2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Obviously, the earliest teachers we have in our lives in most cases are our parents, and they are generally the most involved in the development and education of their children. Yet neither are all parents good teachers nor are those good parents the best teachers.

First of all, not all parents are good teachers. As normal individuals, some parents more or less have bad habits. Even though parents almost instinctively devote themselves to cultivating their offspring, the outcome might turn out to be disappointment, for all children tend to unconsciously or subconsciously copy every thing from their parents. Another deficiency of parents as teachers is the fact that most parents are lack of common senses of education. All too often we observe some parents tend to pursue their cherished but failed dream by forcing their children to develop in a prearranged direction. Ironically, if their children did not follow the instructions, the children would be regarded as disobedient or allegedly rebellious. In fact, it is parents rather than their children that virtually disobey common senses.

Moreover, some parents are qualified as good teachers, but not all of them are the best ones. When children are in the preliminary school, it is not surprising that parents are capable of teaching their children almost every subject even better than professional teachers in the school. But the situation will not last long. We live in a world where knowledge is accumulated by multiplying and at the same time becomes more and more specialized. Therefore, to be a professional in a certain field today takes much longer time than ever before. No parent is able to be professional in all fields, though they might be experts in one or more fields. Wise parents often release rather than charge their children as early as possible. They are aware of the possibility outside the family.

Parents may, nevertheless, help their children much more than do good teachers. Most parts of children education are virtually beyond teachers' reaches. It is parents that supplement. Psychology studies have shown us that parents' love sometimes has astonishingly magic power to their children. Albert Einstein's mother and Forest Gump's mother are both good examples. On the other hand, parents might do their children harm more than do bad teachers as well. The natures of those children whose parents have divorced are often severely distorted. In a word, it is rather superficial to simply say that parents are the best teachers.

[404 words]

4. It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?

Both experiences and books are very essential resources, and both of them have relevant merits.

Experiences are the most direct resources we ever have. Almost our every basic skill came from experiences, such as walking, articulating, reading even thinking. Without experiences, some natural born abilities even might lose. Studies have shown that a baby who was robbed by animals into forest for 12 years lost his ability to talk in human language. Furthermore, it is generally accepted that each and every skill develops by experiences, and that's why people always say practice makes perfect.

Books are valuable when knowledge is beyond the scope of our experiences. Perhaps the most obvious examples are those fluent writers. They write various stories, the scopes of which are far beyond any individual's experiences. Take Joyce Carol Oates for example, her productivity has been prodigious, accumulating in less than two decades to nearly thirty titles, including novels, collections of short stories and verse, plays and literary criticism. Although some of them appear to come from her own direct observations, her dreams, and her fears, much more is clearly from the experiences of others. Her fictive world remains strikingly akin to that real one reflected in the daily newspapers, the television news and talk shows, and the popular magazines of our day.

Yet either experiences or books may give us wrong information. Our direct observations always are subject to our beliefs, hopes, fears, expectations, and our bias, which might make observations unreliable. People vary in their powers of observation, and the reliability of our observations is no better than the reliability of our memories, which as we know can be deceptive. Information printed in papers sometimes is unreliable either, it may be misprinted, or even deliberately distorted. For example, Definitions such as Marxism, Capitalism, Zionism are totally different in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Current English between the original edition and the sanctioned Russian edition.

In conclusion, both sources are important. Sometimes one is more important than the other in accordance with specific circumstances. For example, when we make a general survey about a certain subject, we may prefer rich references in library. On the other hand, if we want to know more specific details, we had better refer to experiences such as results of carefully designed experiments.

[377 Words]

7. How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

The impact that modern mass media such as movies or televisions has had on our daily life, and society in general, is undeniable. No doubt it will become even greater as the scope of mass media continues to grow, and as the relevant technologies become more and more sophisticated, and so fascinating that virtually nobody will be able to escape. Already, it can be seen how western movies are exercising influence on our youth generation: they grow long-hair regardless of their sex, commonly part of which are dyed in gold; they wear jeans in each and every season, usually knees of which are deliberately tattered; boys are fond of earrings or other odd pendants; and girls are keen on Marlboros and weird coarse languages.

The major means that mass media influence the public is by creating topics of discussion in the society. Mass media offers people (the consumers) issues to talk and think about. *Titanic* had brought a worldwide uproar by its extolling and of fascinating immortal love; *Prime Color* and *Wag the dog* met the national debate on right and duty of the president of the United States. Antiwar movies such as *Tears of the Sun* and *All Quiet On The Western Front* among numerous others have been raising the question that is any war really to uphold justice or is it really worthy that an individual makes sacrifices to his country and at the same time ignores his own family or his personal values?

Mass media also shapes our understanding of what is important and what is not important (to know). The "important" issues are to be found on the first pages of the newspaper (/in the beginning of a television program). The "not important" stories are the ones that are not being told at all. The "not very important" stories are probably very short and hidden in the last pages. In fact censorships present all mass media including its distributing means such as the Internet. By prearranging public issue, the mass media makes decisions for us. Even though there are critical thinking individuals in any society, they are definite minority; the public in whole in deed lack skills of critical thinking, and therefore they are often led by the media.

In brief, mass media, by offering topics and affecting the ways in which we discuss "the important issues", has a strong influence on our perception of the truth, of the world or of the structure of our society, we have to admit that it has a role in our lives as a source of information, experiences, entertainment, amusement and relaxation.

[431 Words]

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

While television has been somewhat harmful in its effects, it has hardly "destroyed" communication among friends and family, although for some people, the assertion that television has destroyed communication among friends and family seems true.

Television, invented in last century, with its wide availability, increasingly prosperous programs, becomes one of the most powerful means of communication in the history, and is more and more difficult to ignore. Television is as much a part of our lives as are our meals, work, or school; studies consistently show that the average American child spends almost as much time watching television as does she in school. We all have only 24 hours a day and it is clear that the more time one spends on watching television, the less time one does with his or her family and friends. Hence we see the passage in the newspaper or magazine titled "Television took my husband away from me."

Tempting as such claim might be, it is hardly true. It is not television took her husband away from her, but the increasing pressures of modern life did it. We have no definite evidence to say people nowadays endure more pressures than did their counterparts in the past, but it is absolutely true that people nowadays undergo great pressures that come from various directions, including work, school, economy, and so forth. Investigations show that people who earn more than 50,000 yuan annually spend at least 60 hours on work per week, much more than those who earn 20,000 yuan annually. Today a bachelor degree may no longer guarantee a well paid job, more and more companies post their want ads claiming that applicants must have at least master degrees, which take two or three years longer.

In a word, people nowadays have very little time for anything; television is merely among many other factors that affect communication, and is definitely not the main cause of degradation. It seems that the more one is educated, the more one is aware of the deleterious effects that excessive television causes, and either deliberately avoid it or actually do not enjoy it. On the other hand, there really are many people addictive to television. But the fact is, were television not existent, surely these people would have found other escapes, such as alcohol or gambling, for example. In other words, people always find a way to do what they want to do. Therefore, I do not agree that television has destroyed communication among friends and family.

[419 words]

9. Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

People seldom agree with each other even in such trivial issues as preference between a big city and a small town. It's a little bit haste to say that it is better to live in a big city than to live in a small town, or vice versus.

Living in a big city has several benefits. First, there're more job opportunities readily available in big cities than in a small town. Furthermore, not merely there are more job positions in big cities, the qualities of the position are much higher as well. In addition, the pay is more decent. Second, children are supposed to be able to receive an education with a higher quality compared with their counterparts who live in a small town. For families, children's education is always put in the first place. Finally, living in a big city has a superior overall living standard to that in a small town. There are more commodities and services in city markets; there are more public utilities available in big cities; there are even much more television channels in big cities.

However, living in a small town also has some advantages. People who live in a small town often have a much comfortable life style. Most of them are immune from suffering of high working stress. Although the average pay is much less than that of big cities, the price of daily necessities, such as vegetables or meat, is usually more inexpensive. Instead of suffering loneliness which is prevalent in big cities, children might grow up more healthily because of harmonious relationship among residents in small town. People in a small town do not have to get up so early in the morning because there has been no traffic jam, and no body drive so fast in a small town as to cause accidents. They might have fewer channels in television, but they have more friends readily available to chat or entertain with.

According to my current situation, although I am longing for the cozy atmosphere and relationship among neighbors and friends which almost only exist in big cities, I have chosen to live in one of the biggest cities in my country --- Beijing, since I have found a pretty good job here, and a decent pay. I think I would prefer living a small town when I get retired one day.

[392 Words]

17. Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with a teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons to develop your essay.

Whether we need a teacher or not depends on circumstances. The relationship between a teacher and a new subject is somewhat similar to that between a tour guide and an unknown city.

When we come to an unknown city for the first time, we definitely need a tour guide. We might have a detailed map, but it is unlikely functional – it isn't surprised that we can hardly interpret those mysterious symbols. Likewise, when we are beginners, it is wise to learn with teachers. They can tell us where to begin with, what we should do, and which reference we should choose. When we confront difficulties, we can ask them for help, and their advices will always be tremendously helpful. With teachers' assistance, we might learn easier, faster, and more interestingly.

After a period of time, we have learned a lot. We now know the city pretty well, even though there still are many places we haven't been. It doesn't matter. Now that we are able to recognize those mysterious symbols on the map, what we need perhaps is not a tour guide but a more detailed map. Similarly, we need richer references for learning. Yes, there are still many fields unexplored; they are, nevertheless, no longer puzzling. The task is simple: we will explore them one by one, little by little. If we are working on a certain skill, practice more; if we are preparing a test, practice more; whatever we are learning, just remember, like people always say, practice makes perfect.

After another period of time, we might have become others' tour guide, but we still want to know more. We want to know which restaurant is the most decent, which bookstore is the most professional, which coffee

shop is the most classical. Even the most comprehensive map doesn't have adequate information. We again need experts. In learning, it's much the same. We need experts to consult for specific problems. Furthermore, the most beneficial merit of consulting experts is that we can not merely refer to them but even discuss with them in depth. As is often the case, a solution for a complex matter is not waiting for us right there and then, sometimes it comes out of inspirations of discussion.

In short, having a good teacher is always better than having none, but the importance of a teacher varies from period to period, from stage to stage.

[400 Words]

21. In general, people are living longer now. Discuss the causes of this phenomenon.

Among various factors that contribute to today's longevity of people are three most obvious ones: the improvement of food conditions, the development of modern medical technology, and finally current stability of economy in our country.

Food conditions are better than before and are still being developed with a rapid pace. First of all, foods are more hygienic. People today drink untainted mineral water, sterilized skim milk, which are cheaply supplied in supermarkets. Furthermore, foods are more nutrient. Not to mention various carefully designed nutrient products, people can just ignore the possibility of being dystrophic, in that they can keep nutrient balance by simply taking a cheap pill of vitamin compound every day.

Another essential improvement that contributes to people's longevity is swiftly developing medical technology. Development of modern technology has always been amazing. Certain diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, and dysentery are now easy to remedy with low expenses, but in the past, they are all probably lethal ones. The dental technology seems developed little except its exorbitantly charged bill, yet the simplest technology contributes to people's longevity most. It is not difficult to imagine that if an individual who lived in the past got a toothache, without certain dental care which is common today, he was certainly in an awful prospect: he might even die of a toothache!

Current societal and economic stabilization is also a very indispensable factor. People have less pressure in a more stable society, the less pressure they suffer, the healthier they are. Today's ideal stabilization even provides people an opportunity to secure their future – buy insurances. Various types of insurances are readily available, which make people feel safe, and have to a large extent reduced people' anxieties, and therefore indirectly contribute significantly to longevity of people.

[274 Words]

24. A person you know is planning to move to your town or city. What do you think this person would like and dislike about living in your town or city? Why.

If my friend Joey wants to move to Beijing, I think she will definitely like this greatest city in our country, even though she might find something she dislikes.

The weather might be one thing that she dislikes. The weather in Beijing is characterized by dry climate and it is much windy and dusty than that of Guangzhou city. Joey is very sensitive about her skin, so she will definitely hate dusty winds in Beijing. Moreover, Beijing's winter is far too much colder than that of Guangzhou, it might take Joey, as many other people came from the South, a very long time to get accustomed to. Nevertheless, she might well enjoy winter in the North, since she has never seen snowflakes in reality. I remembered the shining of yearning and eager in her eyes when I once told her what winters in the North look like.

She might be always irritated by heavy traffic in Beijing, though taxis in Beijing cost much less than in Guangzhou. When I was in Guangzhou, seldom was I trapped by traffic jams. It must be ridiculous for her to have spent more than two hours and still didn't arrive at the destination which is merely 10-kilometer away. And the most ludicrous thing is, even if you possess a private car, it is more likely to be useless, for parking lots are always crowded, which means more time is to be wasted. One good news for her is that the bus system and subway system in Beijing are well developed and more convenient, and an even more delight one is that she won't have to bear that odor of bromhidrosis owing to burning weather as she once experienced in buses of Guangzhou.

What she will definitely love is the cultural ethos of the city. Beijing has a history probably longer than any other big city in China. To visit all historical landscapes in Beijing, she will need at least three years, no

kidding! Beijing has the most famous and excellent universities, the largest libraries, the richest museums, yet most important of all, her best friend! Amazingly, in this aged city, people are sometimes more international. Joey is especially fond of art, and Beijing is the right place for her, which is much frequented for concerts of international singers or other musicians, and she will even be able to attend CuiJian's private concert in a coffee shop on a rainy autumn weekend.

[407 Words]

27. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should sometimes do things that they do not enjoy doing. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

We live in a world in which every one wants to be successful. Nothing is wrong about the desire to be No. 1, and there is no doubt that being successful is enjoyable. There really is something wrong, nevertheless, to think we could be finally successful by only doing things that we do enjoy doing. People often are amazed by the glorious appearance of a skyscraper, at the same time, they should be conscious of the fact that the skyscraper had taken a long time to construct, maybe much longer time to design, and possibly even several workers' lives during the constructing process!

We may categorize things into two groups, the enjoyable and the unenjoyable; at the same time, another category can be made: the necessary and the unnecessary. The point is, things that are necessary are not always enjoyable and things that are enjoyable sometimes may be unnecessary. Doing things that are necessary rather than those that are merely enjoyable is not only helpful but it might also be indispensable for individual success. We all admire even envy those who now have attained great achievements, such those famous stars as, Jacky Chen, Jet Li, for example. We should, however, be aware of the exorbitant prices they have paid for their present glories. Jacky Chen once told that when he was still a teenager, he and his partners were required to practice more than 12 hours a day; and it was said that Jet Li was sent to be an apprentice when he was hardly four years old! Apparently, those seemingly cruel hardships had turned out to be the best gifts years later. But for yesterday's struggle, today's glories could not exist.

Things that are both enjoyable and necessary or both unenjoyable and unnecessary seldom exist. We may dislike some curriculums in university, such as mathematics or history, but they are necessary; we may prefer leisure times to work days, but the latter are necessary. The list will go on and may be an endless one. Pursuing a successful life is nothing more than making wise decisions, by "wise" we mean the choice of doing the necessary first.

[353 Words]

33. You have received a gift of money. The money is enough to buy either a piece of jewelry you like or tickets to a concert you want to attend. Which would you buy?

It seems not a difficult decision for me. But if I was given the gift of money in different time, I would have different answers.

If I was given the money when I was in my high school, I will buy a ticket to a concert. I had been longing for attending concerts of famous artists to enjoy those transcendent pieces such as saxophone of Kenny G., rock and roll of Cuijian, and romantic songs of Luo Dayou. Unfortunately I just was not able to afford those exorbitant prices. The money I was given should be better if enough for several tickets, for that means I could take along my best friends, whose situations were much similar to mine.

If I was given the money when I was in the university, I will buy a fine piece of jewelry, and give it to my girl friend as a casual present, for we might enjoy a certain concert, but hardly could it be permanently impressive. Memories are always not reliable. We tend to simply forget any thing – at least memories are somewhat distorted – if time past long enough. But if I bought my girl friend a piece of jewelry, not costly though it might be, it would be a perfect reminder, being never changed.

If I was given the money recently, it would only make me feel funny. I don't want to go to concerts anymore, because I became more and more reluctant to present in crowd public places, besides I have bought a super Hi-Fi which always brings me identical pleasure. And I don't want to buy any jewelry, for it is meaningless for a man who is now solitary. Nevertheless, if I was forced to accept some money as a gift – it hardly happens – I might buy some books, after all, reading always makes me relaxed and amazed.

[312 Words]

40. The expression "Never, never give up" means to keep trying and never stop working for your goals. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Near in the end of the Second World War, Churchill delivered his famous and the shortest speech: Never, Never Give Up. British as well as people in many other countries were tremendously encouraged, and finally went through the hardest period in human history.

To never give up, represents a strong and positive attitude of the life. Some people are readily to quit when they feel they cannot endure the difficulties of some work or they think they cannot find a way to finish the required task. Such people usually become upset and disappointed of failure and lose their self-confidence, although they virtually can do every thing well. In case of acquiring second language, most people failed simply because they had given up. Acquiring second language might be the easiest task among diverse academic curriculums, because one can be successful only by plain repetition, though it is pains-taking and time-consuming.

Never give up. Such strong belief often gives us the second chance. The fact that we failed somewhere does not mean we are going to fail every where, and especially it does not necessarily mean that we are deprived of opportunities to win there. There probably even always is a second chance. Many successful people did fail before. Yu MinHong, the founder of New Oriental School, was able to study in Peking University only after three years' attempts. He wasn't reckoned as successful after graduation, among many signs is the fact that almost all his classmates went abroad while he was each and every time refused by officials in visa-granting office for unexplained reasons. Yet he never gives up, which makes his later success inevitable.

Psychology teaches us that we do get what we want, if we know exactly what we want and want the right thing. First of all, we must make sure that our clearly defined goals are achievable, and that our carefully designed means are practicable. A superficial claim like *I wanna be a millionaire!* brings nothing. And an unrealistic goal like *inventing a perpetual motion machine* is absolutely meaningless. But if we want to acquire a second language, it is either realistic or meaningful. By careful planning, and relevant persistence we have no reason to fail. And numerous examples tell us that even if the methods are problematic, many still finally attain great achievements. Therefore, in most cases, 'Never, never give up' is really something that we should always bear in mind.

[392 words]

42. What is a very important skill a person should learn in order to be successful in the world today? Choose one skill and use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

People succeed not merely because they have one or more certain skills. However, if I have to choose one skill which is supposed to be useful to success, I think it should be the ability to convince or persuade others.

By convincing or persuading we get what we want from others. When we were children, we always managed to persuade our parents to buy us sugar candies; when we were in the high school, we had to persuade our classmates to play with us; when we applied for a job after graduation, we had better be able to successfully convince the employer that we are qualified employees. Besides, some day, we will all have to convince a person whom we love that we are in deed outstanding husbands or excellent wives.

By convincing or persuading we become more and more sturdy and powerful. Nobody is capable of doing every thing perfect. By persuading others to cooperate with us, we can achieve much more than we could only by ourselves. Mr. Yu Min Hong, president of New Oriental School, had successful convincing his alumni including Mr. Wang Qiang and Mr. Xu XiaoPing to strive after an ideal – to build a most influential private university in China, and today, they have been so close. Mr. Yu, while answering a journalist, said that he once persuaded Chinese students to go abroad, his current work is to convince those students to return to their homeland with their enhanced intelligences.

Ironically, it is ourselves who need us to persuade and convince most. We by nature are weak, yet have to be stronger to face up to tough surroundings. All too often we need encouraging. Amazingly, it is ourselves who can in deed encourage. When we are in trouble, we need convince ourselves not to give up, when we are in plain sailing, we need persuade ourselves no to be negligent. By convincing ourselves, we become more and more independent, and more and more robust, both of which are characteristics essential to success.

[330 Words]

43. Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Among various motives that spur people to perform dangerous activities are money, pleasure, and ironically, nescience.

Perhaps the most direct drive might come from money, which every one would need in this world. People have enough wit to balance their certain choices, especially when they face with danger and money. Those stunt men or women in Hollywood movies, photographers who shoot sharks or crocodiles, or those who participate in stock car racing, are always sophisticated enough to calculate. If they are willing to take the risk, they must have evaluated well. They know exactly the rule: the more risks they take, the more they might get.

There also is another kind of people in this world. Money is of almost no importance to them. They perform dangerous activities just for their own pleasure. Perhaps the most appropriate example is sports. Actually every kind of sports is dangerous, and even can be deadly. Danger always exists, but people tend to simply ignore it. Take parachuting for example, who can refuse the fascination of flying in the sky like a bird? On the other hand, it seems that danger itself makes the activity so fascinating. To conquer is the very nature of human being from the very beginning. Pheidippides said seconds before dropping dead two thousand years ago, "Rejoice, we conquer!" And it seems perfectly logical for some people that celebration follows conquer.

Ironically, sometimes blind brave comes out of nescience. Sometimes people simply don't know the activity is hazardous or how perilous it exactly is. It can be exemplified by a recent incident. Five students (among them three are master degree) lost their lives in a mountaineering expedition. Reporters say those students didn't make an adequate preparation before expedition, which made the tragedy ineluctable. People always praise alpinists with words such as strong, brave, courageous, but in this case none of these words is appropriate. Those young students traded their springtime with blind brave, and died in vain.

[327 words]

69. If you could study a subject that you have never had the opportunity to study, what would you choose? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

Students graduating from colleges today are not fully prepared to deal with the "real world." It is my belief that college students need to be taught more skills and information to enable them to meet the challenges that face everyone in daily life. The areas in which student need training are playing the credit game, planning their personal financial strategy, and consumer awareness.

Learning how to obtain and use credit is probably the most valuable knowledge a young person can have. Credit is a dangerous tool that can be of tremendous help if it is handled with caution. Having credit can enable people to obtain material necessities before they have the money to purchase them outright. But unfortunately, many, many young people get carried away with their handy plastic credit cards and awake one day to find they are in serious financial debt. Learning how to use credit properly can be a very difficult and painful lesson indeed.

Of equal importance is learning how to plan a personal budget. People have to know how to control money, otherwise, it can control them. Students should leave college knowing how to allocate their money for living expenses, insurance, savings, and so forth in order to avoid the "Oh, no! I'm flat broke and I don't get paid again for two weeks!" anxiety syndrome.

Along with learning about credit and personal financial planning, graduating college students should be trained as consumers. The consumer market today is flooded with a variety of products and services of varying quality and prices. A young person entering the "real world" is suddenly faced with difficult decisions about which product to buy or whose services to engage. He is usually unaware of such things as return policies, guarantees, or repair procedures, information of this sort is vital knowledge to everyday living.

For a newly graduated college student, the "real world" can be a scary place to be when he or she is faced with such issues as handling credit, planning a budget, or knowing what to look for, when making a purchase and whom to purchase it from. Entering this "real world" could be made less painful if persons were educated in dealing with these areas of daily life. What better place to accomplish this than in college?

[380 Words]

77. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Boys and girls should attend separate schools. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In my country, China, people live in a culture where young boys and girls should never say *love* to each other. Moreover, it is absolutely a shame that such affairs happen in campus. To avoid alleged shames, some people assert that boys and girls should attend separate schools.

The point is, is there anything wrong when a little boy says 'I love you' to a little girl? Gone are the days when 'love' was a forbidden word in our culture, it has now, nevertheless, actually quite different connotations from that of the word in western society. People in Hollywood movies often say 'I love you' to almost every one naturally, readily and easily, including friends, family members, partners in work, even an unknown taxi driver! But in China, not surprisingly, many people have never said 'I love you' to their parents, even seldom to their mates or children. 'Love', in Chinese word, does today carry subtle connotations related to immoral affairs. It seems not a question of is there anything wrong, but a question of there must be something wrong if a teenager dares to say anything about 'love!'

Even if there must be something wrong when a teenager falls into love, is it something that so appalling even evil that we adults have to prevent or even fight? Did we ever discover any prudent evidence which clearly prove it really is something bad? Hardly. It is in fact quite natural that a little boy admires a beautiful girl or a little girl feels a smart boy appealing. And such emotions do not harm anything. Alleged 'premature love' simply is a nonexistent concept invented by ignorance. Girls and boys actually do not even know what love is! Perhaps they merely imitate behaviors of adults around them. What we adults should do is not to make them believe 'love' is evil, but is to teach them what true love really means. Regrettably, those adults never realize that they actually fail to assume their responsibility, but presumptuously believe they are capable of eliminating love among boys and girls by separating them into different school. It will never work.

Separate school once was an evil sign of discrimination of women, but today reemerges to prevent 'love affairs' among teenagers – a high school in Beijing recently announced that it has already separated girls from boys into different classes. I can hardly imagine any benefit that such a scheme could produce except for further distortions of teenagers' natures.

[408 words]

78. Is it more important to be able to work with a group of people on a team or to work independently? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

While some people emphasize great importance of cooperation, others argue that the significance of individual competition should not be rejected or neglected. To examine whether one is more important than the other, we have to look carefully into further details.

There are circumstances where the ability to work with group is much more important than that to work independently. More often than not, in most fields, a team can achieve much more extensive scope than an individual can, because one has less strength than many. In team-played sports, such as foot-ball, basket-ball; volley-ball etc., teamwork is often highly valued and is of essence. To get a goal or make a point, team members have to cooperate with each other, nobody could achieve without other's help. Although individual competence is a must, too much accent on his personal ability will lead him even the whole team to a disaster.

On the other hand, there also are inverse circumstances. In vital decision making, for example, one have to make a final choice with his own judgment. Let's consider the same situation mentioned above, on the very same sports ground, each opposite team has only one and should have only one coach, who must work independently to make important decisions, including which player should be replaced, which player should present on what kind of special circumstances, and so many other critical choices. The coach, like the commanders in the war, stands on a position where he has to be competitive, and his only rival is the coach of the other side. Even if he at the same time has to consult with others, it is him who takes the final step, and he essentially has no choice but to have an excellent ability to work independently.

There seldom exists a circumstance where cooperation and competition do not coexist. The point is that emphasis on cooperation doesn't mean competition should be neglected or rejected, and vice versa. Therefore, it hasn't gone too far to say that both the ability of working with group and that of working independently are equally important.

[347 Words]

103. In your opinion, what is the most important characteristic (for example, honesty, intelligence, a sense of humor) that a person can have to be successful in life? When you write your answer, you are not limited to the examples listed in the question.

To be successful in life, one needs the ability to think critically. By critical thinking, one is capable of analyzing insightfully, concentrating on the right target, thereby making a wise decision.

Thinking critically can make one analyze problems insightfully. We live in a world where controversial issues are often simply taken for granted. For example, most people are reluctant to think carefully about issues like whether boys and girls should take separate classes. Recently a high school in Beijing announced that their students from then on take separate classes. Many parents support such ridiculous decision without careful consideration. They are poor thinkers. Critical thinking is but to ask some simple yet essential questions, which always brings amazing outcomes. Is such a scheme capable of eliminating underage sexual behaviors among adolescents? Does such a scheme guarantee boys and girls against negative effects? The question left unanswered, but the decision had been made.

Thinking critically can help one concentrate on right targets. We all have only and exactly 24 hours a day, but we often have mountainous work to do in hands, along with which many personal affairs seem equally urgent. Concentrating on right targets is probably the only way to overcome such dilemmas. For example, ETS has recently announced that GRE examination will be transformed back to paper based test. Grumbles are all around, and complains are posted almost every BBS on the internet. But if students think critically, however, they will find out the simple fact that even if ETS had made an awkward decision, they should concentrate on the right target – preparing test as prudently as possible, and at the same time, grumbling never helps.

Only by thinking critically can one make decisions wise and prudent. Sound decision making is essential to success. Decisions such as which movie theater we should go tonight are simple enough to make by tossing a coin, but decisions such as which university or which major we should choose are complicated enough so that we need careful comparisons. A comparison sheet will help a lot, simply by listing several relevant questions such as *Am I really interested in this major?*, or *Are there more opportunities in the city where the university locates?* By analyzing insightfully and concentrating on the right targets, wise decisions are not hard to reach at all.

Therefore, among various characteristics that may contribute to one's success in life, being capable of thinking critically is probably the most important.

[402 Words]

104. It is generally agreed that society benefits from the work of its members. Compare the contributions of artists to society with the contributions of scientists to society. Which type of contribution do you think is valued more by your society? Give specific reasons to support your answer.

Art and science are essentially a strange coupling. More often than not, they are considered as divergent rather than consistent with each other. The Artist employs image and metaphor; the scientist uses number and equation. By casual juxtaposition, these two fields seem to have little in common: There are few if any references to art in any standard textbook of science; art historians rarely interpret an artist's work in light of the conceptual framework of science. Despite what appear to be irreconcilable differences, however, they do have at least one thing in common --- both of them have significant contribution to the society, either through probably distinctive way.

The development of science and technology has always accompanied the progress of the society. The invention of the steam engine brought a new era of thrift of world economy; the employment electricity has multiplied the productivity and virtually reproduced limited resources on the Earth; the innovation of computer technologies has made the Earth a little village and connected distant countries as a single market. While sometimes the progress of science and technology, for example, technology of human cloning, cause troubles or originate dilemmas, it seems always undeniable that in a broad sense, the development of science has provided people a much higher standard of living than that of their counterparts in any phrase of the history.

Science has been developed by continuous modification, and at the same time always reflects the progress of the society. Visualization and fascination have been the major power of any form of art. For example, any religion in this world cannot exist without music, which helps realize the faith of the church to an astonishing extent. Each and every revolution on this earth was accompanied by numerous corresponding art productions, because the artists sense the circumstances, and then reflect their sensations with sophisticated techniques in their production, which can be easily perceived by the public through powerful empathy. Nobody could evaluate art with correct or not standard, needless to say the public, they simply feel it is good or not, therefore art has always had magic influence on the public, and society in general.

However, it's been said that there is no science without fancy and no art without facts. Science fictions have long been the functioning as a major vehicle for the public dissemination of science; scientists share parallel view of space, time and light etc. with artists. Not only are art and science interrelated with each other but they also contribute to each other in various way. Therefore, it is hard to compare the contributions of art and science, it is simply partial to say that either one contributes more to the society than another does.

[451 Words]

119. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer.

It seems that people do sometimes behave differently when they wear different clothes. For example, a well-dressed man seldom spits at random, a woman in glorious dresses is more likely to talk in a gentle tone, and a clean dressed child seems quiet than others. It might be explained that different dresses give people different self-images, and most people subconsciously behave according to their own self-images. Equally sensible is another factor, that is, all too often people regard a person differently according to her dresses. Therefore, people might behave differently when they wear different clothes because they are treated differently.

Also, appropriate dresses do help a lot in certain circumstances. It is not difficult to imagine that a doctor with a casual suit instead of his formal one will certainly make her patients nervous, for doctors in working hours are always supposed to be in white suits. An applicant in her first interview will be naturally accompanied with great mental tension. If she was well-dressed, by "well" we do not mean expensively or gloriously, we mean "neatly", she would appear more self-confident and or even be self-confident in deed.

Yet merely a suit itself can contribute little. In fact, people's behaviors inevitably reflect their very nature. A poor gentleman dressed in rags is still a gentleman. He knows the essential principles that a civilized individual must observe, he knows fundamental moral disciplines which an educated individual must follow. A parvenu on the other hand, will finally find out the fact that his exorbitantly dear dresses is of no use to make him a gentleman, and he even eventually fail to make him look like a gentleman. Maybe those are right who said it takes at least three generations to cultivate a gentleman.

In a word, I do not believe that clothes can essentially make people different, even though they might sometimes seemingly do.

[301 Words]

133. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A person's childhood years (the time from birth to twelve years of age) are the most important years of a person's life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

It is generally accepted that a person's childhood years are very important years of a person's life, but it is hardly appropriate to say those years are the most important.

We do not reject the importance of childhood years. Actually it is rather important for later part of a person's life. Our lives, to a large extent are subject to our recognition of our surroundings. Our world views have been structured from very early stage of our childhood, mainly through our daily experiences. Every one therefore actually has his/her own world different from those of others, because even though we all live in a single world, each and every one of us in fact live in distinctive worlds which are determined by distinctive perceptions that vary widely from individual to individual. Hence, we should not be surprised by the extent to which a person's life is influenced by one's childhood.

Childhood, however, is only part of one's life, and it is merely one of several determinatives that shape one's later life. Among various determinatives is one's learning ability. Human beings are superior to any other animals on the Earth simply because of their vigorous ability to learn. Psychology teaches us that training and self-training can dramatically alter our characteristics and even the ability to learn itself, which may eventually alter our lives. Furthermore, learning is a life long process, which means every part of one's life could be an essential crucial period, and could play an indispensable role in one's life. Examples are available every where. Einstein was taken for an idiot by his teacher when he was a child. Even though he knew exactly that doesn't necessarily mean he was really an idiot, the awkward altitude of his stupid teacher absolutely made Einstein's childhood an awful one. Nevertheless, Einstein did lead a wonderful life.

Most parents nowadays seem to believe the statement that childhood is the most important phase of one's life, and therefore often force their children to learn those alleged essential skills for the sake of the future. The fact

is, such behavior is rather presumptuous, because there still are many other important factors that affect one's life.

[360 Words]

135. Some high schools require all students to wear school uniforms. Other high schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. Which of these two school policies do you think is better?

While in most present day high schools it is controversial that whether students should wear uniforms, most elementary schools have adopted uniform policy with wide support. Uniforms serve students benefits in several ways. First of all, uniforms act as social equalizers. Children often feel less social pressure when everyone in the school dresses the same way. Students who can not be fashionable due to limited family finances are made to feel more comfortable among their peers. Moreover, the wearing of uniforms affects students' perceptions of school climate. Students are made to feel as if they are a part of a team by wearing a uniform. School climate is improved considerably because kids perceive that they fit in because they look like everybody else. In addition, school uniforms would assist students and parents in other ways. Students would learn to appreciate the elimination of so many choices when getting dressed for a school day. Students would not be tardy for school as often because of the indecision about what to wear in the mornings.

However, when the issue comes to high school situation, further details should be carefully examined. Students in high schools are in a much different situation from students in elementary schools or middle schools. High school students are sometimes called young adults, by which people are expecting their maturity, at least to some extent. It's moderate that schools are expected to operate a well-disciplined, structured environment that is conducive to learning. But uniform is not the right answer to various difficulties and problems that the high school education is confronting. For example, while proponents address the safety that uniform policy would bring, opponents are aware of the fact that campus violence would not be reduced because of uniforms. Having grown up already, most students no longer feel that uniforms help them become a part of the school. Furthermore, Uniforms may not save parents as much money as many people would like to believe. Uniforms do not eliminate the need for clothing needed for outside school. Students many times wear their school clothing the rest of the day once they are home from school. Sneakers, jackets, boots, casual clothing, and more will still be needed. What may first appear to be economical, may not in reality, be accurate.

It has been said that a controversy can not exist without a fundamental dispute, and it seems that the answer to the school uniform debate is not a simple yes or no answer. There is no clear consensus as to the benefits of school uniforms. However, as to high schools, uniform policy will eventually be adapted or reconsidered as many other regulations which have already eliminated including "Boys' hair should not touch collar", or "Girls' skirts must be longer than knees."

[460 Words]

139. What do you consider to be the most important room in a house? Why is this room more important to you than any other room?

Whereas others might feel ridiculous, I reckon the bathroom as the most important room in my house, even though other rooms such as reading room or sitting room are probably equally important.

First of all, the bathroom is the most important because it is highly visible to guests. We may be able to close off the bedroom to indicate that the room is "off-limits," but we cannot deny our visitors access to the bathroom. The most overlooked in general though it might be, the bathroom is a room demands attention as much as impossible. For example, it is absolutely an ugly design if the toilet is placed directly opposite the door, all too often the embarrassment happens when the door is accidentally unlocked. And it is the host to be blame if the bathroom is dirty, smelly, or even scattered about in a mess.

The bathroom is very important because every family member will inevitably use that room, in which the most important part of family sanitations is located. Personal health of family member is no doubt superior to any other concerns. It should be spacious, bright, tidy, and above all, hygienic, and deserve frequent cleaning – in fact, the room we cannot clean too much, specifically, the toilet seat. Moreover, more than one bathroom are virtually needed, if possible. It is not only embarrass or inconvenient but also absurd and irritating if someone knocks the door when we are using the lavatory.

Another reason I put special emphasis upon bathroom came from my experiences. According to my conception, bathroom is not only for toileting, washing, and showering, but for reading as well. Don't be surprise, I have a very spacious and bright bathroom in my house, in which, an arm away from the stool, there

is a small bookshelf, a little bit highly located on the wall for preventing books and newspapers from getting wet. I already discovered that I have to spend more than 30 minutes a day in the bathroom, and that moment is so ideally quiet that helps concentrating. Believe it or not, I learnt a computer programming language – Delphi – while I was sitting on the stool!

[360 Words]

170. Groups or organizations are an important part of some people's lives. Why are groups or organizations important to people?

It was said that human beings are social animals. Some might argue human beings should be not called animals, but it's true that human beings are social. Therefore, it's of no surprise that groups or organizations are almost an indispensable part of most people's lives.

Most people are afraid of being alone, and for them, being with others is one of the most natural needs. Being a member of a group is comfortable. If an individual has gone so far as to being considered isolated, rumors arise. Others might ponder: what is the matter with that solitary individual? No one would like to be wondered in that way. Being a member of a group is also interesting. Every one has his own special means to pursue of happiness, for example, he might be keen on music concerts, or be fond of stamps collecting. By join a special interest group on his pet topic, he can easily find many people whose interests are similar to his, and can share his pleasure with those who can really appreciate it in proper way.

Many people find group or organizations are essential because they know a simple and never-changed fact that every single individuals on this Earth has only limited resources. Groups or organizations are always the best choice for an individual to emancipate himself from limitation. By joining a group, an individual is able share his limited resource with others, and share others' resources in turn, therefore is virtually able to reach a much larger amount of resources. The most popular resource-sharing activities exist in the Internet. There are numerous BBS on almost every particular topic on various websites, which always makes copious valuable materials readily reachable. No matter what a person is interested in, for example, music, movie, books, or whatever, he will find a right group to join on the internet.

In fact, any individual in a sense exists in a certain group: either he is a member of some groups, or he is a leader of a group. Either way, the group is critical to him. He cannot achieve greatness solely by himself, regardless of his status in the group; he needs others, for help, for support, and many other things, since nobody but God, should he be alive, is entirely independent and omnipotent.

[384 Words]

175. Some students like classes where teachers lecture (do all of the talking) in class. Other students prefer classes where the students do some of the talking. Which type of class do you prefer? Give specific reasons and details to support your choice.

There basically two types of classes in universities, classes where teachers lecture and that where the students do some of the talking. Both teaching and learning approaches are valuable and have relative merits.

Classes that are dominated by teachers' lectures may benefits students in several ways. First of all, lectures can communicate the intrinsic interest of the subject matter. The speaker can convey personal enthusiasm in a way that no book or other media can. Enthusiasm stimulates interest, and interested, stimulated people tend to learn more. Moreover, lectures in university settings can provide students with role models of scholars in action. The professor's way of approaching knowledge can be demonstrated for students to emulate. Furthermore, lectures can organize material in a special way. They may provide a faster, simpler method of presenting information to an audience with its own special needs. Lectures are particularly useful for students who read poorly or who are unable to organize print material.

On the other hand, lecture approaches also have some relevant weaknesses. For example, the lecture often puts students in a passive rather than an active role. As is often the case, passivity can hinder learning. At the same time, most lectures assume that all students are learning at the same pace and at the same level of understanding, which is hardly ever true. Especially, Lectures place the burden of organizing and synthesizing content solely on the lecturer. They are not well suited to higher levels of learning such as application, analysis, and synthesis. Lectures require an effective speaker who can vary tone, pitch, and pace of delivery. Lecturers must be verbally fluent, a skill that is not stressed nor learned in many PhD programs and is, in general, distributed unevenly among people. Lectures are therefore sometimes not well suited to complex, detailed, or abstract material.

In summary, Lecturing is probably the oldest teaching method and remains the most common form of instruction, despite the fact that some research has shown that lecturing is ineffective, especially if not combined with some alternative style of teaching. In fact, Lecturing is very appropriate for some goals and very inappropriate for others. And at the same time, the counterpart --- the approach that allows students to participate discussions is equally non-universal. Therefore, I can hardly simply say that I prefer either approach, I think the choice should depend on circumstances including various influents such as the subject that is to learn, the depth that needs to explore, the quality that the lecturer or the discussing group have.

[421 Words]

180. Movies are popular all over the world. Explain why movies are so popular. Use specific reasons and example to support your answer.

One of the most popular pastimes today is movie-going. With what started as moving-picture shows has dramatically developed into an industry that spends millions upon millions of dollars while still turning a gigantic profit.

Movies are so popular because they are the most fascinating and easiest escape means from increasing pressure, which comes from family, school, work, society, and so many other directions. Combined with acoustic and visual effect, movies are definitely more appealing for audiences who have exhausted themselves in the real world than are those printed novels. It must have been much easier to see a movie than to read a novel, since all the audience should do is simple to sit there in a soft chair in the dark about 150 minutes. Captured, involved, the audience in a movie theater will forget everything but the story in action on the screen.

Movies have magic power to let people immerse themselves in fiction. The point is that almost everyone long for the power of snapping his fingers and seeing his wishes and dreams instantly granted. Everyone long for eternity of love, many idealize about it but now in the theater it's time to 'feel' it. Every move the character makes, every breath the character takes, all seem to happen around, and clearly sensible. On the screen, no entire life needed, movies illustrate all aspects of love we can imagine: all aspects of love, from the mushy warm and fuzzy feelings we feel with our children and companion animals, to platonic love we have with friends and acquaintances, to the romantic soul-mate kind of love, to the agape kind of unconditional love, it's the full gamut. Dramas are created in order for us to play out different sides of ourselves.

In short, movies are so popular because many can escape into the world of fantasy and live vicariously through the characters and in doing so, work out different feelings and emotions that they may not have the opportunity to do in their 'normal' lives.

[335 Words]

181. In your country, is there more need for land to be left in its natural condition or is there more need for land to be developed for housing and industry?

With a population accounting nearly for one quarter of the world population, my country, China, has been suffering from serious loss of arable land, which now hardly accounts for 7% of overall arable land of the world. Yet some people simply did not realize that land loss is so crucial that we one day might incapable of averting that catastrophe if we now close our eyes to it.

Industrial development without careful consideration regarding land preservation has caused problems more serious than people can ever imagine. Take the great Sanxia dam for example, which will be put into operation next year. While the country benefits from gargantuan potential of electricity generation, we have to face up to various environmental conservation issues concerning geological and ecological environment along both river sides and whole upper reaches. The professional designers of the great dam now have to work out a practical way to prevent and remedy pollution effectively, which has already been the focus of world attention.

After the entrance of the WTO, industry development is more and more important for our country, yet we should be careful about the pollution which is inevitably caused by industry. Recent surveys have shown that refuse treatment engineering is not well financed in China, while attentions are drawn to those much more obvious achievements. Industrial pollution accidents occur far more frequently in our still developing country than in other more advanced countries. Urban population also produce astoundingly large amount of pollution. Today the alleged white pollution is creeping all over the country – people throw plastic bags, films everywhere, never feeling anything wrong.

We no doubt need land either for natural condition or for industry, and it seems we need more if possible. Nevertheless, we live in a world where everything has its cost, and some day in the future, I believe, we will inescapably pay for what we have ignored.

[314 Words]

People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

College is a place that the students can learn more and new knowledge and experience in it. Of course, different people have different reason to study in college. For example, some people want to be to go on a further study after they graduate from the college; some people hope to find a good job after their studying in the college and also some people wish to exchange their present situation through studying in the college. In my opinion, no matter what reason people study in the college for, studying in the college is just a preparation for their future' life.

First of all, students can learn new knowledge and experiences from the studying in the college. There are many teachers, professors with abundant teaching experience who teach students lots of new knowledge and help them to solve the problems in their study. With their help, student can learn a lot of useful basic and professional knowledge which is very helpful for their future' work. and study. After they finish their study in the college, students go to work in the society and contribute to the different fields.

Secondly, students can learn how to arrange their own time reasonably. Before their studying in college, their life often arranged by their parents and their study often arranged by their teachers. It is very different for them to live and study in college, because students studying in college have to arrange their life and study by themselves. They have right to arrange their part time, such as when to get up, when is the sport-time, when to finish the assignment etc. This is very important experience for students' work and life in the future.

Secondly, studying in the college make students having opportunity to live with other student and learn how to cooperate with other people. Usually, people often have uncomfortable feeling to live with a stranger, because they do not know each other and perhaps their habit and personality are different. But for the long run, it is good for them. They have to cooperate with each other and solve a lot of problems they will face together. Gradually, they can learn how to care and understand other people. It is a preparation for students to go to cooperate with other people in the society.

All in all, students not only can learn lots of new knowledge from the books but also can learn much more necessary experience such as how to arrange time and how to cooperate with other people. It is very important for their future work and life.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Obviously, the first teachers we have in our lives in most cases are our parents. They teach us to walk, to speak, and to have good manners before we reach "the real world." More than even the professional teachers that we have in school, parents are generally the most involved in the development and education of children.

Almost for sure our parents are the best teachers at the beginning of our lives, which actually corresponds to the parents' role in nature. Parents are most committed and involved in teaching their children; they have a kind of instinct to sacrifice a part of themselves for the betterment of their children. They love us and have great patience while passing down their knowledge to us. They wish us a success and thus will not teach us bad things. And of course, implicit learning occurs when children unconsciously copy some of their parents' habits and styles of behavior.

During the second stage of child development, adolescence, parents can still be in the best position to offer advice even though the children might not accept it. In this case, perhaps the child's friends would be the best teachers. Adolescents are notoriously rebellious in many cultures and may automatically reject any advice from their parents. My first marriage for instance, was solely a matter of doing the opposite when my parents tried to intrude in offering their advice. So in such matters, parents should be much more flexible and be rather the partners with their children. So we can see that being a teacher of growing child become more and more complicated case as the time passes and many parents are simply not able to meet the increased demands.

On the other hand, I would say that parents are not professional teachers and they tend to be very biased by their love of their children. So wishing good things and an easy life may prevent children from maturation. In any case, parents usually can present only one viewpoint of the world, while good teaching should be based on different attitudes. Thus, when children go to school and have a great diversity of teachers, they learn much more than their parents could probably give them. Furthermore, once our parents get older, they become more conservative and cannot always be objective in regard to modern trends and fashions. Thus we need to take their advice with caution during that period. However, some kind of intuition which I believe shared between relatives about what everybody needs and great love which exists in a families still makes our parents very good teachers and advisers at any time.

In conclusion, while parents are not the ideal teachers, and well-rounded children will generally need a great diversity of teachers in their lives in order to have a more accurate view of the world, parents are generally the most committed of all teachers and have the greatest emotional investment in their children and their future.

Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Man, through the ages, has undergone many changes, from a period when he hunted for his food to the present era when man is dependent on preprocessed foods. During this period not only has man changed his mode of eating but his whole lifestyle as well. In pursuit of more in this competitive world, man no longer has time as he once had. He is caught in a race against the clock. A person who finishes more in lesser time is considered more efficient. This pressure to do more in less time has affected his eating habits as well and, as a result, man no longer has time to cook food. Early man's only objective was to seek food to sustain him and his family. Nowadays finding food has taken a back seat to other priorities, such as career and education.

Food is no longer of that importance. This is not an encouraging trend. People are too dependent on preprocessed or precooked food, which no longer has the freshness it once had. Such foods loose their mineral and vitamin content and are not as healthy as fresh food. That is why the number of diseases is also rising. People have also shifted to high calorie content food like French fries, pizzas, and ice cream, etc., which is causing obesity, fatigue, etc. As man is becoming busy and too involved in his busy schedule, he has no time even to take care of his own personal needs.

Furthermore, cooking is an art which is dying out. People once enjoyed cooking . It was a means of eliminating stress and tension. People were once able to relax during this time and reflect on their lives.

People may tend to argue that by using precooked and preprocessed food they are efficiently using time and can use this precious time saved for other purposes. But is it really worth it? This is a question whose answer can invite much speculation about whether by saving this little time we are inviting lots of other problems, which could easily be avoided. It is actually making our lives not simpler but more complicated. We have lost many of the simpler things in our lives, like the simple acts of selecting our evening meal, preparing it, and enjoying it with our loved ones, and we are worse off for it.

It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?

People always are learning and practicing through their whole lives. From reading words in text book such as toy, car, train etc., people have the concept and ideas. They further understand the actual meaning of these words by playing toys and riding or driving cars, trains etc.

Education (books) and experience are the main two channels for People to gain their knowledge. Each play different roles for people. In my opinion, knowledge from experience is more important than that from books.

Experience first can prove if the knowledge form books are true or false. Textbooks are very wonderful in teaching people essential principles, how is the world looks like? What is the basic law of change of people and things? We can learn a lot through primary school, secondary school until university. However, people can only understand the really meaning of those form books and justify them if they are right through practices. A few hundred years ago, people learnt from text book that the earth was flat. However scientists found that was wrong through observations and measurement.

The knowledge from experience can improve and advance the world and our society. As books have limitation, they only teach us about what people found in the past. The knowledge from the books is constrained to the certain conditions and environment. For example, mould and tools design for plastics industry, the university course only taught me very simple cases, most knowledge are obtained from various different and complicated cases in my career.

There are a lot new inventions and new products which could not be found from textbooks. Our society and world are developed through continuous practices, those knowledge, never found in books, such as internet, e-business etc. are all developed through new practices.

"The truth comes from practices and experience", people are continually discovering new things and assessing the creditability of the knowledge written in books. The knowledge from experience help us much more than those from books.

A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.

I am from Arroz e Feijao, a small town in the northeast of Brazil. Building a factory in there will bring a lot of advantages and disadvantages, but I believe that Arroz e Feijao will mostly benefit from the building of a new factory because it is largely populated by poor people and the factory would bring many benefits to this small town. However, of course, a factory has disadvantages as well.

As you know, factories usually bring pollution. If this factory is not managed very effectively and efficiently according to specific rules, it's prone to polluting the local air and water. What's more, factories usually make noise. Beside clean drinkable water and fresh air, an ideal community should be quiet. If the factory cannot maintain this situation to the community, it will not last long. A factory that is too noisy or pollutes too much will eventually be relocated to a new area.

On the other hand, a factory could bring a lot of benefits to the community. So I would support the plan to build a factory to my community for all the reasons I will describe below.

First of all, the factory's construction will surely improve the local infrastructure. To run smoothly, the factory will have to have a steady, reliable supply of water and electricity. Some old pipes will be changed, and some facilities will be renovated. The residents' living standard get improved as a result of these widespread changes, an important benefit in Arroz e Feijao, where many people do not have access to clean water.

Secondly, to make the employee commute more convenient, the local roads will have to be rebuilt and broadened, resulting in improved public transportation. The town's residents can take a public bus to go shopping or go to work. As a result, air pollution and fuel consumption might be reduced.

Most important, a factory's establishment will bring up a lot of employment opportunities for the community. A factory need experts from various fields. The residents can take just a few minutes to go to the factory to work. So, the local residents can get great benefits from this factory.

Generally speaking, I agree with the plan to build a factory near my community. If the factory can be managed successfully, the factory and local residents can have mutual benefit.

If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Everything in the universe is in constant change. And everything needs continual improvement if the ever changing and increasing demands of humankind are to be met. If I am ever given the chance to change one important thing about my home town, it would be internet service. Needless to say that nothing generally revolutionized the way we live as internet in the past decade. Thus, an improvement in this vital service would mean an even more, unheard betterment to the people in my home town.

It is said that information is power. True saying indeed! I can envision how everything in my home town could improve dramatically if the internet service in it were made free, fast and staying out there like electricity, telephone or water all the time. One thing, a fast free and reliable internet service could improve in my home town is the way people work. If there is a this said service people in my home town must not necessarily

commute to a far place to do their job. This in turn would mean less traffic jams, spacious work place, more time for family and recreation and so on.

The way people learn would be another important thing that a fast, free and reliable internet service could better in my home town. People will have the chance to go through tremendous and different information resources in a very small amount of time. They apparently will also take less time to share it. This assures a more fulfilled life for my home town people.

Since its advent, internet touched every part of our life. It in a dazzling way improved the way we do business, learn and communicate. A change in internet service implies good way of living for every one in my home town.

How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Hesitating I enter my house, the light outside is dimming and the shadows make everything appear unfamiliar. I know that my husband has not returned from work yet, simply because his car is not in the garage. I am alone. I carefully check all the rooms, almost expecting something to happen suddenly. I hold my bag in my hand as if it were a weapon. After the whole house has been declared "clear," I start to breathe normally again and a smile appears on my face as I realize, once again, how a simple movie seen at the cinema a week earlier can modify my actions.

Sometimes I wonder if I should watch TV, with all its shows that make me wonder whether I exercise enough, whether I am slim enough, or whether I treat my pets with the care they deserve: am I really concerned about their mental health??? Not to mention the hundreds of commercials that try to make me believe I need a water purifier to remain alive since the water I am currently drinking is heavily polluted! And countless are the times when I have heard people talking by quotations learned from movies... We need to watch shows and films to know what to say, how to be, how to act. We are so addicted to all this that it almost seems like we cannot think on our own.

I cannot help thinking about what happened to me some days ago, an example that clearly shows what kind of power TV has over people. My husband and I were in a restaurant when I heard my young neighbor pronouncing violent words in a low angry voice. Surprised, I turned to better understand the situation and I saw that he was holding a fake military device and was acting as if he were filming a war movie. I am sure that if I had been a little be more updated about this type of movie, I would have recognized what he was saying as a quotation. Now, I wonder if he uses such a language also with his friends and with his parents, if he is aggressive, and if so, whether his attitude has really nothing to do with what he watches on TV.

That same evening on the way home I saw two cars stopped one next to the other at a traffic light and as soon as the light turned green they started racing, in the middle of town. In this case not even a major knowledge of movies and TV programs would have helped me: there are just to many of them on the market showing the exact same thing: people racing with cars.

I am sure that everybody, if asked, could easily list many other examples of how TV and movies can modify our behavior and therefore our life but, I wonder, if we will always be able to draw the line between a TV show and real life, between what they make us think we want and what instead we really need and are and believe.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Television is undoubtedly one of the most powerful means of communication in the history of humankind, rivaled only by such other forms of communication as the Internet, the telephone, movies, and, of course, simple, low-tech speech. Television, with its wide availability and rich media with image and sound, is difficult to ignore and even seductive in its appeal. Television is as much a part of our lives as are our meals, work, or school; studies consistently show that the average American child spends almost as much time watching television as she does in school. Furthermore, because television is so rich in its media, it often requires our full attention or is more attraction to us than are our daily lives. Naturally, the more time one spends watching television, the less time she has with her family and friends. Thus, we can clearly see why some have claimed that television has been harmful for communication among family and friends. However, I believe that, while

television has been somewhat harmful in its effects, it has hardly "destroyed" communication among family and friends for most people, although for some, this may be true.

Most people much prefer spending time with their families and friends to spending time watching television. Television is of course an important part of many people's lives, but most people would gladly choose family and friends over television were they given the choice. Furthermore, most educated people are aware of the deleterious effects of too much television and either avoid excessive time watching television, or actually do not enjoy it. I, for example, after a long day at work, would much rather spend time talking with my wife and playing with my children than I would watching some unrealistic portrayal of life on television. For me and my family, our time together is precious and beautiful, and could never be replaced or hurt by television.

Furthermore, the effect of television is simply not so great that it could be said to have "destroyed" communication among family and friends. Granting that communication among family and friends in industrialized countries has decreased in recent years, it might be tempting to blame this problem on television since its rise roughly coincided with the decrease in time we spend with our families. However, I believe this situation is more likely due to increased pressures relating from work, school, and the economy. In my case, for example, I find that my pressures from work are so great that I must often sacrifice time at home so that I can meet the challenges of running my own business. Many of my friends are in similar situations--my best friend, for example, has just finished law school, which took about sixty hours a week of his time. In a word, people nowadays have very little time for anything, but television is not the cause--it is increased desire to succeed.

In some situations, however, television has surely contributed to a decrease in communication among family members. In my childhood in the countryside, I often saw parents and children watching television for hours on end, rarely speaking with one another. It seemed for them that television was a way to escape from their sad, miserable existence. However, even in this case, I would say that television merely contributed to the bad situation, but did not cause it; were television not existent, surely these people would have found other escapes, alcohol or gambling, for example. In other words, people always find a way to do what they want to do.

In short, I do not believe that television has destroyed or even harmed interpersonal communication among most people. Most people realize that television is merely a temporary diversion and do not use it to replace interpersonal communication. I believe that the damage attributed to television is greatly exaggerated and that such damage is most likely attributable to other more powerful social factors.

"When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success." Do you agree or disagree with the quotation above? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

I fully agree with the claim that there is no correlation between success and luck. Moreover, I understand success to refer to one's ability to achieve the predominant part of his goals in his lifetime, which in turn leads to a correlation between success and income since the accomplishment of such a natural goal as to provide a good future for your loved ones demands the means. What is the simplest and most lawful way to earn enough to consider yourself a successful person? To receive a good education and to find a good job. Both receiving an education and making a career presuppose one's readiness to work hard, and success without hard work is simply not possible for the vast majority of the world's population. The reasons and examples listed below will strengthen my point of view.

First of all, considering an education and a career as key factors of success, one will choose to pursue a degree from a college or a university. One wishing to be admitted to the university will have to take several tests. It is doubtful that someone will be so lucky that knowing nothing, he could pass the test with a high score. A low score means failure, and that test taker will not likely be admitted. Therefore, in order to be successful, one should prepare for the tests and work hard, because a good education will provide him with a good job and an opportunity to accomplish some of his goals and dreams. In my lifetime, I have never met a person who could graduate from a college without working hard.

Secondly, it is impossible to make a career if one is indolent and lacking knowledge, at least in developed countries. Luck plays no role in achieving this success. Even if someone was unbelievably lucky enough to become a manager not being qualified enough, he will be asked to resign in the near future because of his inability due to lack of knowledge and experience to make right decisions. For instance, I used to work for a very small company owned by a friend. This company was later closed because of bankruptcy. The cause of bankruptcy was wrong strategies and decisions made by the owner. After the failure, he went to a university and worked for another company so that he could obtain experience and become a successful businessman.

Nowadays, he considers himself a successful person because he had turned into reality his two biggest dreams of producing consumer goods of high quality and making charitable donations to needy people.

In sum, as long as someone understands success as an ability to turn into reality some of his dreams and goals, he will have to work hard because he will need money. And his chances to earn that money will remarkably increase if he could graduate from a college and make a career. All of these things are simply not possible without hard work. Luck has no place in such a scheme of events.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should give the same amount of money to their students' sports activities as they give to their university libraries. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

I disagree with the statement that universities should offer the same amount of funding for sports activities as they provide for studies. The word 'studies' means a wide range of activities that a student should follow in order to be graduated at a university or a college (in this case). Studies include reading for new knowledge, conducting experiments with invaluable equipments in high-tech labs, finding literature, writing research reports, etc.

In contrast, sports are not a must for students who study another specific subject stream. Therefore, it should not require that much of dedicating work and money because it is actually based on physical training that can be achieved during the spare time of such a student. It is obvious that the sports activities are essential for well-balanced healthier life not only for students, but also for each and every human. However, if we balance the cost and benefit of regular studies and sports, studies always rank first because of its high cost as well as the higher benefits than achieving through sports.

Undoubtedly, studies require large amounts of money to support a student. For an example if we take a student who study biotechnology. She/he should conduct her research in air-conditioned labs with fine equipments. The chemicals used to run a gel, such as polyacrylamide gel are very expensive. She/He will have to use these expensive chemicals many times. Moreover, the uses of energy for high-tech equipments are very high. Let's assume that the university scholarship bear all these expenses. But the point is that if the university gives the same amount to practice basketball for that student, it is a waste of money because the student's major concern is his/her studies than practicing basketball. The important conclusion is that this student does not need to study basketball in depth because she/he is not reading for a sports technology degree. If one student needs to follow such a degree it doesn't matter to fund him/her in big amount for sports. Therefore my opinion is that university should have flexible criteria to provide only the adequate amount of money for a specific program without assigning the same amount for both most and least important programs.

In the world there are many poor students who have excellent abilities in different fields of studies. Universities can absorb those intelligent students if they have good plans of funding that are mainly focused on studies while assigning only an adequate/less amount for sports. Administrative officers should be aware of all these factors when they spend money on students' support.

Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

People may have two choices to eat, either they go out to fast food stands or restaurants, or they prepare food at home, whatever is suitable to them. In my case I prefer to go out to eat, as it is easy to do, it saves my time, and I can try a variety of interesting foods from different countries.

Being a working person, with all day long office work and a long commute, it becomes difficult to do all preparation for making food. For me easy way to get food is restaurant, where I can get prepared food at home or office by just ordering on phone, Along with that another comfort is, that when ever I have to eat together with my so many friends, I can always go to a restaurant, otherwise it's difficult to prepare food at home for so many people and don't get time to talk and having fun. So I always find it a easier way to eat out, apart from that It make my other outdoor activities possible because I don't have to bother about food wherever I go, to any fun place or theater or traveling, restaurants are always there throughout city and it becomes easy every time to get food whenever and whenever I need according to other activities.

Besides that, I can save a lot of time by getting food from restaurant. For example, I don't have to go out for vegetables and grocery shopping, I don't need to clean, cut and fry food and do a lot kitchen work, doing

dishes etc., instead I can get fresh food delivered in minutes. Along with that when I eat at restaurant I have more time to do other things like reading, watching TV, and listening music, going out theatre, or having fun with friends, that don't make me tired or or feel bored and I feel refreshed for next day work, so by going to restaurant, I can manage a lot more activities instead preparing food.

In addition, in restaurant I get a variety of food choice, I can have taste of different regions, for example Indian restaurant I can get varied food from North Indian to South Indian Punjabi, Bengali, Madrasi, Maharashtrian, etc. at one place. Likewise, I can taste world wide food variety like pasta dishes in Italian restaurant, tortilla and barito dishes in Mexican, pizza, and burger items in American, noodles in Chinese, etc. and can enjoy various vegetarian, non vegetarian dishes which are specialty of different countries. Not only that, in restaurant the food is served with beautiful garnishing, that tempt for eating and is worth of paying. I find it very interesting to experience varied food in different restaurants. To conclude I am fond of going stands and restaurants for eating that is suitable for me because of convenient, quick and variety of tasty food, which I enjoy very much and make my routine easier and interesting.

Some people spend their entire lives in one place. Others move a number of times throughout their lives, looking for a better job, house, community, or even climate. Which do you prefer: staying in one place or moving in search of another place? Use reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.

It seems like the world is becoming smaller and smaller, almost by the minute. When I was a child, I had never met anybody from outside my hometown, much less somebody from another country. However, nowadays I routinely interact with people from all over the world. I might discuss a topic with my classmates from Iran, Korea, Brazil, or Palestine; buy computer parts from the shop run by Chinese; have lunch at a Mexican restaurant; or buy Russian pastries at the café near my house. In these experiences I can see the product of a world in which borders are falling and people are free to move about as they wish. There is nothing more invigorating for me than being a part of this emerging "global village."

I have now lived in three different countries, Argentina, France, and the United States and am convinced that I am a better person for it. In each country I found something different. I remember the warmth of the human interaction of my hometown in Argentina; I enjoyed the great sense of culture and wit in France; in the United States, I am impressed by the feeling of liberty and acceptance. In each country I have learned a different language, experienced a different climate, conversed with people in different ways. I have learned that each place has something special about it and that no place on Earth is a perfect place. We may lose one thing when we leave a country, but we always gain something else in its place.

So, the greatest benefit of having met so many people from all over the world has been learning that each person and each culture has a different yet valid way of seeing the world. I cannot say that Argentines have a monopoly on how to view the world; nor can I say that the American system of doing things is best. I can only say that from my experience each system works for each culture and that each one is a valid way of seeing the world.

Perhaps this point is the most important one for the coming age of information and technology and falling political and trade barriers. As people from all over the world migrate more freely in search of better lives, they will necessarily have to learn to be tolerant of different worldviews. People who do x will learn to accept people who do y and perhaps even experiment with the new way. By accepting cultures different from our own, we learn more of the broad range of the human experience and we are richer people for seeing beauty and truth in its many forms.

Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

There are many advantages and disadvantages to offering employees job security for life. In Japan, for example, prospective employees know that their employers will provide them with job security for their entire working days and they are better able to plan for their future and family. However, many businesses are now realizing that their employees have less motivation to work and this leads to less profits for the company. I will describe the advantages and disadvantages of this system in this essay and I will show that ultimately "jobs for life" is not good for a society.

Job security is very important for both the employee and the employer. For the employee, job security is important because she can depend on her source of income and better plan her future accordingly. For the

employer, the employee represents an investment because of the number of hours of training required and the company will continue to have a return on this investment. As we all know, feeling secure about where our future income will come from is very important for our well-being—anybody who has lost a job and has had trouble finding a new one knows that this transition period can cause a lot of anxiety.

However, job security tends to lead to decreased productivity. In general, employees who are certain that they can never lose their jobs tend to work less efficiently, thereby contributing to an overall reduction of productivity in the company. A common example all over the world is that of civil servants. In Thailand, for example, many government workers are so indolent that it can take days or months for something to be finished that should only take a few days. It is not uncommon to walk into a government office and see employees filing their nails, making personal calls on the telephone, taking three-hour lunches, or surfing the Internet for fun.

Finally, the model of capitalism is proving to be the most efficient model that we have right now. This model of job security completely contradicts the foundations of capitalism. We can see in the United States now that people are starting to change jobs, even careers more and more often. Some career consultants even recommend that employees find new jobs every three to five years. Even in countries that still offer job security for life, this model is showing signs of dying out. For example, in Japan, once famous for its lifelong jobs, both employees and employers are starting to expect that these jobs will not last a lifetime. Many of my Japanese friends travel back and forth between the United States and Japan are have been able to find temporary professional jobs while they are in Japan.

In short, I disagree that companies should offer their employees jobs for life. We can see this example in some parts of the world and in other areas in the United States, but these examples are generally regarded as outmoded ways of conducting business. Finally, the models of capitalism, even though it may seem cruel, the so-called "law of the jungle," are proving to be the most effective way to raise the standard of living of a country.

Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I disagree wholeheartedly that learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present. In fact, the definition of learning includes the idea of an accumulation of experiences from the past. Learning can only take place if we make an association between things that have happened in the past or between something in the past and something that we predict will happen in the future. All knowledge that we acquire as we grow is from the past—language, customs, academic subjects, and so on. While it may be helpful sometimes to be able to overlook previous knowledge in order to avoid the constraint conformity, the vast majority of knowledge that we learn is a huge boost—imagine if each of us had to discover by ourselves that 2 + 2 = 4! So, in a very real sense, all learning depends on past events.

We are only able to live in this world with our current standard of living because we have learned from the past. We receive knowledge from the past and we are able to use it and improve it. We examine our actions in the past and we make judgments about what was right and what was wrong. Then, it is hoped, we will attempt to avoid those same mistakes again. For example, one of the great mistakes all over the world has been depriving women and the disempowered classes status in society and many industrialized and developing countries all over the world are attempting to avoid such mistakes both in the present and in the future.

Furthermore, all of the knowledge that we have today is a result of all the work of our predecessors. The ancient Greeks developed geometry, which helped other European scientists analyze the solar system, which in turn gave us a new understanding of our place in the universe. The great majority of technology today depends directly on several thousands of years of work of past thinkers. To ignore the knowledge of the past would be to throw away five thousand years of history and experience.

There is, however, some seemingly small, but important value to ignoring the past. It is often the case that history or tradition has the effect of constraining our thought in the present and many important philosophical and scientific breakthroughs have only been possible as a direct result of ignoring the past. The past, in a sense, can blind us to the truth, we can become bound by tradition. For example, at one time, leading thinkers in Europe thought that the Earth was at the center of the universe and those who disagreed were persecuted as heretics, even Copernicus, who we now know was correct about his heliocentric model of the Solar System. However, scientists were eventually able to break from the past and accept the new model of the universe.

In short, learning from and analyzing the past has enormous value for us and life as we know it on Earth today would not be possible without the benefit of thousands of years of history and accumulated knowledge. It is important, however, to ignore the past so that we can make a step forward, and such free thinking should be encouraged, although not at the expense of past knowledge. Learning from the past is something like learning from our parents—in most cases, their past helps us have a better future, but there are times when we need to make a break from the past and make a bold step into an unknown future.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Games are as important for adults as they are for children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Playing games has always been thought to be important to the development of well-balanced and creative children; however, what part, if any, they should play in the lives of adults has never been researched that deeply. I believe that playing games is every bit as important for adults as for children. Not only is taking time out to play games with our children and other adults valuable to building interpersonal relationships but is also a wonderful way to release built up tension.

There's nothing my husband enjoys more after a hard day of work than to come home and play a game of Chess with someone. This enables him to unwind from the day's activities and to discuss the highs and lows of the day in a non-threatening, kick back environment. One of my most memorable wedding gifts, a Backgammon set, was received by a close friend. I asked him why in the world he had given us such a gift. He replied that he felt that an important aspect of marriage was for a couple to never quit playing games together. Over the years, as I have come to purchase and play, with other couples & coworkers, many games like: Monopoly, Chutes & Ladders, Mastermind, Dweebs, Geeks, & Weirdos, etc. I can reflect on the integral part they have played in our weekends and our "shut-off the T.V. and do something more stimulating" weeks. They have enriched my life and made it more interesting. Sadly, many adults forget that games even exist and have put them away in the cupboards, forgotten until the grandchildren come over.

All too often, adults get so caught up in working to pay the bills and keeping up with the "Joneses" that they neglect to harness the fun in life; the fun that can be the reward of enjoying a relaxing game with another person. It has been said that "man is that he might have joy" but all too often we skate through life without much of it. Playing games allows us to: relax, learn something new and stimulating, interact with people on a different more comfortable level, and to enjoy non-threatening competition. For these reasons, adults should place a higher priority on playing games in their lives.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

It has long been a controversy amongst critics and students in the majors of the sciences and arts as to which subjects would be more beneficial to study. While science students claim that its field of study involves intellectual ability, art students feel that the understanding and study of art is far richer in its importance, chiefly in its influence through the evolution of human history. I conclude that a balance in the knowledge of both the subjects is essential, the reasons of which I will lay down.

Science and math subjects are intellectually rewarding in that they teach the understanding of theories that improve humans' living standards, such as research conducted in universities and science laboratories to enhance the lives of human beings with vaccines constantly being researched, produced and tested for incurable diseases. Without such a study, the world would be in serious trouble of poor health and living standards. Every theory that is founded would have been tried and tested to prove its success, concluding how the study of science and math subjects requires intellectual capabilities in its challenging field. While it is essential that the study of the sciences and math continues to ensure a healthy living environment, it is also important that a science student receives adequate education in the arts subjects to develop an artistic side of his life.

A distinct culture of the arts student is his detailed and subjective approach toward a subject which he has particular interests and talent. It is the beauty of life amidst all the things that could be explained by a science student and a mystery to study. While history had taken place, the study of human evolution is equally beneficial in developing a knowledgeable individual. It helps enhance an individual's life in the ability to appreciate the beauty that life comes bundled in.

In conclusion to my opinion, it is essential to have a balance in the study of arts and science subjects as they complement an individual's life with knowledge and facts and the ability to appreciate the beauty of life, with god's gifts of music, literature and art.

Imagine that you have received some land to use as you wish. How would you use this land? Use specific details to explain your answer.

The world is becoming increasingly smaller and smaller. The world's population is now at six billion. The world's cities are getting larger and larger. At least two cities, Mexico City and Sao Paulo have almost 30 million inhabitants. In this context, one could say that a gift of land is the greatest gift of all. Land is perhaps the most permanent thing in the world. Unlike diamonds, which really have little value in and of themselves, land actually has great value. Unlike televisions and cars, land cannot be destroyed—if you remove land, there is still more land under it. In this context, I will discuss what I would do were I given some land as a gift. It will be necessary, however, to discuss four things first: First, it is necessary to establish the size of the land. Second, we need to know where the land is. Third, the topography of the land is important. Finally, the weather in the location is fundamental.

For the purposes of this essay, I will assume that I have received a rather large parcel of land (it is a gift, right?!) in a temperate climate with four seasons. I will assume that the land is fairly flat. Most importantly, I will assume that this land is mine and that I have control over the land, i.e., that no other government controls the land.

Having grown up in a rather poor family, I think I would be quite excited about receiving some land. I have never owned anything of any great value and to own some land would be a wonderful thing for me. For a long time, it has been a dream of mine to be able to build a beautiful house for my mother. My mother is still living in poverty and it saddens me to think of her living in that situation. She often does not have enough money to use the heat in the wintertime and cannot afford to buy new clothes. I would love to be able to give her the gift of a house and a happy place to live for the rest of her life. Since we lived in a country with very cold winters, my family often felt very cold. I would love to bring my mother to a warm place to spend the rest of her days.

However, I would not devote all of the land to houses for my family. I would use most of the land to develop a business. In my case, doing this would be very important since I grew up poor. I would need to ensure that I would have a source of income and a way to sustain the activities on the land. An efficient way to do this would be to develop the land in some way suitable to the land. In this case, I would use the land to develop a language and confidence training camp. It has long been my dream to build a perfect language learning center—a place where people could go to learn a language, to immerse themselves in the language, to meet other people and to have fun while doing so. In conclusion, I would like to make one more point. I must admit that I feel somewhat guilty about the idea of accepting such a gift of land. There is a part of me that is somewhat idealistic and would like to think that the world is a beautiful place and that all humans should live together peacefully. From this viewpoint, I would say that no one can own land. As an American Indian once said, "Own the land? You might as well own the air or the sky!" However, this idea is inconsistent with the world today. Being more realistic, I would do what I detailed above.

Plants can provide food, shelter, clothing, or medicine. What is one kind of plant that is important to you or the people in your country? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.

Plants are vital to the survival of all life on Earth--plants transform the light of the sun into energy that is usable to other life on Earth. Without plants, animals would not be able to use the energy of the Sun that reaches the Earth. The removal of one plant from the ecosystem can cause many unforeseen changes, sometimes irreversibly damaging an ecosystem. However, some plants are more important than others, either for biological or cultural reasons. In my country, Korea, I would say that the grass that produces rice has come to be the most important plant, not just because rice is a staple food, but also for other cultural reasons.

Virtually every Korean eats rice at least twice a day. I, for example, had rice at breakfast, lunch, and dinner yesterday. For most Koreans, rice is an integral part of a meal, as expected in a meal as ink is to a pen or wheels are to a car--a meal without rice is not a meal. In fact, if I have dinner with my American friends and do not eat rice, I actually feel hungry even if I have filled myself with potatoes or other food while eating with them. Many of my friends have made similar comments to me. So, I believe that rice is as much a part of our daily lives as work or talking on the telephone is.

However, rice is much more than just a staple food to most Koreans--it represents the very sustenance of much of our culture. Our history teachers tell us that the development of rice as an agricultural product was largely responsible for the advancement of Korean culture--since rice was portable and had a long storage time, people had more freedom to move and were less susceptible to changes in the weather. In many ways, rice has come to be considered the perfect food, so ingrained is it in the minds of many Koreans, and many Asians for that matter, as food that we often say "have you had your rice" instead of saying " have you had your meal." In fact, I have made this translation error many times while I have been in the United States. I have wanted to ask my American friends whether they have eaten, and I ask, "Have you eaten your rice?" Naturally, they often respond "no," leading to much miscommunication. For me, then, rice is more than just food--it is the very sustenance of most Koreans.

In short, rice is by far the most important plant in Korea. Were it removed from Korean society, Korea would change drastically, perhaps even have a famine much like the Irish Potato Famine of the 1800's. Rice is the very lifeblood of Korea.

Is the ability to read and write more important today than in the past? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

It is a very dangerous thing to say that basic literacy skills are more important now than they have ever been in the past. While a strong argument can be made in favor of this idea, making such an argument would imply that reading and writing were somehow less important in the past. While there is a grain of truth to the argument that literacy was not fundamental to the daily existence of most people in the pre-Industrial Revolution period, rationalizing such a lack of need for education in such a way is the first step to withholding education from certain groups, a great social crime that has led to the disempowerment of disadvantage groups all over the world throughout history. However, if we can keep in mind that education is a basic human right, then we can discuss the strengths of the proposition that literacy is more important now than it has ever been before.

It is true that in the past the majority of people all over the world made their livelihood from agricultural activities and that the vast majority of these activities required little or no literacy skills. In some senses, we could argue that literacy skills were less important in the agricultural age than they are now, but to do so would be to forget that literacy also reflects an active mind and that people have always needed to engage in activities of the mind. For example, even though a farmer might have labored all day in her corn field, she may enjoy reading the latest Jane Austen novel when arrived at home. We can see in this example that while literacy was not directly related to this laborer's livelihood, literacy was important to her quality of life.

However, we could make a good argument that literacy is more important now that it was in the past. As we all know, the world is experiencing a revolution that may turn out to be more important than the Industrial Revolution. We are now entering the Information Age, an age in which information and knowledge have more value than the ability to build machines, create "stuff," grow crops, or even mine precious metals and produce gemstones. Nowadays, accurate information may be worth more than the most expensive Rolls-Royce or the biggest diamond. The perfect example of this increasing dominance is the explosive rise in the popularity of the Internet--the Internet offers the world countless bytes of information twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Companies all over the world, but principally in the United States, are rushing to stake their claim in cyberspace and stiff competition among companies has resulted. In order to gain dominance, these companies must have the best-skilled workers, an advanced understanding of computer systems, and good intuition about what will happen in the future. All of these abilities to compete in the global marketplace stem directly from literacy skills and those without these skills will be stuck in the service, agricultural, and heavy industry fields.

Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Most countries already have many holidays. In my country, Taiwan, we have nineteen official holidays. However, I believe that my new holiday, "Walking Day" would be very beneficial and should be added to the nineteen holidays Taiwan already has. In this essay, I will outline the three main reasons why "Walking Day" would be a very good holiday.

First, walking is good exercise. As we all know, people all over the world are becoming busier and busier. They are studying more and more so that they can have better jobs. When they work, they are working more and

more. As a result, people have less time for other important things in their lives, including exercise. We can read reports in the newspapers everyday about people who have worse health and complain about poor health condition. Many of these problems could be reduced by exercising more and walking is one of the best and simplest exercises for people.

Second, by walking, we can reduce pollution and thereby protect the environment. As technology improves all over the world and people have more and more money, they are starting to use this money to buy automobiles. As a result, people are using public transportation less and less. Driving one's own car every day has had a very large impact on the environment as a result of the pollution created by gas burning automobiles. Walking is the perfect way to reduce pollution since there are so many other benefits as well.

Finally, by walking, people can slow down the pace of their lives. Perhaps this is one of the greatest benefits of walking more. Life at the beginning of the new millennium is stressful--people are competing with each other for better jobs, countries and companies are competing with each other for business. Many people start to forget about the importance of slowing down in their lives, of simply enjoying the moment. People need to contemplate life more. Walking is a perfect opportunity to slow down, think about life, and simply enjoy the big, beautiful world that we live in.

Finally, we could celebrate this holiday by encouraging people to walk instead of driving or taking the bus for at least one trip during the day. I believe that people could find at least one trip during the day that they could make on foot instead of some other form of transportation. For example, if people usually drive to a large supermarket to buy food, perhaps they could walk to a closer, smaller market to buy only a few things. I believe that while people were walking, they would be able to enjoy the exercise and the fresh air and would be able to think calmly and clearly.

In short, if I had to create a new holiday, I would create "Walking Day" because of the many simple benefits it could provide us.

更多学生满分习作(6分)

Topic:

Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.

Optional attendance to classes at universities has been an increasingly popular way for students to study for several years in quite a few countries. However, it has not yet had its intended results as it had been hoped. In fact, today, this system seems to be one of the reasons for the corruption of university education. In my opinion, compulsory attendance is better than having no requirement to attend all the lessons on-campus.

There are two points of view to this question. First, one side will say that university students are adults and should be able to manage their time as they see fit. This point of view says that sometimes, in today's busy world, people need flexibility to manage their lives. For example, many single parents who are trying to earn their college degrees will sometimes need to skip a class because of the demands of their other responsibilities. However, I believe that the great majority of college students are young and single, and have few responsibilities, and that they need the discipline and structure of a system that requires attendance. Young people who have just gone off to college are notorious for the excesses to which they enjoy their freedom.

There are many negative situations caused by the free-attendance system. The most harmful one is the economic waste for both universities and students. Many students who do not attend classes regularly are likely to suffer decreased performance on their exams and therefore waste their time in college. They, generally, do not feel panic because of the failures or restudying the same subjects for the second time. However, this sometimes costs a fortune to both parents and the government that have created tax-funded subsidies for education for each student every year. Not only are the university fees wasted, but also the money for accommodations and other spending are also wasted.

On the other hand, students who are required to attend classes regularly have no time to waste in pubs or clubs. Nor can they spend these young years, which are more valuable to them to learn and think than any other period in their lives, on gambling or drinking. I do not mean they are only to study without any break or entertainment. Their social life is as necessary as studying during the hard academic years, yet, the amount of each should be balanced well. More spare time than necessary encourages the young to ignore studying and

classes. Thus, neither the universities nor the students do their best if the students have too much freedom not to study.

To sum up, many teenagers are not able to think sensibly to decide when to study and when to enjoy with friends. A scheduled chart of classes which have a huge number of options that are necessary to identify the best fitting one for each student, will help them to construct an ideal campus life including leisure activities. In addition, this will stop the waste of time and money and is likely to reevaluate the higher education system in several years. In short, I believe that the majority of college students are too young to manage their time responsibly and that universities should therefore impose strict rules on attendance.

Topic:

It has recently been announced that a new restaurant may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

It has been recently reported by the local newspaper that a new restaurant is going to be <u>bulilt</u> in our neighbourhood (which is located in the country side of a big city). Some neighbors oppose the building of the new restaurant. I however (<u>likemost</u> of the neighbors), believe that the new restaurant can contribute a lot to our neighborhood, as well as offer new opportunities to the neighbors.

One reason for supporting the building of the new restaurant is that after the <u>retaurant</u> will be <u>built</u>, I will not have to spend a lot of time in order to go to a <u>restaurnat</u>. Since my neibourhood is pretty far from the city's center I have to drive several hours until I find a good restaurant. The result is that I, as well as the other members of the neighborhood, go only to <u>retaurants</u> only in special occasions (for instance, in birthdates). When the restaurant will be built I will have the opportunity to go to restaurants more often, the way other people from other neigborhoods do.

In addition, the restaurant may offer work for the students who live in our neighborhood. If the restaurant will be <u>successfull</u>, it will naturally need a lot of waiters. The students in my neighborhood, who need to work in a working place that allows flexible working hours, would love finding a job where they can earn some money. Therefore, if the restaurant will hire them as waiters, it might help them a lot. I can take myself as a good example: when I was a student I lived in another neighborhood where two restaurants were located. I used to work as a waiter in one of these retaurants, earning money for the university's tuition fees.

In conclusion, I strongly support building the new restaurants in our neighborhood. The restaurant will allow me (as well as to the other neighbors) to eat in a restaurants more often. The new restaurant might also offer job opportunities to the students of the neighborhood.

[COMMENT: This Essay contains several spelling mistakes, however, it still deserves 6.0 score because it is well organized, well developed, and all its statements are well supported.]

Topic:

Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with a teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons to develop your essay.

I support the view that teachers should be a part of the learning process. Below are several beneficial reasons for which I feel that teachers are needed in while learning. Below are also some of the the problems that come up without their presence.

Primarily teachers are there for guidance in a particular field or subject. They give you a systematic and better way to approach a subject. A teacher normally teaches a subject in which he or she has expertise in. Hence that person has made a study of the subject and can guide you in order to help you approach the subject in a better way. This guidance may be in the form of giving you names of reference books or giving you notes. Without a teacher it would be extremely cumbersome to go through large libraries for a certain topic. Besides this the teacher could provide you help with any sort of problem that you come across while studying. The teacher could provide you strategies that help you solve a problem. Without a teacher, this problem would

take up a lot of your valuable time or remain unsolved. Teachers can also point out when you are going wrong. They point out our mistakes and suggest ways for us to correct them.

In the end it does depend on the individual person to finally getting down to learn a subject. The actual studying has to be done by the individual. But the learning process can be made much simpler with the proper and continuous guidance of teachers. Hence it better to learn with the help of a teacher rather than learning by yourself.

Topic:

Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.

All means of transportation should be kept in good conditions. However, I believe it would be most beneficial for a country or city, if its government spent more money on improving public transportation. This would result in substantial standard of living improvements.

The volume of cars and trucks hitting the highways is dramatically rising every year. As a result, the number of traffic jams, accidents and carbon monoxide emissions are doing too. All these factors have a detrimental effect on our quality of life. Expanding subway lines and railroads and developing an effective plan to combine buses and subways routes, would eventually lead to a reduction in pollution levels, less traffic jams and less stress for the people.

If subway lines reached every corner of a city, people would not need to use their cars to commute. Less cars on the road, means less carbon monoxide emissions into the atmosphere; therefore, the air we breathe would be more pure. Less cars also means less traffic jams, which translates into less stress for drivers and better living conditions.

Not every country has a well developed railroad system. Consequently, they have to rely on trucks and buses for ground transportation of passengers and freight. Expanding and upgrading railroad systems will result in fewer trucks and buses on the highways. Removing this kind of traffic from the highways and encouraging the use of trains, would be another way to reduce congestion on the freeways. The reduction of traffic, represents less maintenance costs for the government. This surplus of money could be use for other purposes. For example, a forest recovery program or a national campaign against pollution.

Highways, roads and public transportation all require maintenance funds, but I think it is more important to think about the future and how to make our countries or cities better places to live in. Improving public transportation, will help reduce traffic jams, accidents and air pollution. A safer, healthier and more enjoyable place to live awaits for us in the future.

Topic:

In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.

Nowadays, a lot of teens work in jobs while they are studying. Some of them really need the money they earn to compensate for their school expenses whereas others use the money they earn as pocket money. Whatever the reason for the students to work in jobs is, in my opinion, working is a great experience to all. Having a job is an important opportunity to learn about responsibilities and also teaches the teenagers to cooperate with their co-workers and enable them to understand the value of money.

To start with, working in a job gives teenagers lots of situations in which they should act responsibly, otherwise they will lose their jobs. For example, one has to wake up early if his/her working hours start at 8:00 AM in the morning, no matter how late he/she stayed up last night. Otherwise, his/her supervisor will warn him/her or may eventually fire the individual.

A second reason why having jobs as students has positive effects on teenagers is that it teaches them how to cooperate and the importance of cooperation. In a work setting usually the employees have to depend on each other on numerous occasions. When a single employee loafs, others will have to compensate for his/her workload in addition to their own tasks. Students will learn from their working experience the importance of cooperation and why every individual should effectively carry out his/her own work.

Another point is, these working possibilities enable the students to understand the value of money and that "Money does not grow on trees". After the student sees how hard he/she has to work to earn money, he/she will also be more reasonable while spending it, thus, his/her purchasing behavior will be enhanced.

In conclusion, when one has a job as a student, he/she will benefit significantly from the experience. This way, students will be more responsible when they graduate. Furthermore, they will be more cooperative, thus will be more beneficial for the companies they will be working in once they will be graduated. Finally, since they'll know better how to spend their money, they won't get into trouble due to excessive spending. All in all, having jobs as students is a terrific idea and I think every student should have a working experience before graduating and starting their professional careers.

[COMMENT: Student will not be penalized merely because he stands a relatively "incorrect" position of a topic. This essay deserves 6 score because of its excellent development.

However, by *teenagers* we often refer to those whose age are under 16, they should be kept in school and attend compulsory education except for extreme circumstances, it's the society's and government's duty to cultivate teenagers, who actually can hardly learn anything efficiently just by working simply because of their immaturity. It is generally agreed that teenagers should receive a systematic education to be a fit individual.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree that progress is always good? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The important difference of mankind from other animals or living things is the ongoing progress it enjoys. The progress in science and art enables humankind to harness natural forces to the benefit of its life and build civilizations. In the past, when the progress led to an invention that will posed any threat on the humanity, the humans was aware of the harm and evaded it and tried to use the invention to the benefit of the humanity. I believe that the progress is inevitable for the humankind and that even the slowing of this progress may lead to the vanishing of the human being voracious to consume more.

In the absence of progress in fields of science, and art, and philosophy we would live like animals without growing crops, feeding animals and establishing cities. In the past, a lot of species once began to exist then vanished as they could not accommodate themselves to the changing living conditions or could not control the environment that they lived in. I believe that the human being is able to change his or herself to changing conditions and control the environment. The progress enjoyed in almost all fields contributed to this ability.

I admit that the progress in certain field may harm the humanity. The progress in atom physics brought about the atom bomb. Having acknowledged the harm of atom bomb in the second-world war, the humankind has never resorted to it since then. But the progress in atom physics also brought about the nuclear energy and a lot inventions in medicine which a lot cancer patients used them to defeat the cancer. These treatments are still used and the progress in this field is still serving to the humankind.

Some people may put the blame on the progress for the pollution and the denigration of forests. But I think it is more about insatiable demand of the human being. I rather believe that the progress in technology and science will prevent the world from being polluted and will bring about a more green world.

To sum up, the progress is inevitable process that makes the humankind different from other beings. Without progress, that makes up for ever increasing human needs, the competition for limited resources will turn to a clash involving all humankind which will lead to a collapse for the humanity and world will become a hell for all of us.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I am in total agreement of the statement. I will put some of the facts in the support of this statement in the following statements. It is the technology that has made life simpler and easier. This has been observed in

almost all aspects of life. First of all I would like to define technology. What is it? I feel that technology is an achievable sophistication of human imagination. Man is the sole creator of technology. Man used to think on a particular question or problem, very critically and thoroughly, and comes out with a brilliant solution. This solution is called as Technology.

Now we will see how it helps the students to learn more information and learn more quickly. Internet, email, interactive computer based tutors are some of the forms of the new technology which help students learn quickly. In my school days I used to sit in the class rooms for hours. Teachers used to be age old and highly boring just like subjects. But I couldn't complain about that in those days. I used to get nervous at some point of time. But now a student can sit or even lie down in his or her bedroom and attend the class on Television or even as video conference. I feel that most of the children used to perceive a very good morale at home. They are fresh and enthusiastic at home. In this state of mind they can learn more in less time.

With the advent of computer based tutors, the time constraint for learning has also been vanished. Student can take his or her class as and only when he or she wants. It is not likely with every body that one will be fresh and ready to grasp for 8 hours daily. Sometime somebody may feel little drowsy or sick. CBT have the best answer to this question.

With the advent of internet, it is not at all necessary that you should attend the classes of the same age old and boring teachers only. One can discuss with the best professors in the world on any subject of one's liking. The new electronic storage devices like tapes, CDs and floppies have made the students able to store whole lot of information in their pockets. Big bulky books are being replaced by Adobe Acrobat Documents. Only having whole lot of information is also not enough. Because then you will have to search for the information back and forth. There are certain software packages which help students in managing his knowledge bank also. This has made learning faster and easier.

One thing is sure, if thing is simple, smoother and easier anybody will take interest in it. The new technology is very attractive. Students have started taking interest in the core subjects it self which are being taught with the help of new technology. I have one example to support this.

One my friend was highly unwilling to come to school. He used to feel very sad in the school time. Then his father made a very intelligent move. He bought a set of new shoes, new school uniform and a new water bag. He asked his car driver to drop him to school daily. And to my surprise, after that day, he became the most regular student in the class. The new uniform and new shoes gave him the new look. The new water bag gave him the eleventh hour help and coming by car gave him the pleasure of traveling.

In conclusion I would say that, same is the case with technology also. Technology gives the new look to your studies. It provides help at the eleventh hour and it provides the pleasure of learning also. What else one needs to learn more information with more pace?

[COMMENT: This essay contain too much sentence fillers, by which we refer those sentences that have no real meaning. And because of this, the essay became elongated and certainly loose.

Please bear in mind that in the real test, test takers have only a piece of answer sheet, in which they can write approximately 500 words in maximum. And if the positive side cannot contain the whole essay, he or she will have no place to write, for they will be denied to provide another piece of answer sheet by the rule.]

Topic:

Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. I disagree with this point of view for several reasons, which I will detail in this essay.

There are two reasons that support this view. The first reason is that all the creatures on the face of the earth have the same right to exist, be it a four-legged animal or a human, both have the same right--just because humans have more so-called intelligence than do animals doesn't necessarily mean that they are naturally entitled to use any land as they wish.

The second reason is that for the existence of humans on earth, the existence of other creatures is essential. I say this because the presence of all the animals is essential to maintain natural order. We have seen the consequences of upsetting this balance in many environmental problems such as global warming.

Furthermore, animals are a necessary part of our lives on Earth. For example consider the food chain of the rat, snake, and eagle. We know that certain types of eagles are endangered species. If the eagle is hunted to the point where it becomes non existent, then the food chain will be broken. As a result of this, the number of snakes will increase. This will result in greater environmental problems and could harm the lives of humans.

If the endangered animals are not protected the existence of humans will be in danger. Our history has shown that if we continue to exploit our resources, particularly by destroying the land and therefore the natural habitat of plants and animals, we will ultimately harm ourselves. Therefore, I believe it is vital for people to preserve land in its natural state.

Topic:

People work because they need money to live. What are some other reasons that people work? Discuss one or more of these reasons. Use specific examples and details to support your answer.

"People will work because they need money to live." Though I do believe that there are a lot of other reasons for people to work. I will enumerate each of these reasons in the following paragraphs.

According to me, all of us have an inbuilt burning desire to SUCCEED. Success is a combination of professional achievements and then earning money as a result of these. Even if one of these components is missing, one will not derive true pleasure of having succeeded. Thus it is a big chain of events, one enjoys one's work, the moment one's work is not to complete a job but an enjoyment, one works even harder. More hard work over the long run inevitably leads to professional excellence which in turn translates in monetary benefits.

Secondly, when a person works hard, he contributes directly or indirectly to society. This feeling that "I have some worth and am contributing to betterment of society" is very important for mental happiness. Being an orthopedic surgeon myself, I have experienced this numerous times. If a patient comes to me with a fracture and then goes home walking, the pleasure I derive is phenomenal even if I do not derive substantial monetary benefit from this.

I also want to add that work gives money and in this day and age, even for social work one might want to do, one needs funds. Money thus earned can be given for various charitable causes thus giving a tremendous sense of satisfaction and well being.

I therefore strongly believe that one of the important reasons that people work is for money for themselves and for their family, there are many, significantly more important reasons for working and these are the ones which actually keep life going.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Face-to-face communication is better than other types of communication, such as letters, email, or telephone calls. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

In today's fast-paced environment, we are faced with a myriad of communication options. Be it letters, e-mails, or telephonic conversations, I think that no means is more effective than face to face dialogue.

Firstly, face to face dialogue affords the speaker the opportunity to convey his message in a more detailed and complete way. Emotions, moods and expressions come forth to the surface in a face to face interaction, unlike written words or those spoken on the telephone. By using tone, facial gestures and body language, the speaker gives a thorough idea of the listener of his point of view. For example, by leaning forward on his chair, opening his arms and moving his hands in a forceful manner, the speaker can convey interest and leadership.

Another benefit that face to face communication provides is **immediate feedback**. The speaker can clarify any confusion right away. Unlike written statements, no idea or thought is lost in grammatical errors or misuse of vocabulary. Since all people involved in the conversation can easily see each other, approval, interest, or disregard, can easily be deduced and dealt with.

Often we see messages getting confused, and warped up in a maze of paperwork or unanswered e-mail and telephone calls. Such accumulation of data can create lot of stress and undue mess ups in an office environment. Renowned CEOs, like Bill Gates are famous for making a point to show up at all business meetings, and if not possible, designate another person instead of using written words, or the telephone.

They say, "Nothing can replace the human touch." When people say that, what they mean is that the openness, camaraderie, and opportunity for feedback obtained through face to face dialogue is totally irreplaceable and invaluable.

Topic:

Some people like to do only what they already do well. Other people prefer to try new things and take risks. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

There are many people around who prefer to do the same things all the time .In my opinion they keep on doing the same things just because they don't want to take any risks. But there are also people who would like to do different things and take risks. I think I belong to the second category would to explain in this essay why I'd like to do new, different things.

First of all I think that all people should improve themselves and don't give up even if they fail sometimes. The world is changing, and because of the advanced technology we should always read and learn new things. We can't go on with the things we already know, that's why most of the companies arrange courses for their employees, for example courses for computer using or foreign language speaking.

It is easy to do the same ordinary things all the time because you don't have to take any risks and so you can do your work quickly and perfectly. But this changes our lives into a monotone form. In a government building, most of us see workers chatting with each other and making long telephone calls on the phone. I think the reason why they act this way is because they do the same thing all the time and so they finish their work quickly and spend the rest of their time doing unnecessary things.

One should always improve himself by doing new thing and shouldn't forget that it is never late. People can always make new starts in his life at all ages. A few days ago ,I read an article and it was about the new starts of life. One story was about an old sailor who had offered 1,008 different men to start a restaurant business together and all the time the answer had been 'no'. But this man hadn't given up and finally he had gotten the answer 'yes'. If this old sailor, Colonel Sanders, hadn't been so willing to start a new business, we wouldn't be eating Kentucky Fried Chicken today.

Finally I want to tell you about an exam I took last year in my economy course. The Professor had asked only one question and wanted us to write an four-page essay .The question was 'what's risk'. The student who got the highest mark in the exam hadn't written an essay. She had just left the 3 pages empty and written 'this is risk!!' at the bottom of the 4th page .When I think about it, it really was a risk not answering the question. But no one can deny that world is full of risks and I think life is worth taking risks.

[COMMENT: The author had used great examples to support the statements. Transcendent!]

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people may think that money is the most important aspect of a job. Of course, this factor cannot be ignored. But in my opinion, I disapprove this kind of idea. As I see it, there are many other important aspects a job, rather than money.

One of them is the satisfaction of the worker. No matter what other people say, if the person is satisfied with his/her work, that's it. For example, my father was a good student in high school. His parents and teachers told him to go to law school because it was the best career a person could have at that time and was an honor for the family. But my father disagreed and went to the army because he wanted to. And until now, he is very satisfied with his job. He didn't choose a job that was conspicuous to other people, but a job he liked.

Another factor is how well the job suits the person. We can't get a clumsy person to be a doctor that requires great awareness on the work, such as surgery. A single mistake, even the slightest failure can kill a person. So people should also consider on how well he/she can do the job, and if it's suitting the person.

In closing, I disagree with the idea of money being the most important aspect of a job. Of course, we can't totally ignore money. Usually many people just work, whether they like it or not, just to earn money. But we must keep in mind that money should be considered as a second, after we decide things such as the satisfaction or how well the job suits the person. Money isn't everything in life, remember that.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? One should never judge a person by external appearances. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

I strongly believe that people should never judge a person by external appearances. The way we look not always reflects the way we are. We can make huge mistakes if we let the external appearances tell us everything about someone.

I consider that outward qualities are related in some ways to the manner we are and the way we feel inside. Sometimes the clothes we chose express our mood, how we are feeling at that moment. Also, the hairstyle, make up and many other aspects of our look sometimes give an idea of our attitude towards life. Even though, not all aspects or, for some people, any aspect of the personality is shown in external appearances. The look is not evident enough to communicate deep feelings, beliefs, thoughts and behaviors. There is so much more inside of a person that can only be noticed after knowing him very well.

I have met people who give an erroneous first impression. At first sight one could describe them in a completely different way from what they turn to be when you get to know them well. Before making premature conclusions we should pay attention at many other features, such as the way the person talks, the words he uses, the look in his eyes, that help us to recognize how is that person like. People's values, educational background, skills and virtues lie in the inside, not in the outside.

There is a great risk of missing good friends if we allow us to judge by appearances. We always should give a second chance to people to show us how they really are, without masquerades. We have to be smart to not mistake what we see on the surface, because the main part of almost everything is hidden and not easily seen.

Topic

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A person should never make an important decision alone. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Someone says that a person should make an important decision alone, but in my opinion, I think that it is not true because everything can be looked in various aspects, and everyone has different skill and experiences. Consequently, consulting other persons is the best way for making a decision.

In my point of view, anyone in this world thinks differently from any other persons because there are many aspects for thinking about something. The more the number of people who help think, the more idea, so a person should not make an important decision alone. For example, in prominent company, it is very famous to work with team because the more the number of co-workers, the more a number of good ideas. Everyone has a chance to propose his opinion, and all of these opinions will be merged to be the conclusion decision.

In addition, making a decision alone can make people waste many things such as money, friends, or life because no one have a good skill in every fields. For example, in the business, if owner want to increase budget to develop a company, but he decides to do so by himself without consulting with accountances who are good at calculating budget, the business may be turn down. So, the owner has to waste a lot of money because he makes an importance decision alone.

Moreover, it is sure that everyone cannot used to face with the same situation in his whole life, so no one has the same experiences as do any other persons. Doing something that we used to do is easy and has less chance to do wrong, so If a person has to decide to do something that he used not to do so, but he consult with someone who used to do so, he can do so too. For example, last 6 years ago, I had to decide in which faculty that I should study. In that time, I had not many experiences, so I asked about the characteristic of any faculties from my parents, my teachers, and my parent's friends who works in various careers. Those advices that everyone gave me were very useful for me to make a decision, and right now I am sure that I do not make

a wrong decision that I choose to learn in the faculty of Electrical Engineering. If that time I decided to choose it by myself, I might be a doctor who was not happy at all.

To conclude, making an important decision is the important thing in people's life because it can point out our life such as being the rich or the poor, working as an engineer or a doctor, or being happy or sad. The best way for making a decision is consulting with other person. Therefore I agree that a person should never make an important decision alone.

Topic:

A company is going to give some money either to support the arts or to protect the environment. Which do you think the company should choose? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Art is one of the most beautiful and soul expressions of humans. As a result, art is considered an important part of history. Another part of history is the world in which humans develop their lives and one of the most important concerns of this world is its environment and the way the humans have been destroying it. Is my believe that even when the environment is the primary issue to be protected, we can not leave out of our care one part of the history like the one that arts represents.

One of the major problems that comes out with the topic of the environment is the hole the humans have created in the ozone layer. For example long time ago we used to use all kind of spray deodorants and with these the use of chemical products like CFC's (Carbon Fluoride Chlorine) which affect and destroy the ozone layer. As a consequence a hole have been created and ultraviolet rays could pass through the atmosphere and burns human's skin, in certain cases this could produce a chronic disease called cancer. The support and effort that every single company or organization can give in order to protect the environment will turns necessary.

In the other hand, we have the arts as a human spiritual movement that have its own problems. In that way art museums and master pieces of art will need to survive to one of their most fidelity enemies, the time. This will deteriorate valuable paintings like the ones Michael Angelo created over the ceiling of one Italian famous Chapel. For that reason I think that companies should support the arts like a way to maintain the beauty in our society.

Finally I believe that even when companies can help with their economical and technical support in both areas the arts and the environment, the humans must have the obligation to conserve and protect our most valuable richness, the environment as well as our different forms of art.

[**COMMENT**: The writing of this essay is outstanding, yet it deserves score 5.0 at most. Because the author didn't address the writing task comprehensively – in this case, he MUST **choose**, but he didn't. A single sentence conclusion paragraph would work efficiently. What a pitty!]

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Businesses should do anything they can to make a profit. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some people think that businesses should do anything they can to make a profit. In my opinion, these people are thinking a little bit selfish, because there are other things that a business should do, for example considering the workers, costumers. Beside all these a business should serve the community.

The most important thing to realize is that, a person who is serving the costumers and the community should always be honest. In my opinion honesty is the most important quality a business should have in order to deserve the profit it makes. Earning money by playing trick on consumers or getting more money than it deserves is so bad that I don't think a business which makes profit out of dishonesty can carry on with success. In a business all the workers must consider the other workers, the costumers and the community they live in. Colleagues are also very important; they should respect each other and should never forget that business is a team-work. If a business is making large profits, it should share it with the people who made that profit possible.

If a worker cannot get what he deserves either economically or mentally he may not be able to work effectively in the future.

The other important thing is that some of the profits one's business earns from the community should be returned to the community. For example if big company is earning a lot of money, it should never forget that the money comes from community so it should return some of the profit back to community. There are various ways to do it. For example a company can built a park for the children or crèche just like public nursery for the children of the workers, get the trust of the workers.

The last very important point is to get customers' trust. A small company may grow into a large company after sometime but if it wants to be long lasting, it should always try to produce high-quality products, and give good service to its costumers.

Generally, it can be said that the most important thing for a business is to make a profit, a business should never do anything to make a large profit. There are more important things such as serving the costumers, workers and community .A business must make profits, but we all - workers, customers, community- must profit from a successful business.

Topic:

Some people are always in a hurry to go places and get things done. Other people prefer to take their time and live life at a slower pace. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I think I would prefer to hurry to get things done than to take my time and live life at a slower pace because it allows me to do things over a short period of time, make my self available for opportunities and it makes one to be efficient in life.

Firstly, life on earth is short and I would advise anyone who cares to listen that it is advisable to do things on time knowing fully well that you cannot live forever and that your impact should be felt by people around you. Imagine, if everyone takes their time to do every thing that they should do, things wouldn't be done on time, there would be chaos, anarchy and total disorder. For example, the police would fight crime when they feel like or the president of a country would address urgent humanitarian needs at his own time or children would go to school when they feel like. Such a situation would lead to the total breakdown of a society.

If I have to do things at my time, then I would miss a lot of opportunities in life. For example, if an unemployed graduate like myself spends the whole day doing chores in the house, when I could do the house chores quickly and attend seminars related to my field that could keep me updated on recent developments in my field and in the long run enhance my job prospects.

Imagine, if workers in a company take their time to do things at a slower pace, then such an organization is bound to fail because things wouldn't be done on time and such a company would lag behind its competitors.

No matter what some people feel I think is better for people to do things in a hurry to prevent disaster, promote efficiency and make one available for opportunities?

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Games are as important for adults as they are for children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Everyone likes games and games are said to be for children. By playing games children learn new things and have enjoyable time. As long as adults also need to learn new things and need enjoyable time after a long depressing working day, games are as important for adults as they are for children. Games are important because they make adults keep their minds sharp, learn new things and besides maintain social skills.

A few days ago, I came across a newspaper article and it was stated that modern research had shown that grown up adults could continue to grow brain cells by exercising their minds. When I thought about it, I found out that no other way other than playing games could manage to do it. By concentrating on the tactics of the game, keeping the track of your opponent's strategies, you can keep your brain functioning and growing. Some games can teach us a lot. Games that ask questions are not only enjoyable but also show us what we don't know. The best way to learn a thing is answering a question wrong because then you never forget the correct answer. It is always easier to keep something in mind when you realize you don't know it.

The other important point is that playing games is enjoyable. Not only children, but also adults need to forget about the problems of the real world. Games provide everybody a new view of life. You just concentrate on the

game, and so don't think of anything else. Games get people together. By this way, one can observe people's reactions towards different situations. It is always very interesting to watch the others. Nobody is same, and we can learn new thing from others. Maintaining personal contacts is important for everyone.

Finally I can say that games are as important for adults as they are for children. Regardless of your age, playing games can help you keep your mind alert, learn new things, and build friendship.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents or other adult relatives should make important decisions for their older (15 to 18 year-old) teenage children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Parents and adult relatives play a significant role in shaping a child's life. They teach them how to live, and struggle for the right things. However when children grow up, often they fail to realize the contributions of their parents and adult relatives in their lives. Teenage children think that being a teenager they are able to make all the decisions of their lives. In my opinion, parents and adult relatives should make important decisions for their teenage children because teenagers are inexperienced, overconfident and many times they do not realize the consequences that the unimportant decisions can have on their lives.

Teenagers, being new in the adult world and having their first experiences of their adult lives, think themselves as grownups and perfectly able to make their own decisions. However, most of the times, their decisions are influenced by their friends. For example a student may get into a top university, but just because his/her friend is going to college, he/she wishes to go to college too. In this case the decision is obviously influential, and can have great negative effects on his/her life. At such a point the parents or the adult relatives should make decisions for their children.

Another reason why parents or the adult relatives decisions are very important is that the teenagers are over confident. The teenagers haven't still been into practical life, and they don't have an idea of how the practical world works. Specially before the university, teenagers are living in kind of a fantasy world, where they think everything is cool and perfect. For example they might think that playing basket ball in the school gym is definitely going to get them selected on the national team. This may be true in some cases, but usually it doesn't work out this way. So if the teenager, just neglects his/her studies, he/she is going to be definitely in loss. At such points, like choosing the subjects in high school, parents and/or adult relatives should make decisions for their teenage children.

In conclusion, although teenagers might think the decisions being imposed on them as a stone in their paths, it is in fact a blessing for them. Teenagers, being irresponsible, and inexperienced are not always able to make decisions for themselves. Hence parents and/or adult relatives should make the decisions for them.

Topic:

Some people prefer to work for themselves or own a business. Others prefer to work for an employer. Would you rather be self-employed, work for someone else, or own a business? Use specific reasons to explain your choice.

If given a choice of working for someone else or being self-employed I would choose the latter without any hesitation. This doesn't mean that working for someone else is in any way inferior to being one's own boss. I believe your personality type and the way you want to live your life are the key factors in making this choice.

To me a life without thrills and adventures looks unattractive. The myriad challenges and problems one has to face as a self-employed or business person attracts me more than the relatively secure life of an employee.

I am well aware of the darker sides of my choice. Being your own boss gives you immense freedom. You are free from undertaking any venture in which you cannot put your heart, nor will you be troubled by the stumbling blocks of employer disapproval in the course you believe in. But hand in hand with this great freedom comes great responsibility too. The success of the entire venture or business lies solely upon you, the decision you make the methods you use to implement them etc. The risk factor is very high and you have to be prepared to fight against all the destructive, malicious, sudden rising storms. But the joy you will get from leading a life in your own terms , is worth all the strife. For success tastes sweetest after the toughest battle.

To conclude I choose the adventurous life of a self-employed or business person to the smug secure life of an employee, I choose to live a life in my own terms, to shine in use and not to rust.

Topic:

Should a city try to preserve its old, historic buildings or destroy them and replace them with modern buildings? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

It is very important for a city to have old and historical buildings because these kinds of place are a efficient way to welcome tourist from all over the world. Additionally, these buildings offer a good way for people to learn about that city's history and culture. It is obvious that for to have old and historical buildings provide a city many opportunities. Because of these advantages a city try to preserve its old and historical buildings.

First of all, since tourists generally like to visit historical place, a city in which there are a lot of historical buildings have more chance to be visited compare to others . These visiting increase city's poverty, wealth and reputation. Moreover these developments lead a city more attractive and clean. These kinds of benefits not only make richer that city municipality but also make richer people living in that city. Obviously, because historical places are favorites for tourist trips, a city should keep its historical buildings in good repair and well-cared for its own future and interest.

Secondly, to visit old and historical building is a good and easy way to learn that place's history and culture and keep that city lively. Particularly these kind of places are very important to teach a city's tradition, culture and history to young generation. nowadays new generations came across culture shock. To destroy its historical building cause serious society problems especially in terms of youth. People can have many information about that city by visiting these kinds of places. A city should try to preserve its historical buildings to establish a bridge between past and future.

To sum up, if a city wants to have many advantages such as to attract to tourist attentions and to keep its culture and tradition lively, it should preserve its old and historical building.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child's success in school. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

When children attend school, they spend most of their time with their classmates. Because of this reason many people think that classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child's success in school. I totally agree with this statement in the light of my experiences and my other friends' experiences. In this essay, I will try to figure out how classmates are an important influence on a child's success in school.

First of all, at the very beginning of the school years, children meet new friends and they get close with some of them either because they get along with them well or they are in the same neighborhood. It is very normal for a child to have new friends that she likes and have enjoyable time but sometimes these classmates become a very important influence on a child's behavior. This behavior can affect her positively or negatively.

For example my cousin had had some friends at school. She liked them a lot but I felt something wrong as soon as I met them. I talked to my cousin about it but she didn't listen to my advices. Later on she realized that her friends were using drugs and cut her relations with them. My cousin and her family had to move to another city because this event affected my cousin very much and she suffered some psychological problems. My cousin had to give up her school for a year and took her 2 years return to her normal life.

On the other hand, classmates can influence a child's success in school in a good way. Because, to my way of thinking, meeting new people, getting to know them, is an important experience in one's life. Studying together, helping each other with some problems is very useful. For example, I study with my friends for the exams and I think it is very helpful. One of my friends can solve a mathematics problem that the others cannot solve, so we complete each other. I sometimes don't feel like studying but my friends force me to study and I thank them for that. Because sometimes one needs motivation and friends are there at this times.

Finally, we can say that classmates are an important influence on a child's success in school. The important point is that how they influence a child's success. And as long as we have good friends, they play an important role in our success.

[COMMENT: "Finally" should be used not in the conclusion but in the final body paragraph.]

Topic:

If you were an employer, which kind of worker would you prefer to hire: an inexperienced worker at a lower salary or an experienced worker at a higher salary? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

If I were an employer, I would hire a worker depending upon the type of the work my organization deals with. There are many types of organizations that deal with different works like industry, restaurants, consultancy, banks, forum etc. And depending upon these types of organizations, the working personal also varies. If I belong to the organization that works for building and construction, and I require workers for the same purpose, then I would surely hire inexperienced workers at a lower salary. By doing this I will make my organization more cost effective, as for building and construction purpose, more numbers of workers are required, and this helps cutting down expenses. Also, when the work is related to the physical work, then more than experience, the desire to work counts. If the person is inexperienced, then he can learn how to work, until he has desired to work. But, if the organization is related to the professional levels, then in such case, experienced workers are highly required. So, the type of the work is directly related to requirement of the experienced or inexperienced worker with respect to the amount of the salary. As I am related with the international organization, I would prefer an experienced worker even at a higher salary.

Experience is the most important criteria for getting professional job. Experience makes the person perfect. And perfect ones can only work effectively and efficiently by the time they join the organization. Even for the experienced person, it takes some time to understand the way the organization works and the management over there. So, for the inexperienced person, it takes almost months to years to know the working atmosphere of the organization depending upon the type of work. The total amount of the salary the worker gets by the completion of work is almost same whether the worker is experienced or inexperienced. Training is required for an inexperienced worker and the training expenses can be more. But for the experienced worker, training is not required, one can just understand by observing, and managing oneself. The experienced one can get the job done soon while, the inexperienced worker takes double the time. Double the time means double the salary one gets. So, whether one is experienced or not, total amount of the salary, the employer has to pay is somewhat equivalent. Organization values its overall human resources, no matter whomever; all are integral part for its existence, for the long-term development and for the excellent, experienced worker needs to be hired.

I work in the international organization that deals with the e-consultation. If the inexperienced person was hired for the same job, then he would almost take 6 months to understand what's going on. But if the person is experienced one, he needs not more than one month to get involved. For such an organization, excellence is of prior than the amount of salary that is to be paid. Also, it's not sure that even after training, the inexperienced person can work effectively. In the medical shop, if I have to hire the sales man than, I would go for the experienced one even at the higher salary. Experience is the most important criteria for employing as the work is relates to the health of many people.

So in my point of view, experienced workers are more effective than inexperienced ones regardless of the amount

Topic:

Many teachers assign homework to students every day. Do you think that daily homework is necessary for students? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

This question of whether or not to give the students daily homework is a much debated problem in that it affects everybody as a student like us. Of course, doing homework will scare our leisure time in some extent, but it can help students understand the texts more deeply, force students to review the texts and make students have a lasting impression about the texts. So personally, I would prefer to do homework everyday.

There are numerous reasons why I think that daily homework is necessary for students, and I would here explain some of the most important ones. The main reason is daily homework can help students understand the texts more deeply. It can be given an example, you must make yourself understand the texts firstly in order to do your homework. Whatever in mathematics, in chemistry or other courses, if you don't understand the texts, you can not finish the homework of that day.

The other reason is that daily homework can force the students to review the texts. Just imagine when you have the problems in your homework you will understand it more. When you have the problems, what can make you work out is reading your texts and your notes carefully or discussing with other students.

One very strong argument is that doing homework can make the students have a lasting impression about the texts. In order to see it clearly, let us see an example. When students do their homework, they have to review the texts, understand the texts, even more discuss the problems about the texts. They gradually have a lasting impression about the texts.

From what has been discussed above, doing homework has more advantages, so we finally draw the conclusion that daily homework is necessary for students.

Topic:

Which would you choose: a high-paying job with long hours that would give you little time with family and friends or a lower-paying job with shorter hours that would give you more time with family and friends? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

In order to earn a living many people are engaged in jobs. Some jobs are high-paying with long hours of work while others are low in salary but the working period is also less. Now if I were given a choice to choose between these options then I would certainly choose the latter one.

Man is born free but he is in chains. He has various duties to perform. He must earn bread for his family. But in doing so he must not be devoted to his work so much that he has little time stored for his family and friends. Because there are times when he should give some time for his family. To strengthen the family ties, it is essential.

Now-a-days the society has gone to astray because there is no family values. Parents are busy with their work. Children do not find their parents most of the time. So they are with their friends most of the time and if they choose wrong friends then they are likely to go down the drain. But if parents are beside them at their time of need ,then they won't feel lonely. Parent-children relation will grow.

Money is essential but it is not the only thing we should run after. If a friend is in need ,we should be by his side. If a relative is ill ,we should manage some time to see him. And most of all if our family needs us, we should put aside all jobs and be there. We cannot escape from our duties by just saying that we are too busy in our work. We should keep our priorities in order.

Finally, it can be said that we earn money for our happiness and for the comfort of our family. In doing so we should not forget our ultimate goal. If we do, then our families will be in a disaster. In our difficult times we will have no friends to share our problems with. So we should get jobs considering the consequences it may bring. If a lower-paying job with shorter hours makes me happy in the long run, then it is the one I certainly will choose.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Grades (marks) encourage students to learn. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Learning is a great tool. Grades are great reward for a good learning. Attending school is a great way to access your learning ability and performance. I believe that grades are great indicators of a good learning for the following reasons: They prove how well he or she has learned the topic, area of weakness, and what it needs to be done to improve.

Grades prove how well he or she has learned the topic. Take for instance, if a person take an exam and perform poorly, then this prove that he did not prepare for the exam enough to pass. Therefore, grades are great indicators if a person was prepared for an exam or not.

Grades will also prove the area of weakness. Exams tend to gear the student on how to approach a particular exam and how to focus on the area of weakness. For example, if a person is preparing for a national exam, he or she must focus on the areas where he or she lacks. Grades will show which areas he or she performed well and the areas of poor performance. This set a guideline for a student to prepare more precisely to sharpen his weak area.

Grades also help student study harder. A student has the tendency to study harder if he or she gets a positive reward. For example, I used to be very unhappy if I did not pass an exam. Therefore, I took my unhappiness and anger toward my studying and put more hours into the subject so I can perform better. I recall an

incidence in high school when I had failed my official exam which it made me realize that studying less will not be the solution and studying hard was my only way to pass this exam.

Grades are essential to every student and I believe it is a great way to gear student ability, and performance. They do help a student to focus, work harder, and concentrate and the area of weakness. Finally, assessment is a way of encouraging, and improving each student learning

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Grades (marks) encourage students to learn. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Traveling is one of the best ways to enjoy ourselves. Many people like to travel and see different places. Some people travel alone and discover new places. Other people prefer to travel in a group led by a tour guide. Because I like meeting new people and like to learn as much as possible about the places I visit, I would prefer to travel with a group of people led by a tour guide. In this essay, I will explain my reasons.

First of all, by traveling in a group, we can benefit from the travel knowledge of our tour guide and our traveling companions and from the language skills of our tour guide. Without knowledge of the language, we might have great difficulty in communication. Also we should search for the places that we are going to visit in order to not to waste time. Because most of us are not professional tour guides, we cannot know all the important places that have to be visited. Tour guides can help us in different situations. So, traveling in a group led by a tour guide is better than traveling alone. Many tour guides know at least two foreign languages, so they help us to communicate when we have trouble. Tour guides also give us information about the places that we visit, so the trip becomes even more informative.

Secondly, meeting new people can be very interesting when we travel in a group. We can build friendships that last forever. For example, two years ago, with my cousin, I went to Paris with on a tour with a group. There were almost thirty people in our group. We got along with each other very well. We went to restaurants all together, and it was really fun. If the number of people in a tour increases then, the transportation and hostelling costs decrease, and people can visit more places with less money.

In conclusion, I can say that traveling in a group of people is the best way to travel. Traveling in a group allows us to save money, make good friends, have companionship, and learn important information about the place that we are visiting.

Topic:

Some universities require students to take classes in many subjects. Other universities require students to specialize in one subject. Which is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

It is true that some universities require student to take classes in many subjects and other universities require students to specialize in one subject. In my opinion both of this approaches have advantages and disadvantages. In the present essay I will argue in favor of requirement student to take classes in many subjects.

It is great for one to know what exactly want to do in his life. If one can answer the question "What vocation is appropriate for me" than he can attend university that require students to specialize in one subject. This is the right way to improve knowledge and to make the most of courses.

But unfortunately there are a few people knowing well what exactly they are born to do. I am one of them. That is why I think taking classes in many subject would help student to make his mind in order to realize his vocational opportunities. Moreover, taking classes in many subjects helps one to increase his knowledge and to achieve new levels of it.

Of course it is a free choice to attend many classes or to specialize in one subject. But I rather attend university that requires students to take classes in many subjects, because I am still incapable of making my mind which particular subject to choose, and because it is really important for one to know a lot of things, not only in the realm of his interests, but out of their borders.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should begin learning a foreign language as soon as they start school. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Language is the best mean of communication. In globalization era, one language is definitely not enough for one to be able to communicate well with foreigner. I strongly support the idea that children should begin learning a foreign language as soon as they start school. They will get themselves familiar with new language, improve hearing ability as the time goes by, and learn to speak new word early.

In my country, Thailand, it is compulsory for all children to start learning English at the age of three or four. However, they learn only a few word like one, two, three and simple animal names. It is more fun to know other languages especially when children begin to learn with very easy vocabulary. The learning process is more fun for them. Most language books for kids are colorful and fun to read. It gets children familiar with new languages without feeling afraid or bore to learn.

No doubt, early start means more time for practice. Children can improve their hearing ability from foreign movie, songs, or from tourists. They might not be able to understand the whole conversation but they will hear the word they have learned and know how to pronounce them correctly. I have read the book about bringing up a child where parents speak two languages; there is no problem for a child to learn two languages at the same time. Psychologist said a child will not get confuse but he will be able to speak two languages which will surely be one asset for the future.

In addition, children would start to say a word or sentence early and do not worry so much about mistake as most adults do. You cannot refuse the fact that adults always concern more about grammar and pronunciation of the new languages. This is one of the big barriers for learning. Adults are afraid and not say at all afterward. Language is a matter of practicing not avoiding. Children will start to say what they learn regardless of rule or grammatical part. And that is the best way to learn language.

To me, children can receive new things fast and their development is always progressing. Time and practice will make them master in new language, which will benefit them when they grow up. All in all, language is an art, which one should learn as early as possible. If one wants to see outcome soon, one must start sooner.

Topic:

Is it more important to be able to work with a group of people on a team or to work independently? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Man has always been a social animal. It is established that most of his achievements are attributed to social structure and team work. So, it is more important to be able to work with a group of people on a team than to work independently.

Every person has a knowledge unique to himself. No person has complete knowledge about any subject. People have different approaches and contribute in different ways to the same cause. So, a group of persons can contribute more to a cause than a single person can do.

Having many persons working together also helps in the fact that a group can execute its plans more strongly and in a better way, whereas a single person may fail to do so because of lack of opinion or resolution.

A team also promotes team spirit. There is a healthy competition within the group members and this breeds innovative ideas by provoking thoughts. On the other hand, a single person thinks in his own way. The possibility of verification and hence improvements are less than they are in a group. I fear he may continue to make same mistakes and will realize them very late.

A team person draws ideas from each of his teammates and hence is more exposed to the current progresses and latest methods in his field. A single person may need to put a lot of effort, (often impractical) to gain an equal amount of knowledge.

At some or the other stage in one's life, everybody should work with others. A person working in a team learns to live with many persons and work in harmony with strangers. Meanwhile he gets rid off his individual complexes which might have adverse effect on one's profession. These lessons he learnt in his team are also important assets in his personality that he carries home. But, a person working independently would not have experienced these things. He may find it difficult to work with others in future. He will have to start afresh and learn to cope with the group when it is inevitable.

Hence, I strongly feel that team work is essential in everybody's life. It brings out the best out of a person. Even a brilliant person cannot strive for excellence without anybody's assistance. Therefore, it is very important to develop team's attitude.

Topic:

Your city has decided to build a statue or monument to honor a famous person in your country. Who would you choose? Use reasons and specific examples to support your choice.

Most cities have Statues, monuments, and memorials named after famous people who made a difference in some way to that Country. It is the wonderful way of remembering their good deeds and retaining them in the people memory for a long time to come. Recently the municipal corporation of the city where I live in, which is Mumbai, India decided to build a monument.

So they decided to take a citizens poll for this. Like most people in my city, I feel that a monument for Mahatma Gandhi would be an ideal way of giving our tributes to him and remembering him for the sacrifices he made for the freedom of our nation. Respectfully known as "The father of our nation" he was the person responsible for getting freedom from the British.

In the 1940's while my country was under the British rule, there was only one sole voice and the entire country and the whole free world stood behind him. The reason behind this being, his ideology which was based on non-violence and non-co-operation against the British rulers. His non-co-operation movement and the Swedish movement (which means using only things made indigenously) was so successful that the British rule crumbled under on their own and were forced to leave our country.

Never in history had such a feat been achieved without an armed revolution or a military assault. So like most of the citizens of my city and young people like me who owe our freedom to this one man, I feel that this monument should be built in his name. This monument will remind all our future generations of this simple yet great man and showcase his will and determination for ages to come.

Topic:

Describe a custom from your country that you would like people from other countries to adopt. Explain your choice, using specific reasons and examples.

In our world there are many different customs that differ from one country to another. My country has one that, in my opinion, can be adopted by many other countries. My country inhabitants called it "Martisor". In spring, people give each other a gift of a white and red piece of string, which means revival of the environment.

One of my reasons is that this custom is symbol of life and health. In our competitive world, when we often forget to enjoy the simplest things in our life such as flowers, trees, fresh air, walking with friends and family, or in other words have a good time, "Martisor" is not a simple gift. Our life are very complicated and stressful. Therefore, in my opinion, this custom will benefit to all people all over the world.

Another important reason is that one can make a lot of friends by giving them his inexpensive gift. Also, he can make it by himself because it is very easy to make and you do not need special acknowledge how to make it. For example, I feel very happy when somebody gives me such a gift. This is not because I like surprises. When somebody give you a gift, this means he is proud of you, he love you, or even he want to make you happy, to see your smile or a look in your eyes.

In conclusion, I can say that if I had an opportunity to choose one custom, I would select "Martisor" because everybody can make a lot of friends enjoying life and having a good time by giving them this symbol of life and health.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Technology has made the world a better place to live. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Technology as we all know has changed the way we live our lives in this new millennium. It has affected each and every faucet of people from all countries irrespective of cultural and physical boundaries. Now many people may argue with the fact that, not all change brought due to the technological revolution has resulted in

progress for the human kind. But I strongly support the argument that technology has made the world a better place to live. I will explain my point of view with examples and reasoning in the following paragraphs.

First of all, technology has improved the quality of our lives. For example, in our working lives where we use computers, which help us plan and execute our work faster. And also for instance the communication technology which has revolutionized the way people around the world talk and share information. Previously, pigeons were used to transmit information, now due to efforts of many scientists and organizations we have mediums such as e-mail, telephone, fax which allow people to share information, in ways which was never thought possible before. All this results in people meeting and sharing thoughts and exchanging knowledge, which eventually leads to betterment of mankind.

Secondly, It has made it possible to do things unimagined before. For instance, it was never thought possible to cure people of some diseases and disabilities. But path breaking applications of radioactive isotopes in cancer treatment and artificial limb implants in disabled persons are some instances where technology has given people a new ray of hope.

It has also resulted in increasing the efficiency of humans. A good example of this are the machines used in factories which are 1000 times more efficient in doing some repetitive tasks compared to humans. This results in industry being able to supply the increasing demands of the ever increasing population. Good examples of this are cars and packaged food products.

Technology has also given us a second chance in case of unexpected events like diseases and natural calamities. Because of technology we can better respond to these problems. For example, vaccines are used extensively throughout the world when any particular pandemic or epidemic breaks out and now less lives are lost due to natural disasters than before, thanks to the state of the art search and rescue equipment.

Lastly, it has given us a purpose of our life. For example space technology has strived to explain our origins in the universe. Meanwhile also finding the roots of our own evolution. All this results in a better understanding of the forces of nature controlling our existence and better utilizing them for our own good.

In conclusion, I fully support the statement that technology has made our world a better place to live and also gives us a means by which we can preserve the best of our world for future generations to come.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Advertising can tell you a lot about a country. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Advertising is an all powerful tool in today's world where communication means are varied and accessible by all, and reaching the target audience with the right message makes all the difference. Advertising is a medium through which, people can be educated about a particular issue at hand. Advertising can be about a new product, a new business opportunity or in this case about a country. I strongly agree with the statement that advertising can inform, educate and can tell a lot about the country. I will support my argument through examples and reasoning given below.

Advertising can be of many forms: Printed and published information, through broadcast media (radio and television) and now the most important emerging means of all; that of the Internet. All these forms of advertising have their own advantages and disadvantages. Advertising is generally responsible for the first impressions of a country in people's minds. In this case, what they hear about a particular country for the first time through any means of advertising, will result in it being a true picture of a country for that person / country.

So that's the reasons why governments of some developed countries have taken this issue of projecting the right image of their country through advertising very seriously. This is proven by the fact that their tourism numbers and advantages of living and working in their country are most highlighted than other countries. This is nonetheless important in today's competitive global environment where countries are competing against each other to attract new investments and business in their country. All this directly effects the economic and development scene of the country as good or bad advertising can directly result in the country's growth.

For instance, in my country India, the Information technology ministry has spent substantial finances and efforts to highlight India's advantage as a global source for information technology workers. This in fact has resulted in growth in the Gross Domestic Product of our country there by raising the standard of people living in this country and giving a nascent industry a chance to grow in a free capital environment. This couldn't

have been achieved without concentrated advertising of our advantages and economic benefits of developing software in India.

So I conclude to say that Advertising can not only tell a lot about a country but can also result in bring growth to the economy and prosperity to its people. Adding to that, I would like every government of the world taking efforts to promote the best their county has to give to the world, here by promoting peace and prosperity among all nations.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Modern technology is creating a single world culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Modern Technology is rapidly changing the world living standards, resulting in a single world culture. New technologies including internet, electronic media, means of transportation and finally Information technology has a great impact on creating a similar culture across the globe.

First of all, internet and email has changed the way in which people communicate with one another. Internet is commonly used everywhere to acquire the latest information, news and technologies. Now you can chat with anybody sitting anywhere in the world and know about his/her culture over there. This type of communication and also email affects the lifestyle of the people using these facilities.

Secondly, electronic media has done a lot in creating a single culture across the world. News, fashion and entertainment are some of the things which have changed and now you are able to adopt and develop them same everywhere. For example, people living in a third world country are greatly impressed by the life styles of modern countries. This results in the adaptation of their culture and ways of living by them.

Developments in the fields of medicine and information technology are spread in the entire world within a few days due to vast usage of internet and modern technologies. Similarly, standards are developed in every field. For example, to achieve a standard in quality we have ISO certifications. In this way, same standards and same culture is achieved in every sphere of life.

To conclude, modern developments and technologies have a great impact on the way people live their lives. Technologies like internet, electronic media, developments in the fields of medicine and information have developed a single world culture in the modern world.

Topic:

Some people say that the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Internet as we all know is changing the way we live our lives in the new millennium. Never before in the history of mankind, was so much information available to people. So with this abundance of information, also come the clashes of views. Some people believe that this medium provides people with lot of information, while others stand by the view that this excess of information creates problems. In my opinion, the information provided by the internet is valuable to people and can help us solve a lot of problems which is faced by the world today. It can also serve as people voice against corrupt governments and make them aware of their rights to freedom and expression of free speech.

Internet because of its distributed nature is very free in nature. By free, i mean that anyone and everyone with a view can express it on the internet. This is best described by the journalists and other social workers who can break the news of war, conflict or any epidemic almost immediately as it occurs. Previously, governments used to control the flow of information. But now due to the advent of the internet, every piece of news and developments in news stories can be broadcasted live over the internet. This valuable information is transmitted over the internet over a medium which knows no limits or boundaries. This helps in bringing people closer and promises that the message will be delivered to the world in an uncensored form. This principle very much supports the view that this is a free world, which is made possible due to the medium of internet.

Another nature of the internet is that, it is non-proprietary and no one can claim ownership or copyright over it. This establishes an ideal medium for people to exhibit their work. Best examples of these are the students at university, music artists, and scientists researching on a new product or path breaking discovery. With so

much information freely available, people can be well informed of their alternatives available to them. Like for example, I read in a news article that a woman in Africa was suffering from a rare form of cancer. The doctors in Africa had given up hope, then one of the doctors had read over the internet about a new revolutionary treatment for this cancer being developed by some Canadian doctors. So after some more research and communication over the internet with the Canadian team fo doctors, the women was flown to Canada, where she was treated for the cancer. Thus, a life was saved because information was available in time.

So I believe that Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information, which in most cases is life saving or sometimes is educating to people. But I would also like to add that with this access of information comes responsibility. So individuals and governments should respect the value of information and use it in ethical ways so as not to cause damage.

Topic:

A foreign visitor has only one day to spend in your country. Where should this visitor go on that day? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

To think of one place which a foreigner should visit if he gets a chance to spend one day in my country is not an easy job. I belong to India which is known throughout the world for its rich cultural heritage. India has a myriad of monuments and sites displaying the astonishingly beautiful designs and architecture which will definitely attract any foreigner. Still if choosing one out of them is inevitable I would go for the TajMahal in Agra city.

TajMahal is the only historical monument of India which was ever included in the wonders of the world. Truly enough its apt to be called a wonder. The grand structure fully constructed in white marble presents such a beautiful sight which cannot leave any heart untouched with its splendor. It's known for its architecture and beauty. Even people possessing least of artistic taste are left awestruck after seeing it. TajMahal symbolizes love. Emperor Shahjahan had constructed this tomb in the loving memory of his dearest wife Mumtaz Mahal. Nowhere in the world can anybody find another example of such an exquisite memento of love.

When a person visits a new country he is generally interested in knowing the history of that country. TajMahal is apt in satisfying this inquisitiveness of the visitors. It carries with itself the history of the Mughal empire which ruled India for around a decade. Foreigners will find ample opportunity to know more about Indian history during the medieval period.

Besides, a person visiting TajMahal can also pay a visit to the grand Red fort in the same city. Fort will help in augmenting the visitor's historical knowledge.

Taj Mahal is situated in Agra which is a traditional city of India. Till now it has not experienced enough modernization to be called a metropolitan. This fact is an advantage because it provides a chance to the visitors to observe Indian culture and traditional life style from close quarters.

Though there are numerous tourists' spots in India, TajMahal in Agra is the one which can attract people from all spheres of life. For some other places like the temples of South India special interest in history and architecture is needed. The growing number of foreigners visiting the monument proves the fact. Hence in my opinion, if a foreigner is visiting India just for a day, there cannot be a better place to visit than the TajMahal at Agra.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Telephones and email have made communication between people less personal. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Today almost everybody has a telephone and a computer, which is connected to the Internet. These inventions has some positive sides-especially when we should talk to a person who is a long distance away from us; nevertheless they have one negative side -they make communications between people less personal.

When I was a child neither we have a telephone, nor a computer connected to the Internet. Now we have both. However, I do not use them very much in order to communicate. I am not used to making a telephone call or sending e-mail yet. I would rather speak directly with the person I want to. In this way, I could see his or her reaction to what I say and thus it is easier to talk. Actually, this is the reason why people prefer to talk in person rather than using a telephone.

The other popular way to communicate is via sending e-mails. This, according to me, is the least personal way for communicating and the hardest way, as well. When we send an e-mail we sometimes either have not seen this person, or we do not know anything about him. Therefore, we cannot easily choose what to write him. Another thing that makes this kind of communication so impersonal is the e-mails, which are sent when we became members to an Internet site. These e-mails are sent to every member and text is the same.

All at all, e-mails and telephones make communications impersonal. Thus, for some people it is very difficult to communicate in this way. I hope that when further advancements of these technologies are made this problem will be solved.

Topic:

Some people prefer to live in places that have the same weather or climate all year long. Others like to live in areas where the weather changes several times a year. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

This choice depends a lot on the place where a person was born. I think this is an easy choice for me. I prefer to live in a place where the weather changes several times a year. What do I say this and why am I so sure? Well I will try to find some good reasons to support my statement.

I am living in a country with four seasons in every year: spring, summer, autumn and winter. My city is placed among a lot of mountains and this thing is very important in choosing my decision. For example in winter mountains offers a lot of gorgeous landscapes and many possibilities of spending times. You may go skiing, skating or walk through the white forests. The landscapes of winter are fantastic. After winter comes spring. This is the season of the nature re-birth. After a long period of cold weather a warm time is the best thing you may imagine. I like to walk through forests, to listen to the singing birds. The fields are full of wonderful flowers and the grass is the greenest of the year. After spring comes summer. Sometimes on summer is too hot but summer remains a very beautiful season. It's the season that people prefer to go to the seaside; it is the season of holidays. The last but of course not the least is autumn. I could say this is the yellow period of the year or maybe better the golden period of the year.

Of course some people would say that they prefer to live on summer all year long but I prefer diversity. I love seeing the nature in its diversity. I cannot imagine a Christmas holiday, for example, in summer. For me, Christmas means snow, Santa Claus and so on and all of these are specific for winter.

These are some reasons that I prefer to live in places where the weather changes several times a year. And I consider these reasons are enough to move in other areas that have the same climate all year long.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dancing plays an important role in a culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Dance, patterned and rhythmic bodily movements, serves as a form of communication and expression. People of different cultures dance differently and for varying purposes, it can express emotions, tell a story, religious or political needs, their varied forms of dance can reveal much about their life. Therefore dancing plays an important role in a culture.

The first characteristic of dance that can tell us about a certain culture is the body movement. By varying physical actions and using different dynamics, human being can fashion an infinite number of body movements. Out of the range of movements that the body is capable of performing, every culture emphasizes certain features in its dance styles. For example, rotating and leg lifting movements in ballet and European fog or pantomime and symbolic gestures may be used in Asian dance forms.

Another basic motive of dance is the expression and communication of emotion. People often dance as a way of releasing powerful feelings, such as sudden accesses of high spirits, joy, impatience or anger. This emotional expression way can be seen not only in individual dances but also in the more formalized and collective dances such as tribal war dances or festive folk dances. This motive also plays an important role in any culture.

Every society has its own dance. Dancing may mark birth, initiation, graduation, marriage, succession to political office, and death. In some societies dances may be the only events at which young people of different

sexes can meet. In contemporary society, dances also provide important occasions for young people to socialize. All these forms of dance profoundly reflect the peculiarity of each culture.

In short, through it's various forms; dance is an indispensable art form in a culture.

Topic:

Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space (for example, traveling to the Moon and to other planets). Other people disagree and think governments should spend this money for our basic needs on Earth. Which of these two opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

In the one point of view, it is one of the man's characters to be curious. He wants to break the limits and learn more. No one can oppose to this quality of human. This curiosity caused many inventions and profits for the people around the world. In the other hand, we live together and we should think about others, have compassion for them and give their due. It is not fair that governments notice on their points and don't think that it may harm other people. In my opinion, governments should spend money for our basic needs on earth and stop spending money for outer space researches.

If one person deprived himself and his family from eating to buy and run a car, we may consider him mad. It is not acceptable to spend millions of money's funds and expenditures for space researches while there are many people around the world who have a severe lack of food, water, and hygiene and many other primary necessities.

When we see that there is many violent thugs, suicides, robberies and divorces occur in our society and most of these problems are because of lack of money or poverty, It is not conventional to squander this huge amount of money for traveling to space while many essential requirements have not answered yet.

Many times, we see from our television or read from news that our earth is in a very bad condition. Deforesting caused many jungles destroyed, air pollution is going to be a very dangerous problem and so on. It is utterly absurd that governments waste this amount of money while our earth, the only place for us to live; situation deteriorates every day so fast.

At last but not the least, there are still many troubles in our society and earth in that many people die because of lack of food and water supply in the 20th century what is not a negligible problem. Furthermore, our earth is going to be an intolerable place to live providing we don't find out a solution for it. Its more better to government focus their money on the people and earth problems first and then let space look after itself.

Topic:

People have different ways of escaping the stress and difficulties of modern life. Some read; some exercise; others work in their gardens. What do you think are the best ways of reducing stress? Use specific details and examples in your answer.

Modern life has become so demanding nowadays that everyone is facing the problem of stress. In order to escape the stress due to work pressure people try out different ways to become stress free. These include reading, gardening, cycling, playing and many more things as per their choice. For me the best ways to escape stress are listening to music of your choice, going on a short trip and spending time with family. The reasons for the above choices are mentioned below.

Firstly, listening to good music is the best way to escape from stress as because it takes us into a different world. While listening to the sweetly composed tunes it makes us forget all the worldly worries. Also we can listen to music anywhere using portable systems. This helps us in avoiding stress whenever we feel so. Therefore I think listening music is a excellent way to avoid stress.

Secondly, going on a short trip refreshes us and helps us to escape stress. Whenever we go for such trips we just leave aside our daily routine and just try to relax. We enjoy doing things out of the daily schedule. So this change simply lifts our spirits and helps us to escape stress.

Also whenever we spent time with our family, we talk our heart out to our loved ones, listen to their sweet thoughts and play like a child with the young ones. All these helps us releasing all our thoughts which creates stress and makes us young and fresh at heart.

In conclusion, i would like to say again that listening to music, going for a trip and spending time with family certainly releases stress as supported by the above mentioned points.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn. Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

We are going to school to get our knowledge. Our parents are paying money for our education and they expect us to get the best one. And how disappointed they are if we are getting bad grades. They are paying money and don't see any result. Their kids do not learn too much. May be it's the teacher's fault. May be parents should pay less money? A lot of parents think like this. But I disagree with the statement that teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn.

I think that everything depends on a student and his willingness to study. So why should teachers be paid according to students desire? Teachers help us to understand a lot of things from the books if we cannot afford them. And if students do not want to study, why should teachers suffer?

Teachers have been studying for many years. They became teachers through so many difficulties and efforts. As far as I know if you want to be a teacher you have to study a lot. You have to get very good education, because you will take responsibility for the rest of your life-to teach others since you have finished the education. That means that the teachers spent a lot of time, energy to get their degree. And I think that they have already deserved to be well paid.

People were always paid for their knowledge. As much as you know, as much as you are awarded. I think that teachers know a lot, in a such a way they should be paid well for their knowledge. And it does not depend on how much their students learnt. I think that there are no bad teachers- there are only bad students. And if the student explains lack of his knowledge because of a teacher, that means that he never tried. He never tried to study, he never tried to ask his teacher for a help, he never wanted to get more than his laziness.

That's why I think that teachers should not be paid according to how much their students learn. I believe that every teacher wants his student to get the best knowledge. And it is not his fault that the student didn't want the same thing.

Topic:

Some people think that governments should spend as much money as possible on developing or buying computer technology. Other people disagree and think that this money should be spent on more basic needs. Which one of these opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Computers are one of the most prominent and exceptional inventions of the last century. With the enhancement of human knowledge on electronics and machine based processing, computing and storage systems, human lives have been radically changed. Not only has the spheres of education and science and technology advanced as a result of its own offspring, the computer era, but also the whole world and its myriad problems have been solved by the computers ,which man, its creator was unable to.

That computers have had an enormously positive impact on the lives of people ,from the poorest of the poor to the richer-richs is a fact beyond contestation. While on one hand, when the computer revolution, especially the mainframes has given a new life to the space age and mankind has thus been able to explore space to such an extent that space is no longer a mystery to us. On the other hand, the need based and intelligible use of computers has solved the greatest problems in the industry and agriculture as well. The tremendously useful and efficient control system instrumentation in industry has made productivity of plants rise in leaps and bounds. It has aided us to even such a great extent that the world economy has an new frontier called the IT or Knowledge sector based on the Computer system and its handling by humans.

A government of any sovereign represents the people. Quoting Abraham Lincoln's famous words for a democratic government "is for the people, by the people and of the people". Thus the primary job of any government, whether elected or not is to look after its people and hope for the collective betterment of its masses. The development of a economy is only a medium of fulfilling its basic duty of empowering and satisfying people's basic needs. Hence the reigns of economy in the hands of government are to be so directed as to suit and benefit its people the most. Addressing and fulfilling the basic needs, wants and desires of the

people to as much level as possible is thus the foremost responsibility and a mandatory requirement for any government.

The immense aid to mankind, that the computers have done so far has been a real good pointer as to whether it can be integrated to anything and everything of our lives. And, thus several scientists worldwide have been working on myriad platforms for developing several things to benefit mankind.

But ,still, computers cannot feed the poor, can't cover his/her body or provide him a space to live in. This being the most basic needs which any government has to fulfill. Though in all these processes computer technology can well be implemented to best uses as a medium of improving the time and cost requirements at least. Thus it can be definitely seen that the computer technology at the current stage of development by itself can never achieve theses basic goals. A strong infrastructure is what facilitates to solve such basic problems.

So in my view, for the countries of developed world and some of the world's developing economies it is but natural to invest hugely in computer technology for providing its people with a better and more prosperous future. But for the others, ie. the underdeveloped countries and the one's in which most people still live below the poverty line it is important to think and allocate resources in such a fashion that the basic infrastructure for the people is developed and also the needs to march with times is served.

Topic:

Some people like doing work by hand. Others prefer using machines. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people prefer using machines to do work while others choose to work with their own hands. Personally, I prefer the latter because I find that working with one's hands will reap a greater sense of satisfaction when the task has been completed. Consider a case. Your friend's birthday is coming up. It would be absolutely fabulous if you could send her a gift personally, right up her door step instead of sending her an electronic greeting card with the computer in your bedroom. Doing things with your own hands brings allows us to appreciate the fruits of labor and hard work.

The virtual world is far too distant and unrealistic. Human touch is still the most sincere way to make friends and communicate with your loved ones. Moreover, an over reliance on machines will tend to make us less capable in completing simple task. Taking a short ten minute walk to the shop opposite your house to buy some daily necessities will benefit our health because it allows us to exercise our limbs after lying on a couch in front of the television for over two hours but majority of the people nowadays will choose to drive there instead, claiming that it saves time and strength. Human's natural ability to move and do work has depleted over the years with the invention of machines which enable us not to even move ourselves to get things done. It would benefit and foster family relationships by doing things together such as cleaning the house or clearing the garden with your siblings instead of ordering the maid-"a human machine" around or following a schedule to take turns to clean up the mess using a vacuum cleaner in less than half an hour.

Nevertheless, machines does indeed provide us with a much more efficient and faster way to complete a task in hand like typing a resume or an essay instead of writing it out. It does allow us to survive better in a fast-paced society.

Topic:

Schools should ask students to evaluate their teachers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Teachers often get a chance to evaluate the knowledge of their students. Some people think that schools should allow students to evaluate the work of their teachers. In my opinion, this is a very good idea, because it will improve the quality of teaching. Also, students would be more interested in attending classes. Finally, the school would improve it's reputation in the community.

Firstly, students would have great benefit from such a survey. If students are not satisfied with a teacher, they would be offered a chance to express their opinion. This way they would have their say about their own education. Their opinion should not be accepted as an absolute truth, but should always be heard and taken into consideration. Indeed, bad evaluation by the student population doesn't necessarily mean that the teacher is bad. For example, if students claim that certain teacher is not good, it may mean that the teacher isn't competent, but it may also mean that students don't pay enough attention to what he is saying, or that they should spend more time studying. By expressing their opinion, students can make teachers prepare

better for their lectures or explain the content more clearly and with more enthusiasm. Therefore, students would be able to understand the lectures better and consequently to get higher grades. Furthermore, the students would be motivated to pay more attention during classes and to listen to lectures more regularly, since they will be asked to give their own opinion about what they've heard.

Secondly, this kind of survey would also be useful for teachers. Good teachers should be rewarded financially or otherwise. On the other hand, the teacher who receives low grade from his students should be sanctioned, for example by lowering his salary. In extreme cases, he should be fired. This way he would be forced to improve his teaching skills in order to keep his job or raise his salary. Therefore, he would become a more competent teacher and better educator. This would improve the overall quality of education in the school.

Finally, this survey would be useful for the school and it's reputation. If a school asks students to evaluate teachers, it means that students have their freedom of expression and that they are not intimidated by the authority of the teachers. The school would be more popular among prospective students, who would be more interested in enrolling that particular school. Also, the school would be better funded by its sponsors more appreciated by the community.

In conclusion, if the students were asked by the school to evaluate their teachers, it would benefit everyone. Teachers would be obligated to constantly improve quality of their lectures to avoid bad evaluation. Students would enjoy better education, and they would pay more attention in classes, since they would be able to influence the quality of the classes. This would improve the reputation of the school, which will be better respected by the community.

Topic:

It is generally agreed that society benefits from the work of its members. Compare the contributions of artists to society with the contributions of scientists to society. Which type of contribution do you think is valued more by your society? Give specific reasons to support your answer.

It is a commonly accepted fact that society benefits from the work of its members. Some of them are more inclined to artistic forms of creation, while others prefer working in a scientific framework. Both scientists and artists contribute to the society in their own way. Works of artists affect people's state of mind, and works of scientists affect their everyday life. In my opinion, scientific work is more valued by the modern society.

Artists make art, and art makes people feel better. Artistic creations may be more or less valuable, from the connoisseur's point of view, but nevertheless, some people find them enjoyable and pleasing. For instance, looking at a beautiful picture or listening to Beethoven's symphony seems very relaxing after a hard day spent in the office. Furthermore, museums and galleries all over the world are made possible by the work of the generations of artists, from the ancient times until today. Without the museums and galleries, men of modern age would not be able to improve their knowledge about past times. Therefore, education is also the important role of artists. The art enriches people's spirits and makes them more imaginative, while at the same time teaches them about historical events.

Scientists contribute to the society in a different way. Their influence is of more material, and less spiritual nature. For example, physicists try to determine the laws of nature and engineers then use that knowledge in order to make various devices and systems. Those products of joint efforts of physics and engineering make ordinary people's lives easier. Just think about the difference that was made by the invention of microwave ovens for example.

It is my opinion that science is more appreciated than art by the modern society. There are several reasons that lead to this conclusion. People find it easier to accept information in material, than in spiritual form. For example, using typical products of science, such as computers or TVs, doesn't require much mental effort, while art can sometimes be obscure and hard to grasp. Furthermore, in many countries, science receives generous financial support from the government, while art seldom does. This is because a country's military and economic power is dominantly affected by it's science, not art. Therefore, scientists are paid much better than artists. In fact, having art as a sole profession is very unlikely to provide enough money to support a family, for instance. Even though some people become fascinated with art classes while in school, later in life they are usually forced to move towards more scientific fields of work, such as economics or engineering.

In conclusion, scientists and artists both have their ways of contributing to the society. Artists affect people's lives in the spiritual sense, by forming their life views, educating them, or simply by relaxing them when they are tired and exhausted. On the other hand, science affects material side of life, by creating inventions that relieve people of hard work, thus making them have more free time. Science is more appreciated than art in

modern society, because science is more precise and easier to understand, while art can be abstruse. Also, science is more important for the country's economy and army, which makes it more interesting for the government.

Topic:

You need to travel from your home to a place 40 miles (64 kilometers) away. Compare the different kinds of transportation you could use. Tell which method of travel you would choose. Give specific reasons for your choice.

If I had to travel to a place 40 miles away, I would consider several ways of transportation, such as car, bicycle, or train. Each of these options has it's advantages and disadvantages. In this essay I will present advantages of each way of traveling, and I will argue in favor of traveling by train.

It would be possible to travel by car. Cars are reasonably fast and comfortable. They can accommodate more than one passenger, which is important when several people travel together. Most cars are spacious, so every passenger has enough space to fully enjoy the trip. Moreover, passengers can travel as fast as it suits them. If they are in hurry or some kind of emergency situation, they can travel very quickly. On the other hand, if the purpose of their trip is casual, such as visit to a friend or having a picnic in the nature, they can make occasional stops, in order to rest or enjoy the pleasant surroundings. Some mental effort is required by the driver, because he has to pay attention to the traffic in front of him.

Another option is traveling by bicycle, since 40 miles is not a very large distance. One important advantage of a bicycle is that it doesn't burn fuel in order to move, so it doesn't produce toxic output which would pollute the environment. Moreover, bicycles are healthier than cars. Riding a bicycle requires physical effort and strengthens muscles. In fact, some scientist assert that riding a bicycle is one of the most effective forms of exercise. Bicycles find their way through heavy traffic more quickly and easily than cars. Also, they use less space and are easier to park, which makes them useful for travels through heavily urbanized and crowded areas. Finally, bicycles are the cheapest conveyances, since they don't require expenses for fuel, and only minute amounts of money are needed for maintenance.

For my part, I must argue in favor of traveling by train, because it comprises some of the main positive properties of both previously discussed approaches. Trains are very comfortable, and they don't require any effort from the passenger, neither physical, nor mental. They are also very fast, sometimes even faster than cars. Finally, trains are environmentally clean means of transportation, since they use electric power, not fossil fuels, like cars do. The superiority of traveling by train is further confirmed by the corresponding price, which is significantly higher than those of car or a bicycle travels.

Topic:

Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available only to good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.

Some people believe that a college or a university should be available to all students. Others think that higher education should be available only to good students. In my opinion, higher education should be available to all students. Why do I think so?

Firstly, to get higher education is a right of any person. If higher education is available only to good student, it will be infringement of human rights. We cannot say to man that she or he is not entitled to get higher education because it will be anti-constitutional. On the other hand, a college or university can have own rules for students who don't have a good GPA. For example, students can graduate from college if they have only "A" or "B". Another example, students can take several times the same exam while they won't receive a good grade. It is very important to give a right to get higher education to all students, because it will be their chance to change something in their life, get better job in the future or built their career.

Secondly, who gives us right to share people in good and bad students. Maybe they have good abilities for studying, yet, these students chose the wrong way ignoring learning when they were high school students. We have a lot of examples when people didn't have a good grade when they were a high school students, however, they could graduate from college and became to work successfully. We know many examples about great people, Pushkin, Mendeleyev, who weren't good students in all subjects, but they were very talented persons

and whole world knows their names. To be a good or bad students are not the same to have abilities for learning. We should understand and remember it.

Some people can say that government and parents just waste money for education bad students. Nonetheless, the government also can change rules for those students. For example, not support financially if the student has a grade "C" or worse. However, our government sustains any students. I think that it is the right way, because we live in a free country and any man has the same right to get higher education.

In summary, in spite of colleges and universities are mostly interested in good students, I strongly believe that any students, good or bad, should have the same right to earn high education.

Topic:

Some people believe that the best way of learning about life is by listening to the advice of family and friends. Other people believe that the best way of learning about life is through personal experience. Compare the advantages of these two different ways of learning about life. Which do you think is preferable? Use specific examples to support your preference.

My personal belief is that the best way to learn about life is through personal experience. But this does not mean that I totally disregard the alternative way of learning by listening to family or friends' advice. The truth is that now, at my age, I clearly see that the best way of learning about life would be a combination of the two (ways noted above).

The main reason I embrace the first way is because I find it more natural, it is our instinctive way to act and react. When we are young we are prone to experience than to listen to other persons advice and less to the advice coming from our family. This may not be a general case but I believe the exceptions are rare. I remember when I got engaged with my future husband both my parents and friends were very much against my decision. And in a way they were right. But I wanted to follow my heart and to have my own judgment even if people with more experience and even good intention were advising me to do the contrary. My reaction/action it was also influence by the wrong approach my family adopted. And my case is not an isolated one.

From my above story can be inferred that I DO agree that learning by listening to the advice of well-intended people is a wise way. It would probably save us some grief and disappointment in life. But I strongly believe that even painful the experience we choose to have is helping us grow and builds our personality. I never regretted my decision to get marry at a pretty early age even if eventually we (me and my husband) ended up divorcing. It was one of the best experience I ever had, though the most painful in my life.

I conclude by encouraging youngsters to try to listen both to their heart and to other persons advice and judge which way would be the best for them. Although I sound like my mother some years ago, when she tried to convince me that at my age the marriage is not the best choice in life, I strongly recommend to everybody to accept listening to any advice before making a decisive step in life and afterwards to filter all these information. I think it is wise trying to combine these two ways of learning about life.

Topic:

When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others prefer to keep their own customs. Compare these two choices. Which one do you prefer? Support your answer with specific details.

When people move to another country, they may choose whether they will accept it's customs, or keep the customs of the old country. Accepting the new customs may help us overcome the cultural shock caused by the change of environment, while keeping old customs gives us emotional support in the new conditions, by maintaining cultural link with the old country. In my opinion, everyone should accept the new customs sooner or later, in order to completely fit in the new society.

Moving to a new country may present a cultural and social shock for some individuals. Accepting the customs of the new country is one of the ways to fit in the new environment and overcome the difference between two countries. After we start practicing the new customs, we feel closer to the new community. People from the new country may not look at us as on a stranger, but as on one of their own. We would be better appreciated by the new society. People would be more forthcoming, since they would not be alienated by the differences in customs. Therefore, it would be easier for us to make friends. Also, our employers and co-workers would see us differently. They would praise us for our high adaptability to the new conditions.

By keeping the old customs, we maintain a cultural and emotional link to our old country. It may help us relieve the pain that may be produced by the sudden change of environment. Practicing old customs reminds us of the old country and often recalls nice memories related to the part of our life that we spent there. This can help us in situations when we need emotional support. Moreover, some countries have rather interesting and unusual customs. Sometimes they can even be amusing and entertaining. By showing them to our new friends, we may establish closer relations with them.

Still, it is my opinion that old customs should be practiced only during the transitional period, while we meet new people and adapt to the new culture. After that, I think that new customs should be accepted, in order to completely fit in the society. Of course, we shouldn't forget the old customs. On the contrary, they should remain in our memory as a reminder of the particular period in our lives.

Based on all the facts previously stated, we may conclude that practicing old customs helps us overcome the difficulties of cultural change, by maintaining the connection to the old county. However, as we become more adapted to the new environment, old customs should be gradually replaced by the new ones.

Topic:

Some people prefer to spend most of their time alone. Others like to be with friends most of the time. Do you prefer to spend your time alone or with friends? Use specific reasons to support your answer.

Due to our society's rapid progress, a human being has been able to survive without communicating with other people. In the last few decades, various machines have been invented and spread throughout the world. This sudden technological advance is the main perpetrator that made human beings extremely egoistic. Personally, I prefer to spend most of my time with my amicable, warm-hearted companions. In this essay, I will explain my opinion by offering several reasons.

My mom has always told me that intimate relationships with people are really important in one's life. A human being, in order to live a life without any regrets, needs another person to depend upon. It is a well-known maxim that every man has shortcomings. Through close friendships, a mortal experiences a variety of activities, and realizes one's shortcomings. At the same time, the person can make one's friend be aware of his/her faults. This mutual relationship will eventually result in mental development of two human beings.

An amiable relationship is not only beneficial for the realization of each other's shortcomings but also for their happiness. My friends and I often play soccer or basketball when we meet. These activities that we do together will be cherished as good lifetime's memory. Thus, a pleasant comradeship can be the main producer of pure joy.

Therefore, a companionship is wholesome in a lot of ways. First, we can become more advanced human beings through our mutual relationship. Second, we can receive mirth through the things that we collaborate on. I encourage all people to continue good relationships with their friends, because you will benefit from it in the long run.

Topic:

Some people prefer to spend time with one or two close friends. Others choose to spend time with a large number of friends. Compare the advantages of each choice. Which of these two ways of spending time do you prefer? Use specific reasons to support your answer.

There are some people who have a large group of friends while others prefer spending time only with a couple of their close friends. Both these attitudes have their advantages and disadvantages. I will analyze both cases and present my views in favor of having a few close friends.

When a person spends time with several people it helps him share his ideas with and collect information from various different sources. It broadens his horizons and makes him aware of different points of view on any subject. It also makes him socially more active and as is commonly said "Man is supposed to be a social animal".

On the other hand being with a couple of close friends helps people achieve a level of intimacy not possible in a large group. They develop a bond between them that is hard to break. Such people share an understanding

which leads to high levels of loyalty. It leads to a kind of friendship that can be depended on in any kind of situation. Such friends are truly loyal and would never shrink back from supporting each other.

I personally prefer spending time with my close friends, who happen to be just one or two. They are the friends I am absolutely comfortable with. In school I had just two good friends who I am very close to. I can share any thought of mine with them. Very often they understand my feelings without me having to state them explicitly. In college I have a large number of friends, and though I can discuss a variety of subjects with them, I do not share the level of intimacy with them that i share with my school friends.

Due to these reasons, I prefer having a couple of close friends. They are the friends I can always trust, those I can turn to whenever a situation becomes unmanageable. I am absolutely sure, that even if my college friends refuse to help me, my school friends will never turn me down.

Topic:

Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing. Compare these two views. Which view do you agree with? Why?

Some people think that children should begin their education as early in their lives as possible, while others think that children should spend most of their time playing. Each opinion could be supported by a number of arguments. However, it is my opinion that playing is more important activity than learning for children during their early years.

It could be argued that it's important that some basic logical and verbal skills be learnt as early as possible. The argument goes on to assert that skills like basic calculus and foreign languages are much more easily accepted by the children when they are very young. Moreover, if children start their education early, they can have more time to perfect their knowledge later during their lives. This way they can become better professionals. Finally, when children are at school, they parents don't have to look after them. Instead, they can work and earn more money for themselves, as well as their children.

In contrast to these opinions, there are others who claim that children should at least have their childhood, since their whole life will be most probably filled with work and study. Furthermore, physical skills, which are developed by playing, are just as important as intellectual ones. When children are not forced to go to school at an early age, they can spend more time with their parents. In fact, it is often claimed that don't need teachers other than parents, since parents know them best and are most committed to teaching them.

My opinion is that young children should spend most of their time playing. It seems to me that it's not natural for children to start formal education earlier than age 6, for instance. All the teaching they need can be provided informally, by parents. On the other hand, early physical development can't be compensated later, and it would suffer greatly if children were not allowed to spend enough time playing.

As we can see, certain types of information are more easily processed by young than by older children, which is why some people claim that this advantage should be exploited by making children study while they are still very young. However, I disagree with this approach, since I think that children should be above all allowed to spend their early childhood the way they like best, and that is playing and having fun with their friends.

Topic

Some people think that the family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your position.

Adolescence is important in life because most people decided their majors and establish their values during this period. There are many factors that influence their decision and values. In my opinion, among them, family is the most important influence on young adults because they establish right values through the good advice and are helped when they choose the right path for their future.

First, the family could help young adults establish correct values. Because correct values influence on the way we look at the world and these are crucial, family's values have much influence on young adults. To illustrate, my mother is a volunteer for helping the disabled and always says we must help each other. I think, my

mother's behavior and saying influence on me until now, so I'm making efforts to do like my mother. In this reason, the family is the best model of behavior.

Second, the family could lead young adults in choosing a right major. Because determining the major is the first step in selecting careers in my future, it is very important. However, not all young adults could make a right decision for their own course. If the family with wider experience and broader knowledge than young adults advises them, they could make a better decision. For example, when I chose my major, which is an electronics, I didn't know how it was difficult for me and what I would do after graduation. At that time, my brother was an engineer and he gave me much helpful information. I chose my major without hesitate, and I am satisfied with it. In this manner, the family is the best counselor to lead young adults in a right direction.

In conclusion, I think that family has the most significant effect on young adults because of establishing correct values and determining their major. If the family guides young adults to the right path, they could grow up as an essential member of society.

Topic:

Some people prefer to plan activities for their free time very carefully. Others choose not to make any plans at all for their free time. Compare the benefits of planning free-time activities with the benefits of not making plans. Which do you prefer — planning or not planning for your leisure time? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

Everyday, as soon as we wake up, we are already busy planning all our activities for the day. As we go to bed, we continue to think and plan our activities for the following day. This routine continues day in and day out. That is why, some people prefer to plan their activities for their free time carefully out of habit or as an extension of what they used to do. However, for some people, free time means a time to relax and not make any pans at all, which I also prefer.

Nowadays, time seems to fly and no matter how fast we do things, we can't seem to have enough. Having free time becomes a luxury, and people intend to enjoy every second of it. Planning their activities carefully assures them they would not miss anything and no time will be wasted on unnecessary or trivial matters.

One good example is going for a long drive to another place. Planning which place to go through either on the internet or through brochure gives them a foresight of what to expect and do. Placing reservation on their intended hotel or resort assures them of immediate accommodation regardless of what time they arrive. Checking the condition of the car results to uninterrupted traveling and breakdown-free. Preparing a checklist and packing things the night before prevents situation of leaving out important things. In short, being prepared, leaves for very little possibility of problems and assures them of a worry-free leisure time.

However, as we wake up and go to bed, we always worry on things that we are supposed to do and accomplish. We hardly have time for ourselves. That is why, during free time, some people prefer not to make any plans. They would like to spend it to relax, forget about everything and enjoy the beauty of letting life and time pass them. Letting their mind relax and getting rid of all their worries, it allows them to appreciate things they do not normally see or value: spending time with their loved ones, doing nothing, seeing their children play with themselves, watching TV, appreciating the beauty of flowers blooming, watching the birds soar high, exchanging pleasantries with their neighbors, playing with their dogs, and being thankful for all their blessings. These things do not need planning at all, but these simple activities are the ones that give most people their greatest pleasure.

In summary, some people prefer to plan their activities carefully for their free time because they want to make the most out of it. Others prefer not to plan anything at all because free time is the time to reflect and enjoy life as it is, I could not agree more.

Topic:

People learn in different ways. Some people learn by doing things; other people learn by reading about things; others learn by listening to people talk about things. Which of these methods of learning is best for you? Use specific examples to support your choice.

It may sound strange but my personal approach to learning things is a combination of learning by doing, by reading about things and listening to people talking about them. I consider that using all three ways (when given the opportunity) is the best way to gather as much information as possible about the respective thing.

Sometimes I do not have at hand all three ways of learning so I use whatever is best applicable for that specific case. If, for example, I have to learn about a theoretical subject that I need to use at my work, first I read all available bibliography on that theme, then I try to listen to other people's opinion on that matter. Combining the two methods, I compare my understanding and possible questions regarding that theme with others comments and approach.

Another case would be when I have to learn a practical thing like playing squash. In this situation the most preferred way to learn is by doing. I would probably ask a trainer to show me how to play. After getting acquainted with the movements I may listen to others talking about their way of playing, in this way trying to use their tips and tricks of becoming a better player.

A case, in which I would combine all three ways mentioned above, is if I have to learn how to use a software. Firstly I read instructions and documentation that comes with the software, and then I try to apply what I read. If I have difficulties getting the program to work properly, I ask people with more experience in the matter to show me how to do it, which means I learn by doing. This would also be the case when I learn by listening how others have used the software, what problems they encountered and what solutions they found.

As described above, I consider the best way to learn things is to combine all the methods available for a certain situation and use all information at hand to make the most out the learning process.

Topic:

Some people choose friends who are different from themselves. Others choose friends who are similar to themselves. Compare the advantages of having friends who are different from you with the advantages of having friends who are similar to you. Which kind of friend do you prefer for yourself? Why?

Almost everyone in the world has friends. Friends were found anywhere at anytime. Some of our friends can be similar to us, and some of them can differ in many ways. Regardless of their similarities or differences, there are a few advantages of having such friends.

Having friends who are similar to us would be beneficial in which we can enjoy things together and share the same opinion. With friends who are alike, we can always enjoy going to mutual enjoyable places together such as going to clubs or watching movies. For example, Gee and I have no problems on finding a place to eat every time we go out because we both enjoy eating and spend time at the local hawker's downtown. In addition, having friends of mutual interest would provide us with companion to share our opinion. I have a few friends who are similar to me and I found that I can share my opinion with them on almost everything. We have a good time tossing view with each other either in fashion, movies or even life. I believe that having friends who are similar to us would provide us with a smooth plan on almost anything.

However, having friends who are different from us would have a few advantage of its own. People always say that, "Opposite, attracts". Friends who are different from us would be able to criticize and introduce us to something new and different. I realize that friends who are different from us would be able to criticize on our opinion. Of course, not all of our opinions are good. Hence, having a friend with an opposite thought would provide us with a different view on a certain matter. I have been friends with Nina for almost 5 years now. Despite of our differences in characteristic, Nina and I have never fought during our friendship. In fact, it was Nina who introduce me to things that I have never done before such as jungle tracking and eating sushi. Even though, neither jungle tracking nor sushi would be in my favorite list, it is fun and enjoyable to be able to experience such new things. Therefore, I believe that having friends who are different from us can provide us with unexpected experience in life.

Nevertheless, I prefer to choose a friend who are similar to me rather than friends who are different from me. I feel that friendship would be smoother and enjoyable by having friends who are similar to us. However, I never refuse a friendship offered by a friend who is different from me.

Topic:

Some people enjoy change, and they look forward to new experiences. Others like their lives to stay the same, and they do not change their usual habits. Compare these two approaches to life. Which approach do you prefer? Explain why.

I believe that life is a river, every destination with a unique purpose. Change is but a minor part of life and whatever the change, mine would be for the better.

People vary and that is why you often find various approaches to life. For those who are content with the direction their life is heading, the idea of change would probably send shivers through them. This is due to the fact that they are at a point where they are satisfied with the way they have maximized their God given potential, that is a positive reason for dreading change.

Others dread change due to the fact that they are too scared to try or adapt to new experiences. Taking into consideration that we are all human, fear to try is a normal feeling. The only disadvantage is the fact that unless you try, you never know what you could have accomplished or how well and capable you are to move on. No chance to discover the courage you have within to accept defeat but never stop trying. This is a negative reason for dreading change.

Habits can be addictive and so the main question here is whether they are positive beneficial habits or negative ones. By that I mean that the choice is all up to the individual. If the change is from the negative to the positive, then there is no reason whatsoever that should make one dread change Doing right is never wrong.

In conclusion, change can either mould you or break you. I would rather try and change for the better than life my life knowing that I never tried. Within every human being, there is a hidden potential that only change can help maximize. The question however is, whether we will give change a chance. It is all up to you, the individual!

Topic

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer.

People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Clothes certainly do have an influence on the behavior of the people. I strongly agree with this idea because I myself have seen practical examples from daily life.

Everyday we see people wearing all sorts of clothes. Many people wear different kind of clothes for different occasions. For example, formal clothes are generally worn for interviews, seminars, official meetings, and most of the places its a dress code for the employees. People are supposed to behave formally in formal dress. It implies that the man or woman in the formal dress has proper manners, behaves gently and carries high standards. Anybody wearing the formals acts to represent the glory of the dress. It is expected out of him/her to behave decently and carry high standards. No matter if that person is not capable of representing the code of dress, but when he/she is wearing the dress, the feeling comes alive to him/her and the result is what we see as the their behavior being different in that particular dress.

Same is true for informal or casuals as it is popularly known as. People like to be casual and carefree when they are inside an informal dress. The casual dress brings a feeling of fun and enjoyment with it. It let people to enjoy, play around and to be free from all the mundane activities. No one can notice the artificial act of a person when he/she is in casuals. People also know that they are not supposed to be what they are not inside a casual.

Let us take another example of occasions where the dress code commands people. Talk of marriages and festivals and the whole picture becomes clear in mind. One can see the bride carrying that beautiful smile mixed with shyness, not only because of occasion, but also because of the dress. She knows that she is wearing the dress which every girl aspires for and she knows how she has to act when she wears it. Same is applicable for the groom. He carries the dignity and charm with him because he knows that when he is wearing the wedding clothes, he has to act accordingly. He can not act in the same way as he does when he is wearing casuals or formals.

People get ready for festivals not only with great enthusiasm and anxiety, but also with their special dresses. In many countries there is a dress code for different festivals. People are supposed to wear it and when they are inside that special dress, they have to be out of them and act as a person who best represents the dress. One can easily see the joy and charm on a person's face when he/she wears those special dresses. After all that is what is expected out of them when they wear it.

Different dress codes have been designed with the idea of making people act differently. The dress controls the person inside it. Hence I certainly feel that dress dictates the behavior of a person wearing it.

Topic:

Decisions can be made quickly, or they can be made after careful thought. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The decisions that people make quickly are always wrong. Use reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.

People make decisions everyday in their day-to-day activities. Some people make decisions quickly while others carefully think before making a decision. In opinion decisions can be made either quickly or after careful thought depending on the situation or circumstance a person finds himself. I don't agree with the point that the decisions that people make quickly are always wrong. I will try to prove my point by the following ideas.

A person should not take long time in deciding what to eat, where to eat or what movie to see etc. People should figure out these quickly. People should take decisions about their day to day decisions like what dress to wear for work, or what to cook for lunch or dinner etc. quickly. Apart from the day-to-day activities a person should take decision quickly in certain circumstances like some tragedy etc. under such circumstances they should decide quickly after thinking fast.

But there are certain situations when a person should take decision after careful thought decisions like what he/ she wants to do in life or what to study, which field to major or in which field he/she wants to work .Then there are decisions like choosing a life partner. This is one of the most important decision of his/her life .So a person should first think thoroughly what he wants and he should also take in into consideration all the pros and cons of the situation as a result of the decision that he made. But I believe that after taking a decision he should not regret the decision.

So in the end I conclude that people should take decisions either quickly or after careful thought depending on the situation or circumstance a person finds himself. Decisions taken quickly are not always wrong. I believe that a person takes the best decision under the circumstances that he/she is in.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People are never satisfied with what they have; they always want something more or something different. Use specific reasons to support your answer.

"People are never satisfied with what they have; they always want something more or something different." I would have to agree with that statement entirely. No matter how many goals we have or how many things we own, as human beings we always want more, need more. Our lives would not be full if we weren't that way. The statement above applies to many angles in our lives such as material wants and needs, emotions, the need of achievements and etc'. In this essay I will give different reasons as to why I agree to the above statement, using some of the angles to which it applies.

The dissatisfaction and the permanent need, and want starts in a very young age. Even while we are babies we want this toy, and that doll and no matter how many of them we have we always ask for more. Scientists say that when a baby is given a familiar toy, he will play with it, but after awhile he will get used to it and become less enthusiastic. While on the other hand when a baby is given a new toy, he will have to play with it for a couple of days, he will be very interested until again he will get accustomed to it and a new toy will take its place. Things that we don't own or didn't see before look more attractive to us than the ones that we have.

Once we grow older our goals become a little less material. A daughter or a son might want to get their mother's approval and their father's pride. They may achieve that with high marks and good behavior. Though some children will be in need for attention and do just the opposite. As children or teenagers we all know the feeling of a proud parent, the satisfaction that we feel after we saw a parent's proud smile. That makes us feel happy and right away we want to feel that again. We crave to be successful and happy first and for most for ourselves, and second is to make people, which we love, proud. And through the years that craving becomes stronger and with every goal we accomplish, we reach towards a higher target for the simple reason of feeling needed, taken pride in, and respected. And no matter how many goals we achieve, we will always persist on finding new ones just to accomplish them all over again.

Some people say that a rich person has everything. That is entirely untrue. A rich person might have a very large amount of money, but that only means he has a bigger chance of getting what he wants for money. That doesn't mean that, that person doesn't have any needs or wants beyond objects, which he can buy for money.

That person may want to loose wait but never succeeds, or he may want to get that beautiful girl, but she goes only for looks and not for money. For that person the amount of time to be happy may be much longer then yours. The bigger amount of things we have the more amounts of them we want.

In my opinion life will not be worth living without goals. It would be unexciting and that is why we always want something more and something different from what we wanted before. Otherwise all of our goals will be accomplished; imagine your life without any wants or needs, imagine your life when you have everything you ever wanted... I think such life would be very boring and dull. If you have no goals you have nothing to do, you have nothing to want, you have everything. Why would you do something while your life is "perfect"? The fulfillment will fade away and you will start looking for something different which will bring you to a new goal. Humans cannot live without any ambitions. And that should be a fact.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should read only those books that are about real events, real people, and established facts. Use specific reasons and details to support your opinion.

Books are an important part of many people's lives in the world today. With such a wide variety of topics that books are written on; they can be broadly classified into fiction and non-fiction. These two types each have their own merits and it would not be fair to only read about 'real events, real people' when there can be so much to learn from imaginary events and people.

Non-fiction has greater practical value in the 'real' world and the information gleaned can be applied intensely at home, at work or in school. Various topics of interest can be researched easily and a greater knowledge level can be obtained. Yet the disadvantage of non-fiction lies in the fact that nothing happens to excite the mind and spirit. In short, many people find these books 'boring' since only facts are provided. However well written the book may be, in the end it leaves little room for the imagination. Consequently this is an area where fiction excels.

With various stories on different characters, places, fantastical storylines and evil villains, the journey through fictional books can be one filled with adventure and excitement. The reader may be left with ideas that will serve in many areas. Fiction provides great scope for the mind to think creatively. In fact, many of books written to portray 'imaginary' events or characters can educate and send a subtle message through the book. This effective technique has been used successfully by a large number of writers. Yet it is true that many people cease to enjoy fiction, as they grow older failing to see its importance in the world. This perspective is not entirely untrue because dragons, castles or evil aliens will not help an engineer in any way as it might help him spend the same time by reading about how a particular bridge was constructed in Germany.

Therefore, both non-fiction and fiction provide an equal number of opportunities for people to cultivate their mind. The best solution, it would seem is to read both fiction and non-fiction and have the best of both worlds.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think it is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. I don't agree with this point of view. To students, it should be no bias when they choose their courses. Because by learning history and literature, they can not only master the social knowledge but also understand the world and their own countries; but by learning science and mathematics, they can acquire the scientific knowledge and do some research which will improve people's lives. So I advocate this viewpoint that students should study all kinds of knowledge with no bias.

On one hand, if students want to know social knowledge and understand the world and their own countries better, they need study history and literature very well. There is a good example that is me. When I was a student, I thought the study of the latter was more important than that of the former, so I spent most time on them. However after I worked, the more people I contacted, the less knowledge I felt. Seldom, I could find a topic that was intriguing and I felt interested. It was difficult for me to talk with others deeply for this reason. I wished I could acquire more knowledge from them.

On the other hand, if students master the science and mathematics, they can benefit from them. For instance, because mathematics is an important method to other courses, it is always used to set up a model in order to solve problems. And having good scientific knowledge can help them live easily. When they encounter difficulties, they know what should do and how to do accurately. Even they can do some research and invent something to change people's lives. Maybe they will become Einstein or Newton.

So from the above discussed, I draw a conclusion that either history and literature or science and mathematics are equally important for students. In order to merge into the society, they need to learn history and literature; in order to live and study better and easily; they need to learn science and mathematics.

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is nothing that young people can teach older people. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

The older generation today always complains that the youth are unmotivated and directionless, they lack focus and the future is going down because of these behaviors. Nonetheless, youth are the product of its upbringing and the representation of its time. Thus, what they are and what they know will certainly be different from those of the older generation. Therefore, to say that the youngsters are useless is not only wrong as they can also contribute in their own way and teach the older generation a lesson or two.

As we all know, today's technology moves very fast. With our daily responsibility, it is almost impossible for us to keep up with every little new gadgets that come out everyday. With young people, it's different, new things interest them. Furthermore, being young they absorb new knowledge like a sponge. Thus, they can help us in getting in tune with new technologies. Young kids, for example, can probably teach their grandparents to use the computers which in turn, will also be good for their relationships.

In addition to that, by looking at the young, we can learn about the society better. As I've mentioned earlier, youngsters represent their time, hence, by understanding them, we can understand the needs of the society, as this group of age is the most outspoken. A good example would be the hippie movement in the 6os. The movement displayed their dissatisfaction with the system and the need for more freedom of expression.

As someone once said, "Life is a learning experience", thus, from that, we can deduce that there is no full stop to the process of learning. Therefore, instead of being critical and cynical, maybe we can try to understand the youth better by learning from each other. After all, they are the future.

Topic:

Some people say that physical exercise should be a required part of every school day. Other people believe that students should spend the whole school day on academic studies. Which opinion do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

In my opinion, physical exercise or physical education is an essential part of children's education, for so many reasons. First of all, to maintain physical fitness of students, secondly, to promote sportsmanship and camaraderie among students and lastly to create a more disciplined behavior of the students.

Exercise helps the body become healthy and fit. The movement coming from physical exertion due to exercise promotes circulation of blood to all parts of the body, thus, enhances the distribution of nutrients from different parts of the body and also it promotes oxygenation of the cells and burning of unwanted fats resulting to vigor and stamina. Also, exercise help prevent diseases and sickness like, heart attack, lung diseases and obesity.

Furthermore, exercise develops camaraderie and sportsmanship among student. This is specially when they play as a team. Students are able to identify their worth in a team and are able to develop their ability to work with a team to be able to reach their common goal that is to defeat their opponent and come out victorious. They develop friendship with various people because they get to play with other people most of the time, thus, improving the social aspect of their personality. Students become extrovert and active as I observed if they continuously join sports and other form of exercises.

Lastly, This is a good investment in their personality as they grow up because exercise and sports teach them to become disciplined, patient and friendly. Most of all they become result oriented with their work as they see to it that they persevere in every field that they get into. When they grow up to be come matured individuals, it

will not be hard for them to deal with other people and they will always see to it that they put their hearts and minds in everything that they do, as what they have learned in sports while they were still young.

While it is true that academic subjects should be put into priority, I still believe that physical exercise in school should be given the same importance, because it helps develop the emotional, social and physical aspect of a student, preparing him to become a great individual in the future.

Topic:

Some young children spend a great amount of their time practicing sports. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Sports have always been an unrepeatable part of a schoolchild's life. But does it really do so much good after all? This is the topic we are going to talk about today.

The most obvious one is probably the effect a moderate amount of exercise has on the child. Experience shows that children who exercise regularly are more attentive in class than children who never exercise. I remember that I felt a lot more concentrated in class when I was in fourth grade, when I was in a soccer team, than in fifth grade, when I dropped out and stopped exercising entirely. Exercise also has effects on a child's confidence, both in the means of shaping the child's body and giving the child a competition-conscious mind. For example, one of my best friends spent a lot of time on track when she was in primary school, ending up being among the tallest girls in school and having a somewhat superior feeling being able to run faster than anyone else.

But too much sport or improper guidance can be harmful. Being too involved usually ends up in the child feeling tired all the time or taking up too much time that was originally meant for study or play. Children can easily get too worked up in competitions and if this goes without steering, the child may develop wrong views towards winning and losing and life in general. It may also be harmful towards a child's body. Gymnastics, for instance, is known to be harsh towards the gymnasts, usually ending them up small and short. Many sports are dangerous, and children may be crippled when injured in the course of game.

So what attitude should we take up when we are facing such a question? As I see it, children's sports, despite the dangers, should be supported. After all, a moderate amount of sport is essential for a healthy child, and really getting involved in a sport can help build a child's reflexes, skills in sports in general, not to say the understanding of teamwork. So young children are spending a lot of time on sports should be a good sign. It means that these children are learning young what they will need to know all their lives.

Topic

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Only people who earn a lot of money are successful. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Many people believe that a large income equals success. I believe, however, that success is more than how much money you make. Some of those measures of success include fame, respect, and knowledge.

Most people assume that famous people are rich people, but that isn't always true. For example, someday I would like to be a famous researcher. Few scientists are rich by today's standards. Still, I will feel myself to be successful if I am well known. Additionally, there are many famous humanitarians who are not so rich. Mother Theresa was one. Certainly, no one would say she was not successful.

I also believe that being respected by co-workers indicates success. Without that, respect, money means little. For example, I once did some work for a top attorney in a law firm. He made a very good salary, but he was not a nice man. No one ever did work for him willingly. He ordered everyone around, and we didn't respect him. In contrast, however, I had a wonderful band director in high school. He had to take extra jobs just to make enough money to support his family. However, his students had great respect for him and always listened to what he said. As a result, we were a very good band. In my opinion, my band director was more successful than the attorney was.

Finally, I think one of the most important indicators of success is knowledge. Wealthy people don't know all the answers. For example, in the movie Good Will Hunting, the only person who could solve some complex problems was the janitor. He knew a lot, and decided what he wanted to do with that knowledge rather than just think about money. In my opinion, he was extremely successful.

When we think of history, there are few people that we remember simply because they were rich. Overall, we remember people who did something with their lives-they were influential in politics, or contributed to science or art or religion. If history is the ultimate judge of success, then money surely isn't everything.