it is actually not so.

It cannot also be denied, that there is a tendency among people to feel wanted and a part of a group. This is because man is, after all, a social animal and so he does what everyone else does. If he doesn't wear what is the fashion of the day, he feels out of place, or may even be ridiculed by others. Therefore, to some extent it can be said that people imitate each other, which can be reflected in what they wear or do.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that the popularity of fashion is the irreversible tendency brought about by advanced technology, which has led to the economic and cultural integration and only partly due to the so-called tendency to copy.

Plan followed:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: first reason
Para 2: second reason
Para 3: Final reason
Conclusion:

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422. Ambition is an important character for people who want to be successful in life. How important is it? Is it a positive or negative characteristic?

It has been rightly said that big results require big ambitions. Ambition is extremely valuable in today's times. Job applications often ask for ambitious candidates. Entrepreneurs are admired for their ambition and energy, and dynamic countries and cities have ambitious plans for growth. Although ambition has a dark side, I believe it is largely a positive trait.

There are many advantages of being ambitious. Being ambitious means setting goals, and then working hard to fulfil them. Ambition also teaches flexibility and resourcefulness. When problems occur, ambitious people find a way around them. In addition, being ambitious makes people tolerant. Ambition can be individual or collective. Ambition does not have to mean moving ahead on ones own. It can be a vision for a whole city, the elimination of a disease, or the improvement of a community.

On the other hand, over-ambitiousness is often associated with negative characteristics such as greed, intolerance, and the drive for power. It is also often associated with ruthlessness. It can block out human feelings such as friendship, respect for others, or compassion. Over-ambitious people also resort to unethical means such as hurting others to achieve their goals, which is definitely wrong.

In my opinion, a life without ambition is mechanical and meaningless. People need to have ambition and enjoy the better present and the future it brings. However, they should not become obsessed with ambition to such an extent that they forget what is right and what is wrong. What is more, in their ambitious pursuits people sometimes fail to draw a line between work and family, which leads to stress and can make them miserable.

To sum up, ambition is positive because it gives people the impetus to work hard, but it can be negative if it turns into over-ambitiousness and makes them workaholic wherein they disrupt their work-life balance.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: importance of ambition
Para 2: when ambition can be bad
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

423. Some people think that politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, believe that scientists have the greatest influence. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the impact of scientists and politicians on the world. Some individuals hold the opinion that politicians have more influence on their lives, whereas others say the scientists have made their lives better. In this essay, I shall discuss both perspectives. I believe that the role of both is equal, albeit different.

Those who say that government office-bearers have more effect on people, give their reasons as follows. Politicians enforce laws to maintain social harmony in the country. The lives of people would be miserable in a chaotic society. These legislators represent the common man and do their best so that no one is devoid of their fundamental rights. They also represent their countries in matters where global co-operation is needed. They have the power to change the standing of their nation in the whole world. For example, the economic policies of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi have brought India way up in the eyes of the whole world.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people say that the contribution of scientists has been more. Firstly, scientists have made great progress in the field of medicine. Today, there is a cure for many fatal diseases, such as cancer and AIDS. Secondly, it is because of the contribution of scientists that we have electricity and the automobile. Moreover, the contribution of scientists in the field of communication has shrunk the whole planet Earth into a global village. The satellite TV and the Internet have brought the world into the common man's bedroom. In addition, because of the contribution of scientists, education has reached the remotest corners of the world. Scientists are also working on fighting global warming. They are working on space tourism and exploring other planets for evidence of life.

I believe that the role of scientists and politicians cannot be compared. Both have had a profound influence on the lives of people in their own respective ways. To do their jobs well, scientists and politicians must operate in very different settings, but it is also important they act together to improve the lives of people. In many ways their roles are interdependent. Scientists may not have been able to achieve all that much without the funding by the governments. Similarly, the politicians decide which research should be funded more than others. So, the roles of both are equally important and incomparable.

To sum up, politics and science are two endeavors that have fundamentally different aims. Both have equivalent and profound impact on the lives of the common man.

Plan followed

Intro: Equal roles
Para 1: Role of politicians
Para 2: Role of scientists
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Both have equivalent and profound impact

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424. A hundred years ago, people thought that human race was steadily improving in every area of life. Now it seems this is not certain in all situations. In which areas do you think we have made important progress nowadays? In which areas do you think we still need to make progress?

It is irrefutable that the world we live in today has changed beyond recognizable limits, to what it was a hundred years ago. It has all been possible due to the growth of science and technology. This essay shall look into some areas in which we have made progress, and the areas in which we still have a lot to do.

A lot of progress has taken place in the field of medical science. We have discovered newer cures and medicines for many diseases, which were earlier considered untreatable. Even the surgical techniques adopted today are safer and quicker. Organ transplantation surgeries have given life to many.

Furthermore, there have been revolutionary developments in the transport and communication sector. Air travel has become safer and faster. Road and rail transport have also achieved newer heights. Communication technology has shrunk the planet Earth to a global village. People are now constantly in touch with each other through the mobile phone and the Internet. The Internet is an ocean of knowledge. Even the manufacturing technology has made mass production available, and everything is available to everyone in all corners of the world.

However, there are still many sectors where we have to work further. Treatments for many types of cancers and AIDS have yet to be found. Alternative sources of energy have yet to be widely recognized and adopted. Ways to reduce pollution, and thus put a halt to global warming, have yet to be found. Many frontiers of outer space have yet to be explored. Effective ways to destroy nuclear waste have yet to be developed.

To conclude, we have made a lot of progress in the last hundred years but there are still many areas in which we have to work further.

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: The growth in medical science
Para 2: Revolutionary developments in the transport and communication sector
Para 3: There are still many sectors where we have to work further
Conclusion:

425. Most countries want to improve standard of living through economic development. However, others think social values are lost as a result. Do you think the advantages of economic development outweigh the disadvantages?

Economic development is one of the crucial measurements to evaluate the degree of social wellbeing in a society. In the race for achieving economic benefits man has to pay the price of loss of social values. In my opinion, the cons of economic advancement outweigh its pros.

It is irrefutable that by the development of economy people can improve their quality of life. For example, in USA even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. All the citizens enjoy high level of social welfare and they enjoy free medical care and free education. Even in countries like India and China, the life of people has improved as compared to earlier times because of economic development.

On the other hand, in the quest for economic growth, social values have taken a back seat. People have become greedy and selfish and have no time for each other. They have become workaholics and fail to maintain a work-life balance. As a consequence, family life is suffering. For instance, in my country, India, as economic standard of people has gone up, divorce rates have also gone up.Young generation has started following global culture and therefore they have forgotten moral values and do not respect their elders.

What is more, people resort to unethical means to keep up their economic prosperity. Competition has become unhealthy. Instead of improving their own product, businesses try to defame the products of other companies. For example, somebody spread a video on a social media, of a popular flour company, Ashirwad, saying that their wheat flour contained plastic. The company had to clarify through advertisement on TV, that the substance was not plastic but was gluten, a natural constituent of wheat flour. Even in the business world, colleagues are not co-operative as in earlier times. As a result, the relationship of the people in the society is much worse than that in the past. Money-oriented society is not a very pleasant society to live in. No wonder, in the developed countries many people are downshifting and refusing promotions to give time to their family and society.

Summing up, economic development is a good thing and the people enjoy a better standard of living, but there is loss of social values, which puts a big question mark on the advantages of economic development. The onus is on the individuals to strike a balance between work and leisure to get all the advantages of economic development without the loss of social values.

Plan followed

Intro: the cons of economic advancement outweigh its pros
Para 1: Advantages of economic development
Para 2: Disadvantages of economic development
Para 3: Disadvantages of economic development
Conclusion:

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426. Many people believe that scientific research should be carried out and controlled by the governments rather than private companies. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Innovation is critical to the economic and social development of the country. In this regard many people believe that research should be mainly in the hands of the state. However, I disagree with this notion to a large extent. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The belief that governments should control research is not without reason. It stems from the underlying principles of private companies. Private companies are profit-oriented. They invest in research with the main aim of making money on their investment. The problem occurs when this main purpose goes against the general public interest. To cite an example, a large drug manufacturer in India created an artificial shortage in the market just to sell its cancer medicines at a premium. The government rightly intervened and issued a temporary license to a generic manufacturer to overcome the shortage.

Furthermore, research only in the hands of private organizations could be detrimental for the country. Private companies tend to neglect certain areas, which are not so lucrative. A case in point being Ebola vaccination, as Ebola is third world disease with people lacking the financial capacity to pay huge prices, research on it was neglected for a very long time. Compare this with potentially less threatening, developed world diseases like diabetes and obesity, where considerable amount of money has been spent. There are some other areas, which are better left off in the hands of the government like defense, atomic energy etcetera because these areas are pivotal to a country's security.

I believe that to expect government to be solely responsible for research would be wrong too. To begin with, private companies do researches more efficiently because they are profit driven. Every dollar is spent wisely to ensure maximum benefits and every resource is used effectively to avoid waste. Also, government has so many priorities like healthcare, education and so on. Thus, it is financially constrained. Barring private companies from research would slow down innovation and ultimately progress. Governments can invest more in critical and neglected areas and also subsidize the final products like medicines even if private companies do the research. India has recently done so for stunts bringing down their cost considerably.

To conclude, governments and private companies should be active in scientific research. However, some critical areas should only be reserved for the government.

Plan followed

Intro: Both the governments and private companies should be involved in scientific researches.
Para 1: Why scientific researches should be done by the government
Para 2: Another reason why the government should do scientific research
Para 3: Why private companies should also do the research
Conclusion: Some researches should be done only by the government, some by private companies and in some the resources can be shared.

Written by: Indroop Singh

427. Many people are optimistic of the 21st century and see it as an opportunity to make positive changes to the world. To what extent do you share their optimism? What changes would you like to see in the new century?

Change is but natural. Everything undergoes a lot of changes over a period. Many changes are expected in the 21st century. I am an optimistic person and I believe there will be many beneficial changes, which I would like to see in the 21st century.

To begin with many positive changes are expected in the medical field. Our researchers are working day and night to find treatment of various types of cancers and other fatal diseases such as AIDS. Because of advanced diagnostic techniques like MRI and nuclear scan, many diseases can be detected so early that treatment is now possible. Advances are also going on for cell transplant instead of organ transplant. If this becomes true, transplant surgeries will become a thing of the past.

Furthermore, advances in communication and technology have already shrunk the whole planet Earth into a global village. Phone calls, which used to cost a fortune, have now become possible for even the very poor. People are well connected now. Travel has also become faster and is expected to become even faster in times to come. Distances, which used to take days, now take hours. Holidays in space might be common. What seems like fiction now, may become the reality within this 21st century.

Another change that is expected is in the field of education. Every country is focusing on educating its youth, so that they become productive citizens of tomorrow. Illiteracy and poverty will be wiped out. Everyone would be educated and contented and therefore there would be peace, harmony and happiness all around.

Finally, the environmental degradation is expected to see a reversal. Our scientists are working hard to slow down global warming. The governments around the world are shaking hands to fight this problem. For example, in the COP21, en environment summit in Paris, in 2015, was attended by many nations and they all pledged to take collective steps for saving the planet Earth. Alternative sources of energy are being promoted on a large scale.

To sum up, all this might sound too optimistic, but I would surely wish to see all these in the 21st century. Change is imminent in every sphere of human life. What is certain is that those who accept changes, instead of those resisting them, will be more successful.

Plan followed

Intro: I am an optimistic person and I believe there will be many beneficial changes which I would like to see in the 21st century.
Para 1: Changes I would like to see in the medical field
Para 2: Changes in communication technology and travel
Para 3: Changes in education
Para 4: Changes in environment
Conclusion: To sum up, all this might sound too optimistic, but I would surely wish to see all these in the 21st century.

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428. The number of people interested in cosmetic surgery is increasing in order to improve their physical appearance. Why do people go for operations to change the way they look? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

There have been several breakthroughs in the field of medicine, and the progress made in the plastic surgery techniques is one of them. It is becoming increasingly popular among people all across the world as everyone desires to look perfect. There are several reasons for people undergoing cosmetic surgery procedures, which I will enumerate/enunciate in this essay. In my opinion, it is a largely positive development, but the negative aspect cannot be ignored.

One of the most common reasons why people undergo cosmetic surgery is to enhance their appearance. People aspire to look beautiful, young and flawless and to achieve this they get some procedures done, like a face and neck lift, body contouring, liposuction, etc. Another reason why people get such surgeries done is for reconstructive purposes. This could be for accidental deformities, congenital abnormalities or victims of acid attacks and such. There are some medical conditions that make it imperative to get plastic surgery done. For example, after an obese person loses excessive weight, it leads to a lot of sagging skin, which if not removed can lead to some other problems.

The rise in the popularity of plastic surgery is considered positive for the following reasons. The first aspect is that looking good enhances people's confidence. People with deformities or not very pleasant appearance may be helped psychologically by such procedures. It not only makes them look better but also boosts their self-confidence. Many acid attack and accident victims lead difficult lives and may not even be able to look at themselves in the mirror. Plastic surgery is a blessing for such people to restore and regain their self- esteem, and self-assurance.

Despite the above-mentioned benefits, the drawbacks of cosmetic surgery can be quite severe. There has been an increasing pressure on the society to look perfect and youthful because of the celebrities, beauty industry and media portraying some beauty standards that everyone must strive to achieve. This not only leads to a culture of vanity but also creates a sense of low self-esteem. Another consequence is that the younger generation has a very limited perception of beauty, and they forget that the inner beauty is what actually matters.

To sum up, cosmetic surgery is an important field of medicine and helps a lot of people rebuild their lives and confidence. However, the downside of this being used only for looking a certain way cannot be undermined.

Plan followed

Intro: largely positive

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: How it is positive

Para 3: How it is negative

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

429. Competitiveness is a positive quality for people in most societies. How does competitiveness affect individuals? Is it a positive or negative trend?

The world is changing very fast; big will not beat small anymore; it will be the fast beating the slow. These words hold true for today's global village in which we live in a 24/7 society. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss the effect of competitiveness on individuals. I believe that competitiveness is good, but over-competitiveness in which one uses unethical means to reach the top is bad.

At the individual level, competitiveness provides incentives for people to improve themselves. People set goals for themselves and try to achieve them by hard work and perseverance. These goals are based on others achievements. They try to break records and put their heart and soul to excel in all fields. This is what keeps them going. Then they become inspiration for others who also work hard for getting name and fame. If there was no competition, people would become lazy and there would be stagnation in their lives. This would result in dull individuals and lackluster societies.

It is this competitiveness, which is the basis for the Olympics and other such international and national events. Individual competition translates to national and international level during such events. For example, when Abinav Bindra won the first individual Olympic gold medal in shooting, he not only made a name for himself but also for the whole of India. Therefore, competitiveness leads to the progress of the individuals and societies as a whole.

On the other hand, it is important to realize that trying to be number one and trying to do a task well are two different things. One should not hold the delusion that one's advancement is accomplished by crushing others. Over-competitiveness, in which a person uses unethical means to win such as taking drugs before any sporting event to increase performance or hurting others to win, is bad.

Summing up, competitiveness is good and leads to the progress of individuals and societies but only as long as it remains a healthy competition. If unethical means are used or it leads to stress and others are hurt in the process, then it is bad.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the effect of competitiveness on individuals. I believe that competitiveness is good, but over-competitiveness in which one uses unethical means to reach the top is bad

Para 1: At the individual level, competitiveness provides incentives for people to improve themselves

Para 2: Individual competition translates to national and international level during events such as Olympics etc.

Para 3: disadvantages

Over-competitiveness, in which a person uses unethical means to win such as taking drugs before any sporting event to increase performance or hurting others to win, is bad

Conclusion: competitiveness is good and leads to the progress of individuals and societies but only as long as it remains a healthy competition

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430. Team activities can teach more skills for life than those activities, which are played alone. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Both teamwork and individual work require different skills and teach different things. The given statement says that group activities are better teachers of the skills needed in life than solo activities. While, I do believe that individual activities are important, team activities certainly hold more relevance.

There are many significant skills learnt by working in a group such as communication skills, cooperation and conflict management skills. All these are only learnt through teamwork. In solo activities, people do not need to communicate, and so people do not learn these skills. However, when people step into daily life, they realise that communication skills are the most needed skills. They also have to co-operate with their family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours in daily life. When they do team activities, they learn cooperation also. Conflict management skills are also learnt when they do team activities. People have differences of opinion and people learn to manage tough situations very diplomatically.

Furthermore, team activities also broaden people's horizons, as they get to interact with people from diverse backgrounds. Individuals learn how to make their voice heard, and also learn how to accept the suggestions of others. Finally, people learn sportsman-spirit, which is a very good trait. They learn to accept victory with modesty and defeat with grace. This is an important life skill.

On the other hand, people learn many skills of life through solo activities also. People learn a sense of competition and perseverance through individual activities. All life skills are important. However, people cannot forget that man is a social animal, and cannot live alone. Especially today due to segregation of work people are more dependent on each other than ever before. Success in life today depends upon how people deal with others and how they adapt to working in different situations, which is learnt only by working with others.

To conclude, I would reiterate that team activities and individual activities – both teach important skills of life, but the skills learnt by working with others have a lot more importance.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Some skills we learn through teamwork
Para 2: Some more skills learnt while doing team activities
Para 3: Some skills learnt through solo activities
Conclusion: Team activities are definitely better teachers of life skills than solo activities

Written by: Kiranpreet Kaur

431. In the society, male sports are given more attention than female sports. Why is it so? Does this trend have a positive or negative impact on society?

Though they are slowly dissipating, gender-based disparities are evident everywhere in society, including in sports. Ironically, sports are where talent, skill and achievements should be the sole criteria for attention. After all, the rules, the formats and the effort required for success are so very similar. In this essay, I will attempt to identify the reasons why we give more importance to men's sports as compared to women's, and why it is not good for society.

The first reason why men's sports are given more attention is rooted in the manner in which sporting events have evolved. In the early days, sports were all about brute strength, whether it was wrestling, or bull fighting or sports using weapons such as sword fighting. Because of their physical build and consequent strength, men were naturally more adept at such sports. Thus, the focus was on men and men alone.

The second reason is related to the slow and gradual increase in women's participation in sporting events; initially, this began with women from the more affluent, western world. In the 1900 Olympics, of the 1000 odd participants, only 22 were women. African American women, who have dominated women's sports in the USA, had to wait for the abolition of slavery before they could freely compete with others. The first such woman to win an Olympic gold was only in 1948, when Alice Coachman Davis won the high jump gold in the London Olympics. Thus, interest in women's sports was limited in scope and appeal.

The third reason is that Sports Administration has been dominated by men. It is natural, but not necessarily correct, that these administrators pay more attention to men rather than women. As a result, there is more publicity, news coverage and live telecast of men's sporting events. Prize money offered for men and women have also differed, and it was only in 2007, after prolonged discussions that the world's premier tennis tournament, Wimbledon, offered equal prize money to men and women.

It is my view that such a bias in favor of men has a negative impact on society. Gender discrimination in any form is regressive and harmful. There are innumerable examples of women who have come through most trying circumstances to excel and achieve success; in this context, the name of Wilma Rudolph comes to mind. Although she suffered from polio as a child, she was the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics, which was in Rome, 1960. Such stories motivate and inspire everyone and need to be shared and disseminated.

Women constitute half the population. A society that eschews itself the opportunity of celebrating their sporting successes and drawing inspiration from their achievements is undeniably creating a negative impact upon itself.

Written by: Sudipto Mukherjee

Plan followed

Intro:
Para 1: First Reason
Para 2: Second Reason
Para 3: Third Reason
Para 4: Negative impact on society
Conclusion

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432. Some people believe that the government should spend money to provide faster public transport. Others think that there are other important priorities for public transport such as cost and environment. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Nowadays, as the congestion on roads has increased, providing good public transport has become the top priority of many governments of the world. Some individuals hold the opinion that while investing on public transport, the government should focus on the speed, whereas others believe that the cost and the environment should be given more weightage. I shall discuss both perspectives in the following paragraphs. I side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people say that the government should spend on faster public transport. Firstly, it will give people more time for themselves and their families. There would also be less physical and mental exhaustion and they will be able to strike a balance between work and family time. Secondly, they would avoid using their personal vehicles, which would reduce congestion on roads, especially during peak hours.

On the other hand, those who favour investment on cheaper and eco-friendly public transport, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, more people would be able to afford such transport. Moreover, investment on buses and trains powered by renewable energy would be very good for the environment as there would be no emission of harmful greenhouse gases in the environment. This would ultimately benefit the health of the people.

I believe that investment on faster public transportation would be more worthwhile, as time is the most important factor for most people. Most people consider that time saved is money saved. So, they would be ready to spend more on a faster mode of public transport. For example, in New Delhi, ever since the metro rail has come into operation, many people have started commuting by it and do not use their own vehicles. It would automatically benefit the environment as there would be fewer cars on the roads.

To sum up, if a choice has to be made between the spending on the speed, or on the cost and eco-friendliness of public transport, then it would be more worthwhile to spend on making public transport faster. People would not mind the cost and the environmental benefits would automatically ensue.

Plan followed:
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: One view
Para 2: Other view
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

Written by: Indroop Singh

433. Demand for food is increasing worldwide. What are the causes of this? What measures can the international community take to make sure the supply of food is enough?

Meeting the food needs of billions of people is going to be a big challenge in the years to come. In this essay I will discuss the reasons for this growing demand of food and also suggest some steps, which can be taken at the global level to meet this requirement.

There are many reasons for the rising demand of food. The most prominent reason is the unprecedented growth in global population. Over the last century, the population has quadrupled. It was less than 2 billion in 1915, whereas today it is 7 billion plus, and is expected to rise even further. The second major cause is the rising income of people in developing countries, which causes dietary changes such as eating more protein and meat.

To address this global food shortage, businesses and governments will have to work together. Firstly, farmers will have to be given assistance to produce more food on the land they currently operate, through intensive farming. The dairy demands of the consumers can also be met with GM technology. For example, in India millions of animals are needed to meet the consumer dairy demand, whereas in America fewer animals produce more milk because of the latest technology.

Another step, which can go a long way is to reduce food waste. This can be done by information campaigns to make people aware of the magnitude of food waste and the ways in which their food preparation and consumption habits can be changed. Finally, new technologies could be used to minimise food waste from storage and transportation. It has been estimated that if food waste could be cut to half over the next 40 years, the agricultural production would need to be increased by only 45% instead of 70%. This would be a much easier food production goal to achieve.

To sum up, there are many reasons of the increase in the demand of food all over the world, but many steps can be taken to meet the food needs of the world's population.

Written by: Kiranpreet Kaur

Plan followed
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Solutions
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

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434. An increasing number of people change their career during their work life. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or a negative development for the society?

It is irrefutable that more and more people are willing to switch careers during their working life. There are several factors responsible for this phenomenon. However, I believe this trend is detrimental for the society.

There are some strong motivations behind the decision to switch careers. The first reason is undoubtedly money. The cost of living has increased dramatically in the last few decades and there are many careers, which are not as lucrative as in the past. There is also no questioning the fact that money is the main motivation for work today as people are much more materialistic than the past. Sometimes, changing job profile is also done to increase one's skillset and to open the doors for new job opportunities. Secondly, people are very impatient today and they easily get bored doing the same thing every day. Changing careers is a means to break the monotony of life. In other words, a change in career can be a liberating experience for some people. They change jobs for self-fulfillment and job-satisfaction, which they might have lacked in their previous job.

However, I believe that when people change their vocation, it often affects the society adversely. The main drawback is for the businesses in the society. A large amount of money is spent on training and educating employees, but all this money gets wasted when individuals change jobs. It not only impacts companies' profits, but also the development of the society as it affects the taxes the companies can pay to the government. Another major impact is on the community spirit and social bonding. People who change careers seldom form close bonds with their colleagues. Also, a change in career is often associated with a change in residence, which means it negatively affects the social bonds with the neighbors. Hence, it is not surprising that the societies are becoming more and more selfish and self-centered today.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that although there are many advantages that a change in career brings for an individual, the trend affects the communities negatively.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed

Intro: Several factors responsible for this. Negative for the society
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Negative effects on the society
Conclusion: Reiterate Opinion

435. In some countries the lifestyle of people is changing rapidly, and this affects family relationships. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

It is irrefutable that in recent years, people's lifestyles have changed a lot, and this has influenced familial relationships in many ways. Although the changing lifestyles have brought families closer in some ways, I still believe that the disadvantages of this trend outweigh the advantages.

The main advantage of changing lifestyles especially people preferring to spend time indoors than outdoors is that it increases the time people spend with each other. For example, instead of playing sports outside today, people stay inside and watch TV with each other together at home. When people sit together, they talk more and thus it strengthens the bond between family members.

Despite the increased time spent with each other, I feel the disadvantages of these changing lifestyles are much more. Firstly, the boundaries between professional life and personal life have disappeared. People are always working, even when they are on vacations they are working. Thus, though people spend more time with each other, it is not quality time as they are focused on their work rather than on their family members. The growing addiction for internet also has the same effect. Family members might be sitting together at home, but they are mentally not present. They are engaged in talking with their friends.

Furthermore, the increasing preference for living alone is making people much more isolated. The lack of social connection with family members is leading to an increase in feelings of depression and loneliness. The connection through phones and internet can never match the feeling of security and calm that physical presence of a family member brings. Thus, because of these reasons I feel that changing lifestyles have harmed family relationships.

In conclusion, while there has been some increase in the time family members spend together due to changing lifestyle, overall the effect has been largely detrimental.

Plan followed

Intro: Disadvantages are more
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Written by Indroop Singh

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436. Today, large shopping centres and shopping malls are more common than small shops. Is this a positive or a negative development?

It is indubitable that supermarkets and malls have gained a lot of popularity and have driven many small shopkeepers out of business. While I agree that this trend is negative for the small shops and the environment, the positive effects are much more.

On the positive side, these mega stores and malls provide various things to people under one roof. For instance, people can buy grocery items, fruit, vegetables, stationery, clothes, shoes and many other things without having to go from one shop to the other. The second major advantage is that these stores provide things at a cheaper rate. This is because they buy things in bulk directly from the manufacturers. So, they get things at much lesser price than the small businessman. They pass on some of their profit margin to the customers. So, people are happy frequenting these stores.

Furthermore, shopping from these stores saves time. As these stores are usually in the outskirts of the city or town, people usually plan going there and have their list of things they need ready. They just move through the isles with the shopping cart and pick up what all they need. No time is wasted waiting for the salesman to show them the things. Last but not least, these stores and malls have provided employment to many people. It has been seen that wherever these stores have opened, many people from the surroundings get work there in the different departments, such as unpacking, arranging, billing, maintaining stocks and so on.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that these supermarkets and malls promote the use of cars, which leads to congestion on the roads and also adds to pollution. Secondly these stores have snatched away the livelihood of many small shopkeepers, who have been forced to shut down. In addition, these stores promote consumerism as people are attracted by the variety of things displayed beautifully and so tend to purchase things even if they do not need them.

To sum up, despite a few disadvantages of supermarkets and malls, the advantages are much more. That is perhaps why these have become popular among the people.

Written by: Kiranpreet Kaur

Plan followed
Intro: Largely positive
Para 1: Positive
Para 2: Positive
Para 3: Negative
Conclusion: Reiterate

437. Today, people can use the internet to learn about the culture and lifestyle of the people of other countries. So, there is no need to travel to other countries to learn their culture. Do you agree or disagree?

There is no doubt that nowadays people can find a lot of information online about the culture and lifestyle of foreigners. While I agree that internet can be useful to some extent to learn about another culture, it cannot match what a person can learn by actually visiting a country.

The main reason why I believe that travelling to a country is a must to learn about its culture, is that learning about a culture from the internet is just not the same. Experiencing a culture in reality is totally different. People expose themselves to foreigners and lifestyles that are usually totally different to what they find back home. They visit museums, meet new people and try out completely different cuisines. There are also some nuances in every culture, which can never be expressed in words or shown in a video. So, real culture is much more than what the internet can show.

Moreover, although the differences between two countries might not be that different, every new country people visit teaches them to appreciate new cultures. Travelling abroad makes people more broad-minded and more accepting of new things. Reading about a culture in a book or watching a video on the country can never bring about that appreciation. Besides this, travelling is just not about learning culture, it makes us patient, it makes us try new things, it teaches us how to make friends out of strangers, it is so much more.

Admittedly, internet can be an alternative if a person is curious to learn about another culture but cannot afford visiting the country. In the same way, it can be effective solution for people who cannot travel due to physical ailments. A person can certainly get an idea about a foreign culture by watching their movies on the internet or by reading online travel blogs.

To conclude, although internet is vast source of knowledge including information about other country's culture and traditions, it can never be the same as learning about a culture by actually experiencing it.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed

Intro: disagree with some concession for the view
Para 1: Reasons for disagree
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Some concession for the other view
Conclusion

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438. Most people today prefer to socialize online rather than spending time with their friends in the local community. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

It is irrefutable that an increasing number of people today like to chat and make friends online instead of socializing with their friends and neighbors in person. Although there are certain advantages of this trend, I believe the drawbacks certainly outweigh the benefits.

The main advantage of people spending time on social networking sites is that it helps them to keep in contact with a lot more people than they could in person. It is easy to maintain contacts, keep links with friends from high school and college even if they are living miles away. Moreover, socializing online helps to form friendships with people with similar likes and dislikes. For example, if a person likes knitting, playing chess, reading books or discussing politics, he or she can chat or discuss them online. People are not limited to interests based on their location.

Despite these benefits of online networking and socializing, I believe it far more detrimental for the individuals and the society. Firstly, it has impacted the quality of friendship. People have many friends online, but the number of friends people can rely on in case of adversities have fallen. This is because social networking has reduced the emotional connection, the thoughtfulness that develops when people actually spend time with each other. Secondly, the preference for spending time online has also adversely affected people's health. Earlier people used to go out and spend time with friends doing outdoor activities, visiting malls and so on. All of these entailed some walking or physical exercise.

Finally, I believe the biggest impact of social networking has been the increase in cyber bullying and online harassment. It is easier for people to be rude on the internet as they can hide behind the anonymity that the Internet offers. In a sense, social networking sites have given people the license to be hurtful as there are no apparent consequences of being hurtful or bashful on the internet.

To conclude, although socializing online rather than spending time with friends and neighbors in person has certain benefits, I consider it to be negative development overall.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed

Intro: I believe that the drawbacks are more
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion

439. Scientists have been warning for many years about protecting the environment and that people must limit the use of energy in their daily lives. Despite warnings, many people do not do so. What are the reasons for this and how can people be encouraged to protect the environment?

It has been known for a long time that human beings need to limit everyday energy use and that environment needs to be protected. However, it is also a fact that very few people actually take steps to improve the situation. There are several reasons behind this, but if proper measures are taken this situation can be rectified.

There are many factors responsible for the indifference towards the environment among people. To begin with, people are accustomed to the luxuries of life and it is very hard to switch back to a simpler life. For example, it is very difficult to live without air conditioners today. Actually, global warming is making conditions warmer, accentuating the need of air conditioners. Similarly, we are accustomed to machines like washing machines, blenders and choppers in kitchen and it is certainly very difficult if not impossible to go back to washing clothes by hands or chopping vegetables using knives.

Another reason is that people believe that their individual action would not make a big difference. Some people are also of the opinion that environmentalists are exaggerating the consequences of climate change and global warning. They trust science to find them the solutions to these issues.

Despite all these reasons, I still believe that many people can be encouraged to take steps. Firstly, the government can implement strict rules and regulations, which would ensure energy efficiency in homes or use of renewable energy in homes. For example, many local governments pass large new residential building plans only if the plan incorporates solar rooftop panels. The second measure that governments from around the world can do is penalizing wastage or excessive use of energy by very high rates. Nothing would prompt a bigger reaction than a hit at people's pockets.

In conclusion, there are many reasons for people not taking steps to safeguard the environment and to cut down their energy use. However, I still believe that a lot of people can still be motivated to mend their ways.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed
Intro: Problem solution intro
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

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440. Employers should give staff at least four weeks holidays a year to make employees better at their jobs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is irrefutable that work stress has increased a lot in the past few years. Hence, some people opine that employers should give workers a month of holidays in a year at least. I believe this is certainly a good idea and it would not only benefit the employees but also the employers.

There are many reasons why I believe that such an initiative would benefit the employees. Firstly, it has been seen that due to long working hours and lack of holidays, many employees are under a lot of stress. In fact, in recent times work stress has been a major cause of suicides as well. A month of holidays would enable people to recharge their batteries and to refresh themselves. Secondly, it would give people time to spend with families and go on vacations and pursue their hobbies. Many companies are facing attrition because employees are unable to balance their personal life and their professional life and thus such a step would go a long way in reversing this trend.

Furthermore, companies and firms would also be benefitted by such a change. To begin with, companies which offer holidays would be more attractive to job seekers. In other words, such initiatives would help companies recruit better talent. Another advantage would be increase in work efficiency and productivity. Regular yearly breaks would reduce stress and thus, help employees to concentrate better at their work. Lastly, I believe that if employees feel cared about and important, it would also improve customer satisfaction as customer satisfaction depends largely upon employee moods and their working conditions.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that I am strongly in favour of the idea of employers giving four weeks of holidays to their employees, since it would benefit the employees as well as the employers.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed
Intro: Agree
Para1: How it would help employees
Para 2: How it would help employers also
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

441. There is increased use of technology in workplace. Some people find that it is good for young people's prospects of gaining job and harder for old people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is undeniable that technology is a major part of the workplace nowadays. However, many individuals are of the opinion that although technology has increased the employability of youngsters, it has made it harder for old people to compete for jobs. I certainly agree with this notion.

The main reasons why I consider that technology has given youth an edge over the old in regard to jobs is that the youth of today have been using technology since their childhood. They are very comfortable with it, while the old have to spend time and make efforts to learn it and even after spending time it is very hard to reach the same level of affinity that youth have with technology.

Furthermore, there is also a perception among employers that the old-aged candidates are not adept with technology and thus hiring them would either mean lower productivity or extra expenditure to train them. This perception maybe wrong but it does create a barrier and senior candidates need to make special efforts in interviews to prove that are comfortable handling technology.

Last but not least, technology is not constant. The technology keeps changing and thus there is need to relearn and to adjust continuously. It is also human nature that our ability to adapt and to change decreases with age. In other words, young people are easily able to make changes and learn new things, while it takes time for old generation to do the same. Not only that some old people try to resist change, rather than to adapt themselves and this further makes employers avoid hiring them.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that while coming of technology in the workplace has benefitted the youth, it has made it all the more challenging for the old.

Written by: Indroop Singh

Plan followed

Intro: Agree
Para 1: 1st reason
Para 2: 2nd reason
Para 3: 3rd reason
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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442. Some people think that the best way to reduce time spent in traveling to work is to replace parks and gardens close to the city centres with apartment buildings where commuters can live. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

To reduce the commuting time to workplace, some people consider that parks and gardens in proximity to the city centres should be converted into apartments. I believe that such a change would not reduce the travelling time, and on the contrary would create more problems.

There are many reasons why I believe that replacing parks with apartment buildings would not reduce the travelling time. Firstly, the main reason for long travelling times is not the long distances but actually traffic congestion. This is due to increasing number of cars on the road and building apartments near to city centres would worsen the situation by adding even more cars on the roads. Secondly, many people like to live far away because of the noise and overcrowding near the city centres and building new apartments would increase this problem even more. In other words, it would be very hard to convince people to move into such apartments.

Moreover, taking such a drastic step would bring its own set of problems. To begin with, the abundance of buildings made up of asphalt and concrete in cities, creates the urban heat island effect. This makes urban neighbourhoods noticeably warmer than other nearby areas. Additionally, removing trees in parks and gardens would add to air pollution, which can increase the risk of certain cancers and have adverse effects on children, the elderly and anyone with underlying respiratory problems. The lack of parks and gardens would further exacerbate such problems

Last but not least, parks provide space for neighbourhood residents to interact with each other and meet new people. They're also great spaces for events and for people to engage in recreational activities. This allows people to develop a sense of community. Hence, converting parks into apartments would adversely impact people's quality of life and their sense of community.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that although I agree that travelling times need to be reduced, converting parks and gardens in the city centres would not be a step in the right direction.

Plan followed
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: More reasons
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion