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References

Collected

IELTS Writing task 2 – Andrew Guilfoyle

The complete solution IELTS WRITING - ZIM

IELTS Quang Thang

bereadyielts.com

A. TYPES OF AN IELTS ESSAY**1. Opinion essay**

1. Some people think that the only purpose of working hard is to earn money. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
2. Computers are being used more and more in education and so there will soon be no role for the teacher in education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

2. Discussion essay

1. Some believe that punishment is the only purpose of prisons, while others believe that prisons exist for various reasons. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
2. Computers are being used more and more in education. Some people say that this is a positive trend, while others argue that it is leading to negative consequences. Discuss both sides of this argument and then give your own opinion

3. Advantages and/or disadvantages?

1. In some countries, governments are encouraging industries and businesses to move to regional areas outside the big cities. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?
2. Nowadays, more people are choosing to socialise online rather than face to face, Is this a positive or negative development?

4. Problem-solution/ Cause-solution/ Cause-effect

1. There is a general increase in anti-social behaviours and lack of respect for others. What are the causes and solutions?
2. Students are becoming more and more reliant on computers. What are some of the problems associated with reliance on computers, and what are some of the possible solutions?
3. These days people in some countries are living in a 'throw-away' society which means they use things in a short time then throw the things away. What are the causes and the impacts this trend can have?

5. Two-part questions

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

*** Những câu hỏi sau có cần đưa ra ý kiến của bản thân không?**

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.
3. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
4. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
5. Is this a positive or negative development?
6. What are the benefits and drawbacks?

B. A STANDARD IELTS ESSAY STRUCTURE**Introduction**

2 sentences

- **Background statement** (paraphrasing the question)
- **Thesis statement** (clearly point your answer to the task)

2 body paragraphs

- **Body 1 (5-6 sentences)**
 - Topic sentence
 - Supporting sentences (explanations & examples)
- **Body 2 (5-6 sentences)**
 - Topic sentence
 - Supporting sentences (explanations & examples)

Conclusion

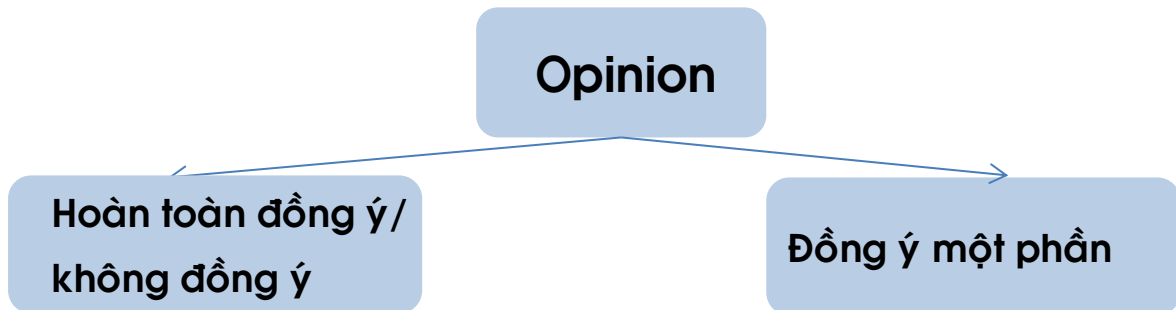
(1 sentence)

- **Paraphrase Introduction**

C. OPINION ESSAYS

I. Essay structure

Some people believe that *ABC*. To what extent you do agree or disagree?



1. Hoàn toàn đồng ý / không đồng ý

- **Introduction:**
 - (1) It is a common belief that + paraphrase đề bài
 - (2) In my opinion, I completely disagree/agree with this view because/ due to + main points
 - hoặc This essay agrees/disagrees with this argument because...
- **Body 1+2:** Nêu lý do chứng minh tại sao *ABC* lại đúng
 - Body 1 (1-5): Lý do thứ nhất → Giải thích, triển khai, lấy VD
 - Body 2 (1-5): Lý do thứ hai → Giải thích, triển khai, lấy VD
- **Conclusion:** Paraphrase lại đề bài
 - In conclusion, I firmly believe that *ABC* because...

2. Đồng ý 1 phần

- **Introduction:**
 - (1) It is a common belief that + paraphrase đề bài
 - (2) While I agree/accept that *ABC*, I would argue that *XYZ*
While this is true to some extent, I believe that *XYZ*
- **Body 1+2:**
 - Body 1: Nêu lý do tại sao bạn đồng ý *ABC*
 - (1) Topic sentence: On the one hand, I am of the opinion that *ABC* because..
 - (2-5) Supporting sentences: Firstly, Secondly...
 - Body 2: Nêu lý do tại sao bạn cho rằng *XYZ* nữa
 - (1) Topic sentence: On the other hand, I believe that *XYZ*...
 - (2-5) Supporting sentences: First, Furthermore, In addition...
- **Conclusion:**
 - In conclusion, although *ABC*, I firmly believe that *XYZ*

Topic: *The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives. Do you agree or disagree?*

Model answer:

It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society *(Background statement)*. From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers. *(Thesis statement + optional outline)*

Exercise: Luyện viết Introduction và Conclusion

1. Some people believe that unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmes (for example working for a charity, improving the neighborhood or teaching sports to younger children). To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Introduction:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Conclusion:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Suggested answer:

Introduction: It is argued that volunteering should be made part of the school curriculum. This essay agrees with that suggestion completely because it helps pupils develop soft skills and helps them gain much needed work experience.

Conclusion: In conclusion, teenagers should be made to partake in unpaid work as part of their schooling because it will help them learn things they wouldn't ordinarily learn from their teachers and it will also boost their chances of getting into third level education.

2. *Society would benefit from a complete ban on all forms of advertisement. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Introduction:

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.....

.....

.....

Conclusion:

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.....

.....

Suggested answer:

Introduction: It is argued that society would be better off if every type of advertising was prohibited. This essay disagrees that all advertising should be disallowed because this policy would not benefit society and would have a negative impact on the economy.

3. *When choosing a job, the salary is the most important consideration. To what extent do you agree or disagree? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Introduction:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Conclusion:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Suggested answer:

Many people choose their jobs based on the size of the salary offered. Personally, I disagree with the idea that money is the key consideration when deciding on a career, because I believe that other factors are equally important.

4. Some people believe that they should be able to keep all the money they earn, and should not have to pay tax to the state. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Introduction:

.....
.....
.....

Conclusion:

.....
.....
.....

Suggested answer:

Introduction: People work hard and earn money which ideally they would like to retain for themselves; however, a significant portion of this usually has to be given to the state. In my view, it is right that people pay their fair share of taxes.

Conclusion: In conclusion, even though many people think that they should not pay taxes, that money is useful to the stability of any country. Therefore, people should not avoid paying taxes as it may affect the country's economy and services that it provides.

5. In some countries, an increasing number of people are suffering from health problems as a result of eating too much fast food. It is, therefore, necessary for governments to impose a higher tax on this kind of food. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Introduction:

.....
.....
.....

Conclusion:

.....
.....
.....

Suggested answer:

Introduction: It is argued that governments should levy a tariff on junk food because the number of health risks associated with consuming this kind of food is on the rise. This essay agrees that a higher rate of tax should be paid by fast-food companies.

Conclusion: In conclusion, junk food should be taxed at a higher rate because of the good precedent set by alcohol and tobacco and the fact that the increased cost should reduce the amount of fast-food people buy.

6. Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later, and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Introduction:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Conclusion:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Suggested answer:

Introduction: It is thought that ex-prisoners can later become productive members of society, and that these are the best to speak to teenagers about the consequences of law-breaking. While allowing ex-prisoners to talk to teenagers about crime is a good idea, I would argue that there are better alternatives to this problem.

II. Coherence and Cohesion

1. What is Coherence and Cohesion

- **Coherence** refers to the *flow* of your writing. It relates to how well your essay is organised and how logically your ideas are sequenced
- **Cohesion** means *linking words* that help you connect ideas. It also relates to how sentences are linked together to form a paragraph and how paragraphs are linked together to form an essay.

Xét các ví dụ sau:

- People are getting busier with their jobs nowadays. Thus, they are more likely to gain weight.
 - Hai câu trên được nối với nhau bởi liên từ Thus (vì vậy). Nhưng đọc xong vẫn không hiểu tại sao ý 1 lại dẫn tới ý 2.
 - Lập luận cohesive (có liên kết ngữ pháp), nhưng không coherent (không mạch lạc về nghĩa)
 - Sửa: People are getting busier with their jobs nowadays. Thus, they have less time for fitness exercises and become more likely to gain weight.
- The consumption of beef sharply increased from May to July. By contrast, the figures for fish and pork significantly decreased. Meanwhile, the volume of chicken consumed showed a slight rise during the period.
 - Các câu trên sử dụng được nhiều cohesive devices (by contrast, meanwhile...). Tuy nhiên lập luận có vấn đề khi đang phân tích tăng rồi giảm rồi tăng → Cohesive but not coherent
 - Sửa: The consumption of beef sharply increased from May to July. Likewise, the volume of chicken consumed showed a slight rise during the period. By contrast, the figures for fish and pork significantly decreased.

2. Essay coherence and Cohesion

* Signpost

Signpost				Point
- Another	- reason	why [opinion clause]		- is that [Sbj.] + [V]...
- A further	- point	- for		
		- supporting		
- The second	- benefit	- against	[opinion noun phrase] [Sbj.] [not] [V-ing] [Obj.]	- is [N]...
	- problem	of		- is to [V]...*
		with		

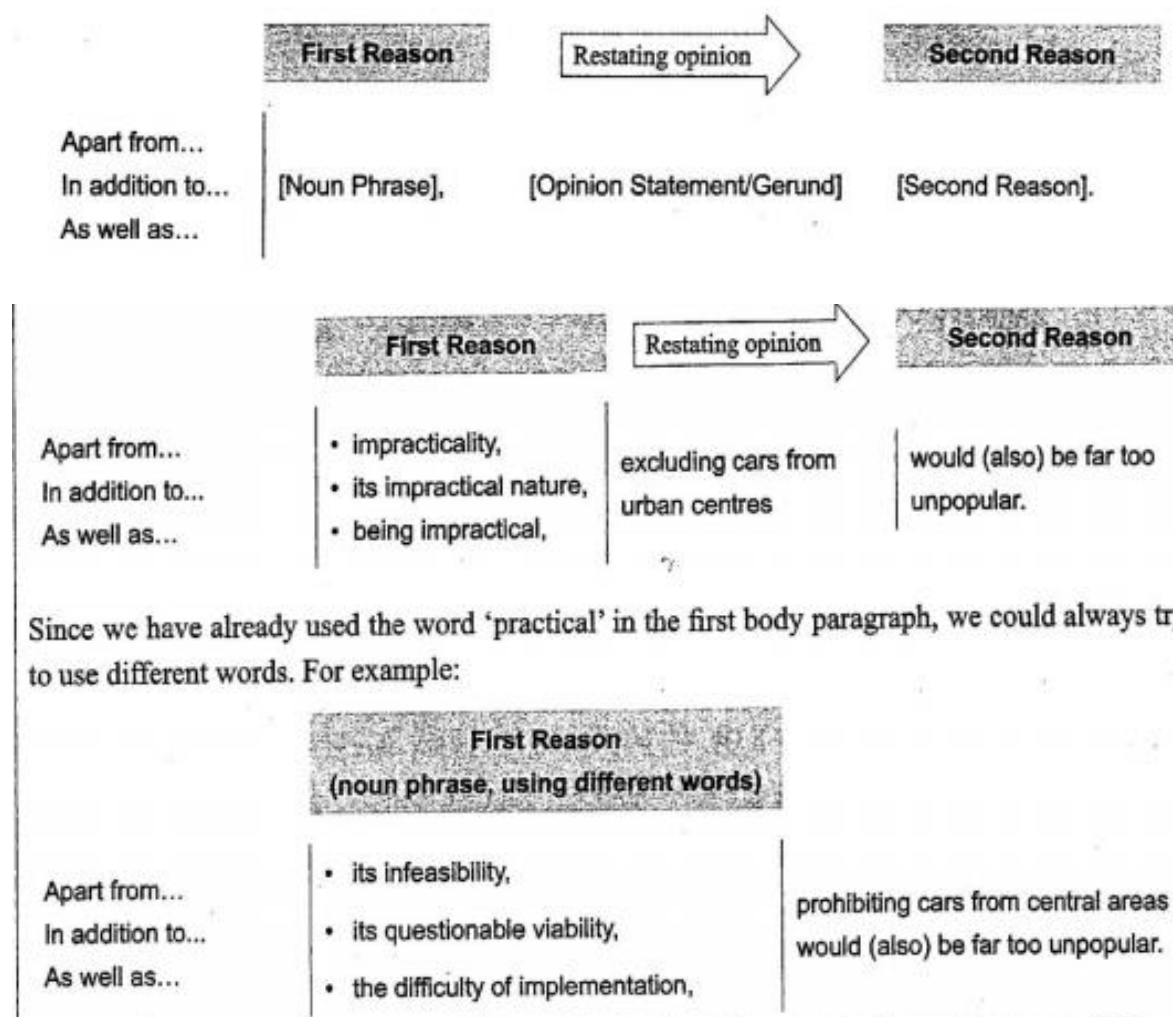
* This can only be used if the opinion has 'should' or forms an advice statement.

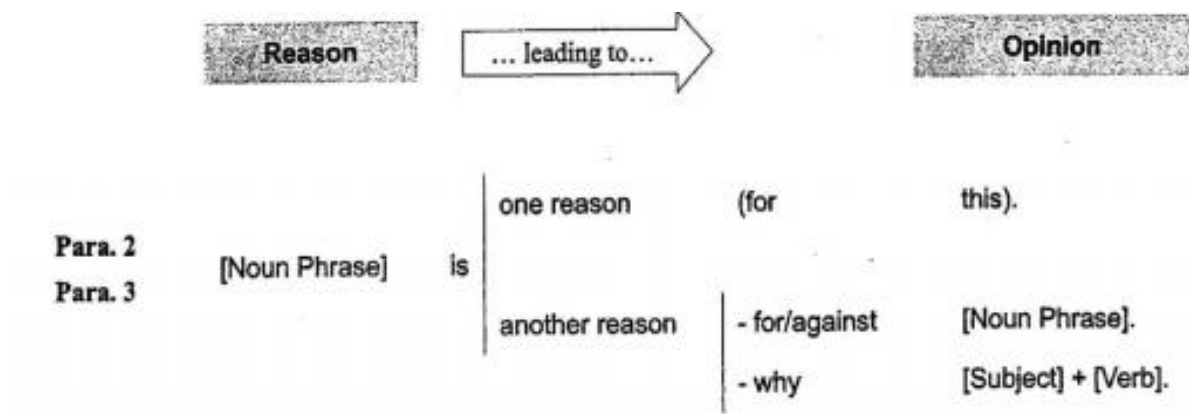
Another reason	against <i>reducing</i> space missions for <i>banning</i> cigarettes for capital punishment not <i>being</i> worthwhile for <i>using</i> computers in the classroom	- is that [Sbj.] + [V]... - is [N]... - is to [V]...*
----------------	--	---

The '[Sbj.] [not] [V-ing] [Obj.]' noun phrase can be written in different ways to give the same meaning. For example:

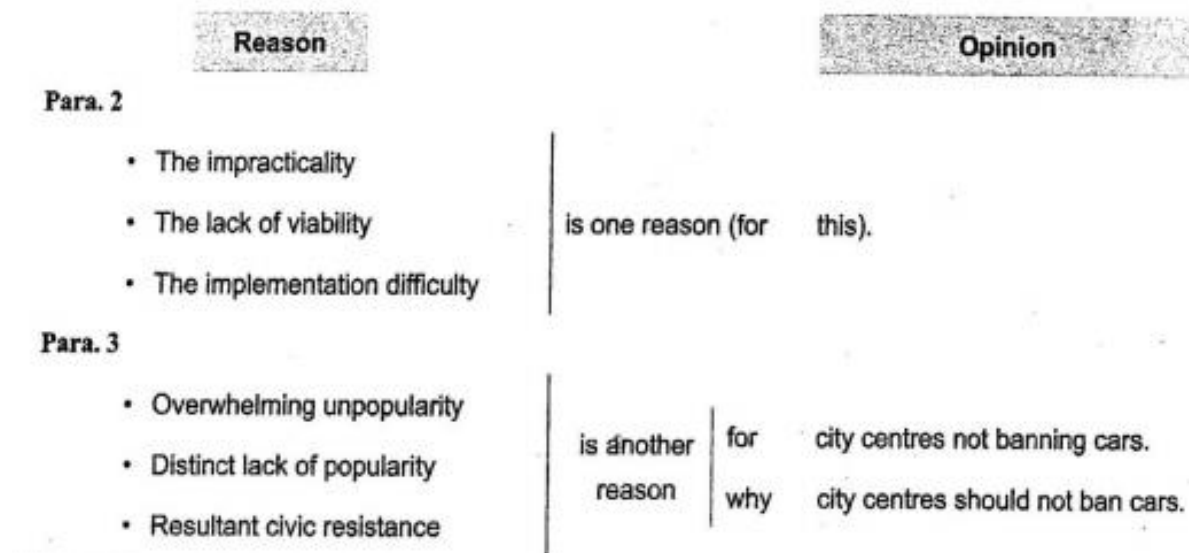
Another reason for	not banning cars from city centres city centres allowing cars city centres not prohibiting car access permitting cars in city centres	- is that [Sbj.] + [V]... - is [N]... - is to [V]...*
--------------------	--	---

The second reason	against <i>the reduction</i> in space missions for the <i>prohibition</i> of cigarettes for the <i>abolition</i> of capital punishment for the <i>use</i> of computers in the classroom	- is that [Sbj.] + [V]... - is [N]... - is to [V]...*
-------------------	--	---

* Transition sentences

*** Inverted topic sentences**

Some example topic sentences are:



3. How to develop an idea

- Give reasons (giải thích nguyên nhân vì sao lại có main idea đó)
- Give results (nêu ra kết quả tích cực/tiêu cực mà main idea sẽ dẫn đến)
- Give examples (Lấy ví dụ giúp main idea dễ hiểu hơn)
- Không nhất thiết phải sử dụng tất cả các cách triển khai ý trên. Tùy vào từng idea, ta có thể lựa chọn cách phù hợp nhất.
- Sau khi đã có main ideas và các ý triển khai, ta cần xác định mối quan hệ giữa các ý để thêm từ nối cho hợp lí.
Nguyên nhân – kết quả: Due to/ Because of/ Owing to ; Since/As/Because; Therefore/ As a result...
Lấy ví dụ: For example/ For instance

Xét ví dụ sau:

Topic: The use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, is replacing face-to-face contact in this century. Do you think the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

Main idea:

- Lợi ích của MXH là gì? → Social networks make it easy for people to keep in touch with the latest activities of their family and friends, including those who live far away.

- Tại sao? → Because social networks allow users to share content such as videos or photos with others via the Internet.

- Ví dụ cụ thể → For example, when I was studying abroad in the UK, I was able to show my parents all the photos that I took at the places I went to.

- Kết quả: Không nghĩ ra được.

→ Body 1:

Because social networks allow users to share content such as videos or photos with others via the Internet, they make it easy for people to keep in touch with the latest activities of their family and friends, including those who live far away. For example, when I was studying abroad in the UK, I was able to show my parents all the photos that I took at the places I went to. As a result,...

Để có 2 đoạn thân bài hoàn chỉnh, chỉ cần viết 2 idea như vậy và ghép chúng với nhau như sau:

On the one hand, there are some benefits of social networks. Firstly,
Secondly,

III. One-sided approach

Topic: The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives. Do you agree or disagree?

Model answer:

It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society (**BACKGROUND STATEMENT**). From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers (**THESIS STATEMENT + OPTIONAL OUTLINE**).

Firstly, I would argue that the Internet is one of the most powerful facilitators in communication (**POINT**). At the moment, numerous websites such as Facebook or Yahoo offer much faster and more convenient services for users to keep in touch with their friends and relatives regardless of geographic distance (**SPECIFIC EXAMPLE**). These websites create an online network which connects everyone within their users' social circle and enables them to send instant messages or to make video calls in a few seconds no matter where they are. People, therefore, can enjoy both the convenience and the swiftness that those services provide (**EXPLANATION**).

Secondly, I believe the Internet has empowered people to acquire more knowledge about their society than ever before (**POINT**). As a matter of fact, it is able to bring every aspect of life to people, which I think is valuable because people will have a closer look at how their society really is (**EXPLANATION**). Latest news about sports, education or criminals for example is updated constantly in many online sources that are open to everyone (**SPECIFIC EXAMPLE**). This easy accessibility equips people with sufficient information, in other words, they are more aware of the problems lying within their society (**EXPLANATION**).

In conclusion, as the two analyzed reasons above, I strongly disagree with the idea that Internet users are drifting away from their lives because of the online service. (**THE RESTATEMENT**)

IV. Counter-argument & Refutation

- The counter-argument is the opponents' opinions about the topic.
- The refutation is your response to the counter-argument. This is where you show why the opposite opinions are weaker than yours by refuting those opinions.
- Therefore, your essays would be structured as follows:
-

Introduction:

- The background statement
- The thesis statement

Body:

- The first paragraph: 2 reasons to support your opinion
- The second paragraph: The counter-argument & refutation

Conclusion:

- The restatement

Topic: Trial marriage is becoming more and more popular among college students. Many people believe this trend has a negative impact on students' lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

- I am going to DISAGREE with trial marriage so my counter-argument and refutation paragraph must include opinions that AGREE with this living arrangement.

Model answer:

Premature life with partners has gained enormous popularity as students reach their adulthood. In my opinion, cohabitation is more of a deleterious impact on their life.

There are several severe problems that this living arrangement would cause. **(POINT)**. The first and also the biggest concern relates to the possibility of unexpected pregnancy **(Supporting idea 1)**. If the couple who have this premarital experience is poorly equipped with sufficient knowledge about a safe sexual life, the chance of the female partner's being pregnant might be relatively high. Another drawback is the deterioration in social interactions **(Supporting idea 2)**. As college couples spend almost all their time to take care of their partners because they live in the same place, they hardly have time to hang out with their friends or look for a job. Therefore, their social relationships and skills would suffer.

Advocates of this idea might think that living together during early age of adulthood acts as a test of the couple's compatibility, hence avoiding the risk of future divorce. They also think that the couple who choose this premarital relationship can support each other with their studies **(Counter argument)**. However, I think those thoughts are rather ill-founded as the fact might be the opposite **(Refutation)**. Going through a long intimate relationship like trial marriage, young couples, paradoxically, might be less understanding and sympathetic, which might lead to the early end of their marriage. Furthermore, reality has shown that many university students become more neglectful of their studies while living under the same roof with their partner on account of the most of their time devoted to each other.

In conclusion, despite the existence of some opinions in favor of this early decision, I do believe students' lives would be adversely affected.

Practice: Some people think that smoking should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

V. Balanced approach

A balanced essay is an essay where you are inclined to one side of the argument but you do not deny the other side, which means you partly agree or partly disagree with the issue given in the topic. Never sit on the fence, you accept that there are 2 sides of the argument but you still need to choose which one you would agree more.

- You need to analyze both sides of the issue and state which side you are in favor of at the same time.
- The first body paragraph is used to talk about the weaker side and the stronger side (the side that you are inclined to) is presented in the second body paragraph.
- Always find 2 reasons for each side of the argument.
- There are 3 places where you need to give your opinion: the thesis statement, the topic sentence of the second body paragraph and the restatement.

Therefore, your balanced essays would be structured as follows:

Introduction

- Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- State your balanced opinion (you accept the opposing views, but your points are stronger)

Body

The first paragraph: The weaker argument (2 ideas)

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence: introduce the opposing views
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations

The second paragraph: The stronger argument (2 ideas)

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence: introduce your favorable side of the argument
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations

Conclusion

- Restate your balanced opinion

Topic: When choosing a job, the salary is the most important consideration. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Model answer:

Many people choose their jobs based on the size of the salary offered. While I agree that money is a critical factor when deciding on a career, I believe that other factors are equally important.

On the one hand, I agree that money is necessary in order for people to meet their basic needs *(Point-accept weaker argument)*. 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. If people chose their jobs based on enjoyment or other non-financial factors, they might find it difficult to support themselves. Artists and musicians, for instance, are known for choosing a career path that they love, but that does not always provide them with enough money to live comfortably and raise a family.

Nevertheless, I believe that other considerations are just as important as what we earn in our jobs *(Point-stronger argument)*. Firstly, personal relationships and the atmosphere in a workplace are extremely important when choosing a job. Having a good manager or friendly colleagues, for example, can make a huge difference to workers' levels of happiness and general quality of life. Secondly, many people's feelings of job satisfaction come from their professional achievements, the skills they learn, and the position they reach, rather than the money they earn. Finally, some people choose a career because they want to help others and contribute something positive to society.

In conclusion, while salaries certainly affect people's choice of profession, I do not believe that money outweighs all other motivators. *(Simons, band 9)*

Mở bài và kết bài sử dụng cấu trúc nhượng bộ (Concession structures) để thể hiện mình nghiêng về bên nào hơn.

"While I agree that money is a critical factor when deciding on a career ⁽¹⁾, I believe that other factors are equally important ⁽²⁾."

Như vậy có thể thấy, body 1 sẽ dùng để phân tích argument (1), body 2 dùng để phân tích argument (2) người viết nghiêng về hơn.

- Một số cấu trúc nhượng bộ:

Although/Even though/While + Clause (1), Clause (2)

In spite of/ Despite + Clause (1), Clause (2)

- Mở đầu các đoạn, có thể bắt đầu bằng: **On the one hand ; On the other hand, ...**

Practice: Students today can easily access information online, so libraries are no longer necessary. Do you agree or disagree?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

D. DISCUSSION ESSAYS

I. Essay structure

- In a discussion essay, you need to discuss 2 sides of a given argument. The task may or may not ask for your opinion on the issue, only give your opinion if the task requires so.
- Try to find 2 ideas for each side of the argument.
- The term “give your opinion” can be interpreted as “which side of the argument do you agree with?”. Therefore, the way to write this particular type of essay is rather similar to that of a balanced opinion essay. The only difference is the language used in each type, which will be shown later on.
- The complete structure of a discussion essay:

Introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State your opinion (which side you are inclined to)

Body

The first paragraph: the first side of the argument

- Sentence 1: the topic sentence
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give 2 reasons and use specific examples and explanations

The second paragraph: Your favorable side of the argument

- Sentence 1: the topic sentence (restate your opinion here)
- Sentence 2-5/6: give 2 reasons and use specific examples and explanations

Conclusion

- The restatement: restate your opinion

Topic: These days there are a lot of TV channels available to view. Some people think it is good to have a range of options but others argue that it affects the quality of programs. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

SAMPLE ANSWER

The nonstop progress of the modern TV industry has provided people with permanent access to numerous choices of channels, depending on viewers' interests. This broad availability instigates many public debates over how the number of TV programs and their quality interrelate. From my perspective, it is true that more and more channels have been launched recently with deteriorating quality in terms of both display and content. *(state your opinion)*

On the one hand, the reasons why people enjoy more choices on TV are varied *(first argument)*. Firstly, people believe the upsurge in the number of programs can satisfy viewers of different preferences. Compared to the limitation of TV content in the past, contemporary technology has unfolded the possibility to bring every aspect of life such as sports, science and education to people. Secondly, people now can have a more integral approach upon not only their society but also other countries around the world through TV telecasts. In fact, both domestic and foreign issues are updated daily on various sources, which equips viewers with more intimate perception on global matters.

On the other hand, I believe as the number of TV channels grows, their quality suffers in comparison *(second argument+state your opinion)*. In fact, people are being bombarded with all kinds of sources of information. Unfortunately, many publishers are trying to increase their viewership which generates greater profit by deliberately producing programs with low-quality interface or even fraudulent content. This, coupled with the acceleration in numbers, can engender bewilderment amongst viewers since they will have a difficult time differentiating which channels they can trust from the deceiving ones.

In conclusion, although it is undeniable that the wider range of selections has some certain benefits to people, I think the followed shortcomings associated with their quality are the worrying topic that people should pay heed to. *(restate your argument)*

II. Balanced opinion essay vs Discussion essay

A balanced opinion essay	A discussion essay
I think I believe I agree	People think People believe It is believed/considered
You can give examples of your own knowledge or experiences.	You can NOT give examples of your own knowledge or experiences.
Some people believe that video games are bad, while others think playing these games is beneficial. What is your opinion?	Some people believe that video games are bad, while others think playing these games is beneficial. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
On the one hand, I agree that video games have some undeniable benefits. Firstly, I would argue that playing video games is a way to relax after hard-working hours. For example, my brother has to go to school on every weekday and to do a lot of assignments at home, which is very stressful. Therefore, playing video games during his free time can help reduce the stress from his studies.	On the one hand, it is agreed that video games have some undeniable benefits. Firstly, many people argue that playing video games is a way to relax after hard-working hours. For example, many students have to go to school on every weekday and to do a lot of assignments at home, which is very stressful. Therefore, playing video games during their free time can help reduce the stress from their studies.

Practice: Some people believe that studying at university or college is the best route to a successful career, while others believe that it is better to get a job straight after school. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

[illegible]

[illegible]

E. ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE ESSAYS**WITHOUT PERSONAL OPINION**

1. It is becoming increasingly popular to have a year off between finishing school and going to university. *What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?*

WITH PERSONAL OPINION

1. Some people regard video games as harmless fun, or even as a useful educational tool. Others, however, believe that video games are having an adverse effect on the people who play them. *Do the drawbacks of video games outweigh the benefits?*

2. Some universities now offer their courses on the Internet so that people can study online. *Is this a positive or negative development?*

-
- Basically, an advantage/disadvantage essay is a discussion essay that asks you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a given issue. DO NOT give any opinions if you are not asked to.
 - Divide your body into 2 separate paragraphs, each of which develops either the advantages or disadvantages of the given issue.

I. Without your opinion

- Type: What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
- Essay structure:

Introduction:

- *It is a fact that ...*
- *This trend would create certain benefits but there will also be some drawbacks. / This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this trend.*

Body:

Body 1: Advantages

- On the one hand, there are several reasons why N is beneficial. / On the one hand, it is clear that would create several advantages.
- Firstly, ... *Hoặc* The first/main/greatest/most important advantage of ... is
- Secondly, ... *hoặc* Another/an additional advantage of ... is

Body 2: Disadvantages

- On the other hand, there are some obvious disadvantages that would arise.
- The principal one is that
- In addition,

Conclusion:

- In conclusion, there are plus points to..... regarding {advantage 1, 2 & 3}. However, the downside would emerge consequently in terms of {disadvantage 1, 2 & 3}.
hoặc
In conclusion, despite some benefits in terms of {advantage 1, 2 & 3}, ... might {disadvantage 1, 2 & 3}.

Topic: English is becoming the most prominent language in the world. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having only one language in the world?

Sample answer (collected):

It is a fact that English is in an outstanding position in the world as it is used globally nowadays. This has caused people to think about whether it is beneficial to have an exclusive language worldwide. Having one language would **bring certain benefits but there will also be some drawbacks.**

On the one hand, it is clear that to communicate in one global language would create several advantages. One evident strength is that it would reduce the language barrier by strengthening greater understanding between countries. **In other words,** the flow of information is no longer deterred, thereby promoting learning and mediating conflicts. **Another reason is that** it would help to develop a healthier world economy by enhancing trade facilitation. **Last but not least,** cultural and religious discrimination can be reduced to some extent if all people in the world communicate in the same language.

On the other hand, there are some obvious disadvantages that would arise. First, globalisation in language terms will undermine cultural diversity. **It means that** the special features regarding ways of life and world views of each culture would all be lost if there were only one language. **Second,** having one global language will definitely turn this world into a monotonous place without any uniqueness of different areas. **Consequently,** people would not be interested in discovering the world. **Finally,** this will also be a disadvantageous point for individuals with high linguistic intelligence since there are no other languages for them to challenge their brain.

In conclusion, there are plus points to speak one language globally, including better understanding, trade facilitation, and decreasing discrimination. **However, the downside would emerge consequently in terms of** the loss of cultural diversity, the lack of motivation to explore the world, and a minus point for language intelligence.

II. With your opinion*** Type 1: Do The Advantages Outweigh The Disadvantages?**

Essay structure:

Introduction:

- It is a fact that
 - This trend would introduce both pros and cons; however, I think that the benefits ofoutweigh its drawbacks
- Hoặc: While this development may bring about some benefits, I would argue they are eclipsed the drawbacks.

Body:

Body 1: Weaker argument

- On the one hand, it is clear that ... would bring about several disadvantages/advantages (or benefits/drawbacks)
- One evident weakness/strength is that it would..... In other words,...
- Another reason is that it would...
- Last but not least,.....

Body 1: Stronger argument + point your opinion

- On the other hand, I argue that the advantages of this trend/development would prove to be more important.
- First,..... It means that
- Second,... In particular,
- Finally,... For example,...

Conclusion:

- In conclusion, there are minus points to.... However, it seems to me that/ I believe that its advantages would be more important regarding {idea 1,2 3}.

Topic: English is becoming the most prominent language in the world. Do the advantages of having only one language in the world outweigh the disadvantages?

Sample answer:

It is a fact that English is in an outstanding position in the world as it is used globally nowadays. This has caused people to think about whether it is beneficial to have an exclusive language worldwide. **Having one language would introduce both pros and cons, but I think that the drawbacks do outweigh the benefits.**

On the one hand, it is clear that to communicate in one global language would bring about several advantages. One evident strength is that it would reduce the language barrier by strengthening greater understanding between countries. In other words, the flow of information is no longer deterred, thereby promoting learning and mediating conflicts. Another reason is that it would help to develop a healthier world economy by enhancing trade facilitation. Last but not least, cultural and religious discrimination can be reduced to some extent if all people in the world communicate in the same language.

On the other hand, I argue that there are some obvious disadvantages that would make it better not to have a sole language in the world. First, globalisation in language terms will undermine cultural diversity. It means that the special features regarding ways of life and worldviews of each culture would all be lost if there were only one language. Second, having one global language will definitely turn this world into a monotonous place without any uniqueness of different areas. Consequently, people would not be interested in discovering the world. Finally, this will also be a disadvantageous point for individuals with high linguistic intelligence since there are no other languages for them to challenge their brain.

In conclusion, there are plus points to speak one language globally. However, it seems to me that its advantages would be more important regarding the loss of cultural diversity, the lack of motivation to explore the world, and a minus point for language intelligence.

*** Type 2: Positive Or Negative?**

Nêu rõ quan điểm, điều này là positive, negative hay cả hai.

Topic: English is becoming the most prominent language in the world. Is this a positive or negative development?

(Đối với quan điểm thiên về 1 phía positive)

Paragraph 1: Nói về lợi ích ở góc độ cá nhân & chính phủ:

- Cá nhân: 1) mọi người tự tin tương tác với những cá nhân khác trên thế giới mà không sợ rào cản ngôn ngữ, 2) mọi người sẽ không còn sợ hãi khác biệt ngôn ngữ & tự do du lịch khắp nơi.
- Chính phủ: 1) củng cố các hoạt động và thảo luận ngoại giao dễ dàng hơn, 2) tiết kiệm ngân sách quốc gia về khoản chi phí biên phiên dịch trong các cuộc họp/ hội thảo quốc tế.

Paragraph 2: nói về lợi ích trên lĩnh vực kinh tế, giáo dục & văn hoá:

- Kinh tế: xoá bỏ rào cản ngôn ngữ tạo thuận lợi hơn cho thương mại giữa các quốc gia --> đưa các nền kinh tế phát triển hơn
- Giáo dục: thông tin và kiến thức được trao đổi xuyên biên giới, kiến thức người học tiếp thu chính xác hơn bởi các lỗi dịch thuật đã được hạn chế
- Văn hoá: thấu hiểu văn hoá khác sẽ giúp hạn chế phân biệt đối xử, giúp thế giới hoà bình hơn.

Sample answer:

It is a fact that English is in an outstanding position in the world as it is used globally nowadays. This has caused people to think about whether it is beneficial to have an exclusive language worldwide. **This development/ trend is positive** thanks to the benefits which have been brought to human life.

It is clear that to communicate in one global language would bring about many advantages for the whole society from each individual to the government. **One evident strength for each person** is that it would reduce the language barrier, thereby encouraging people's confidence in interacting with others from different areas of the world. Many people, especially the elderly, may no longer be afraid of foreign languages and can freely travel everywhere. **In addition, governments** can easily enhance diplomatic activities and discussions with better understanding. This would lead to numerous subsequent outcomes, such as saving national

budget from reducing enormous translation and interpretation costs of international meetings and conferences.

Also, this development will lead to benefits in various areas, especially economics, education and culture. **First**, English as a global language would help to strengthen trade facilitation among nations, thereby developing healthier economies. **Second**, when the flow of information is no longer deterred by different languages, cross-border information exchanges would happen more frequently and knowledge would be delivered more accurately without problems in translation. **Last but not least**, cultural and religious discrimination can be reduced to some extent if all people in the world communicate in the same language.

In conclusion, globalisation in terms of language would show effects on the positive side. Individuals and governments will be beneficial through better cross-national communications. **Besides**, there are many plus points in economics, education and culture terms.

Practice: Some universities now offer their courses on the Internet so that people can study online. Is this a positive or negative development?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Sample answer:

It is true that online courses are becoming a common feature of university education. Although there are some drawbacks of Internet-based learning, I would argue that there are far more benefits.

The main drawback of the trend towards online university courses is that there is less direct interaction. Students may not have the opportunity to engage face-to-face with their teachers, and will instead have to rely on written forms of communication. Similarly, students who study online do not come into direct contact with each other, and this could have a negative impact on peer support, discussion and exchange of ideas. For example, whereas students on traditional courses can attend seminars and even discuss their subjects over coffee after lessons, online learners are restricted to chatting through website forum areas. These learners may also lack the motivation and element of competition that face-to-face group work brings.

Despite the negatives mentioned above, I believe that online university courses are a positive development for various reasons. Firstly, they allow learners to study in a flexible way, meaning that they can work whenever and wherever is convenient, and they can cover the material at their own pace. Secondly, the cost of a university education can be greatly reduced, while revenues for institutions may increase as more students can be taught. Finally, online learning offers open access to anybody who is willing to study, regardless of age, location, ability and background. For example, my uncle, who is 65 years old, has recently enrolled on an online MBA course in a different country, which would have been impossible in the days before Internet-based education.

In conclusion, while I recognise the possible disadvantages of online learning, I consider it to be a positive development overall.

(Simon, band 9)

F. PROBLEM-SOLUTION/ CAUSE-SOLUTION/ CAUSE-EFFECT ESSAYS**I. Essay Structures****Introduction**

Sentence 1: It is a fact that .../ It is true that...

Sentence 2:

Problems & Solutions:

- Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, societies can take steps to mitigate these potential problems.

Causes & Solutions:

- This leading tendency is caused by several factors and several solutions should be adopted (by governments and individuals) to deal with this problems.

Causes & Effects:

- This trend is caused by several reasons regarding ... Consequently, there are numerous negative effects that will arise.

Body*** Problems:**

- Several related problems can be anticipated when...
- The main issue is that..... In other words,...
- Another further pressure will include.....

*** Causes:**

- There are two primary/ principal/ major reasons why the
- One reason is that.....
- Furthermore/ additionally.....The conclusion

*** Solution:**

- Several measures/ solutions could be taken to deal with / face with/ cope with/ eliminate this problem/ issue.
- The first solution would be.....
- The second measure would be

Conclusion:

- In conclusion, ... is the main reason for ... As a result, the downside would emerge consequently in terms of {effect 1, 2 & 3}. Nevertheless, there are measures that can be taken to deal with the problems regarding {solution 1,2,3}.

Topic: *In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing. What problems will this cause for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.*

Sample answer:

Many developed countries are experiencing substantial increases in life expectancy. This essay will highlight some of the main problems of this and suggest several possible approaches to reduce the adverse effects resulting from an ageing population.

One of the major challenges of the growing population of elderly people is that it puts a heavy burden on the healthcare system. Older people are more vulnerable to chronic diseases, such as heart attacks or diabetes, that require special medical treatments to be effectively treated. The government might have to devote a larger budget to healthcare in order to serve the growing demands of an ageing population. **Another problem** facing a country with increasing life expectancy is that there will be an increase in the proportion of retired people claiming pension benefits, and a decline in the percentage of people of working age who pay income taxes. The combination of higher pension spending and lower tax revenues can seriously affect government spending and the economy as a whole.

The government could implement a range of measures to deal with the problems of increasing life expectancy. The first solution would be to increase the importance of the private sector in providing healthcare and pensions. This would help reduce the burden on government spending. **Another measure would be to** encourage the immigration of young working adults, which could help increase tax revenues for the government. **Finally,** it is important to educate people about the importance of money management and saving for retirement. By doing this, when people reach their retirement age, they will have a certain amount of money to take care of themselves without the need to depend on their children or the government.

In conclusion, various steps could be taken to tackle the problems that a country with an ageing population might encounter.

Practice: Today more people are overweight than ever before. What in your opinion are the primary causes of this? What are the main effects of this epidemic?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Suggested answer:

Nowadays the number of overweight people is constantly increasing. This essay will discuss the main reasons of this epidemic and then describe the possible effects of the problem.

The foremost causes of obesity are inactive lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits. Today more and more people rely on cars instead of walking, have less physical demands at work and prefer inactive leisure activities. This results in burning less calories and gaining weight. Moreover, the problem is accentuated by the growing number of people, who eat irregularly and consume large portions of high-calorie food. For example, about 50% of the adult population in Europe with so-called disordered eating suffer from obesity.

The possible effects of this problem include physical health problems and loss of productivity. First of all, obesity results in incorrect functioning of the human body and contributes to the risk of developing some chronic illnesses. For example, as body fat percentage increases, the person's metabolism worsens, which in turn may result in diabetes or heart diseases. Secondly, overweight people are very unhealthy and often suffer from stress and tiredness. This lessens their work capacity and results in lower productivity. For example, it has been proven that an obese person needs to put more effort to complete some task than a person with normal weight.

In conclusion, obesity is a big problem that affects a lot of people nowadays. It is mainly caused by inactive lifestyle and eating disorders and results in severe health problems and loss of productivity.

G. TWO-PART QUESTION ESSAYS**Introduction**

Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic

Sentence 2: Answer the question

Body

Body 1:

Sentence 1: The topic sentence (answer the first question)

Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support your answer

Body 2:

Sentence 1: The topic sentence (answer the second question)

Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support your answer

Conclusion

Restate your answer

Topic: Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology.

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships that people make? Has this been a positive or negative development?

Sample answer:

It is true that new technologies have had an influence on communication between people. Technology has affected relationships in various ways, and in my opinion there are both positive and negative effects.

Technology has had an impact on relationships in business, education and social life. Firstly, telephones and the Internet allow business people in different countries to interact without ever meeting each other. Secondly, services like Skype create new possibilities for relationships between students and teachers. For example, a student can now take video lessons with a teacher in a different city or country. Finally, many people use social networks, like Facebook, to make new friends and find people who share common interests, and they interact through their computers rather than face to face.

On the one hand, these developments can be extremely positive. Cooperation between people in different countries was much more difficult when communication was limited to written letters or telegrams. Nowadays, interactions by email, phone or video are almost as good as face-to-face meetings, and many of us benefit from these interactions, either in work or social contexts. On the other hand, the availability of new communication technologies can also have the result of isolating people and discouraging real interaction. For example, many young people choose to make friends online rather than mixing with their peers in the real world, and these 'virtual' relationships are a poor substitute for real friendships.

In conclusion, technology has certainly revolutionised communication between people, but not all of the outcomes of this revolution have been positive.

Practice: In education and employment, some people work harder than others. Why do some people work harder? Is it always a good thing to work hard?

[illegible]

[illegible]