

IELTS

Name :

Batch:

Regular Writing Lecture-5

The Writing Process

Writing Introduction

The *introduction* of an essay has been introduced and elaborated to you already. Essentially this is the *introductory* paragraph of your essay that contains the thesis statement. So combine your skills of writing thesis statements and generic paragraphs for obtaining your *introduction*. Also, start your essay with an Attention Grabber. These may be exciting examples or generalized statements relevant to your essay topic at hand.

Coming up with catchy examples for your *attention grabber* can be challenging, and may not be worth the time you will end up spending during your IELTS Writing test. So, our suggestion is, form generalized (neutral and universally acceptable in nature) sentences. This strategy has its embedded advantages. Since the topics that appear in the Task 2 of IELTS Writing test evolve from international and globally familiar issues, it is possible to make your own "generic" *set pattern* for any such topic so that you have a preset *attention grabber*.

Similarly, it is possible to have a set pattern according to which you may put your Attention Grabber, Thesis Statement and connecting sentences together forming the whole introduction. This way, the writing process of the entire introduction is also preset.

We strongly suggest that you form your set pattern in your own language that has been corrected, guided and re-affirmed by your instructor. You can construct your set patterns in the model of following examples:

1

Point of argument: **Animal Testing**

Object: **Humans and animals**

_____ is an/are issue(s) that is/are both talked about and argued over all around the world these days. The legal/financial and social complexities regarding this/these issue(s) cross over to frontiers that are not at all convenient, if not worse, for either the government or the governed. There are, of course, justifiable arguments both for and against _____, but the downside/upside supersedes the upside/downside because _____, in my opinion, is/are ultimately degenerative/ beneficial to the public interest.

2

The modern age is one of development, of scientific, economic and societal advancement, and most importantly, this is the age of providing solutions to problems that have been held as insoluble before. Yet, issues remain such as _____. With heavy sides of proponents and opponents, _____ pose(s) (a) potentially inconvenient, if not debilitating dilemma(s). Still, when it comes to be decisive for legal, social, or academic reasons, one needs to take sides, regardless of how omnipotent the issue at hand is. Hence, I opine that _____ is/are to be upheld/denounced because of its/their inherent goodness/malevolence toward humanity/society/ economics/ civility/ academics.

3

That _____ is/are (a) perplexing issue(s) to the human faculties, chiefly due to its/their diversified polarity of effects, is beyond all argument. Positives of it/these is/are abundant and so is negatives. So _____ can very well be called ironical. But, in my opinion, it is more justifiable to be for/against _____ because of its/their beneficial/harmful nature in practicality.

Disclaimer. Pre-prepared materials always run the risk being "out of context." Observe particular caution while constructing and applying your set patterns.

Writing the Body

Preparing a set pattern for the body part is practically undoable because of differing viewpoints of the individuals; moreover, from the students' point of view, such set patterns would encourage them to memorize the whole essay, something we strictly oppose to. Although many students have a tendency to memorize the essays, particularly in the earlier part of their student lives; it is probably the biggest disgrace for the individual memorizing, because he or she thinks his or her own way and writes depending on another person's viewpoint, which may be completely opposite. This is cheating, to say the least. But what we will do in this section is show you the way to construct a whole body.

As we mentioned earlier, a body consists of different paragraphs. So, here, we would see how to develop individual paragraphs. This leads us to the concept of **Topic Sentence**. The focal point of the individual paragraph must remain there in the topic sentence (Think of the concept of thesis statement); **because a topic sentence is that for a paragraph what a thesis statement is for a composition.**

Let us take a more refined look at it. All individual paragraphs are written on a particular theme. Take the example that we have used over and over again, 'Rickshaws should be banned from Dhaka City'. During the phase of Brainstorming, you have developed separate points to strengthen your standing (See Brainstorming and Idea Sorting in Lecture 4). Now, let us say that you are against banning rickshaws because it will create huge unemployment. Whatever logic you may provide to support it must be preceded by a good topic sentence that will let the examiner know that you are against Banning of Rickshaws because doing so will create mass unemployment. A good topic sentence to express this theme can be, '*Many people are against rickshaws for different reasons, but they do not realize the repercussions it may give birth to in forms of mass unemployment in a country that has already been bombarded with the same problem*' or more simply, '*The banning of Rickshaws does not seem to be a very good solution because doing so would certainly result in mass unemployment in Bangladesh*'.

The most important quality that a topic sentence should possess is **comprehensiveness**. Whenever you write a topic sentence, make sure that it contains everything, in the form of the main theme of the paragraph. In many instances, topic sentences fail because they do not contain the overall theme of the paragraph. Additionally, topic sentences should be simple, so that they convey the idea intended to be expressed.

Now, we will provide some topic sentences below. Your task is to develop full paragraphs using them and conveying the ideas provided in the brackets –

- 1.** Regulating the movement of rickshaws is hardly possible, even for the authorities; because the rickshaw-pullers do not have adequate knowledge and education. **(Rickshaws should be banned from Dhaka).**

- 2.** In this era of uncontrollable environmental pollution, banning of rickshaws, the only environment-friendly transportation mode, would aggravate environmental degradation. **(Rickshaws should not be banned from Dhaka).**
- 3.** Sports do not help only in developing the body, but also in inculcating the sense of competition and achievement in the young minds. **(Educational Institutions should not sacrifice sports classes to focus more on academic activities).**
- 4.** Playing activities in schools do not help a lot in the upbringing of sportspeople, because most of the established players had to sacrifice their educational lives to become successful. **(Educational Institutions should have sole focus on academic subjects and sacrifice sport classes).**
- 5.** Children imitate only what they learn at home from their parents, and hence, parents should be held responsible for the unacceptable behaviors of their children. **(Parents are to blame for whatever their children do).**
- 6.** Parents are not the only people children interact with; they do stay at home or at school, and it would not be fair to hold the parent responsible for their children's actions. **(Parents are not the only people to blame for their children).**
- 7.** The seeds of Industrial Development are sown in Agricultural Development, and it would be impossible for a country to experience total development if its agricultural base is not strong enough. **(Developing countries should focus on achieving educational development rather than industrial development).**

Writing the Conclusion

Like the introduction, the conclusion has also been explained, and its writing process elaborated, to you already. Follow a process, similar to that to the introduction, to have your set patterns for the conclusion. Following are some models:

1

Basing on the hereunto justifications, it is definitely affirmable that _____ is/are favorable/unfavorable to the overall interest of global humanity/urban functionality/rural preservation/national progression/ economical development/social sanctity. Despite whatever can be held against/supportive of _____, human/societal/ economical/ civil/academic ultimately concludes that its/their benefits/veils are far too substantial to be ignored.

2

Contemporary rationality, as it is exhibited above, can definitely conclude that _____, is/are (a) boon/threat to the welfare of a country/a community/global humanity/civil life. Thus, it is justifiable that _____ is/are promoted/demoted for the collective betterment of all.

3

In conclusion, it can very well be said that _____ is/are (a) blessing(s)/menace(s). As it has been argued above, _____, at the end appears to be more in favour/ against our interests as a whole.

Editing

After you have finished writing the composition, keep the last few minutes to check for obvious errors. In IELTS Writing, the examiners mostly look out for Spelling and/or Grammatical Errors. Be sure that you have written what you intended to and no key idea is missing from the piece.

Study the following checklist for editing. It lists the points to think about when checking your essay. Become familiar with the list so that you will know what to check for in the actual IELTS Writing Module.

Checklist for Editing

1. _____ I have used accurate grammatical structures like consistent tense, subject-verb agreement and so on.
2. _____ My word formation, especially those of Nouns, Verbs and Adjectives has been accurate; as well as the use of 'a' & 'the' and prepositions.
3. _____ I have used a range of Sentence Structures.
4. _____ I have used appropriate vocabulary.
5. _____ I have used accurate spelling.
6. _____ I have stated the main idea for each paragraph in a topic sentence and all the points are related to the topic.
7. _____ I have used connective words effectively to link ideas so that the thoughts move logically and clearly from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph.
8. _____ I have developed each paragraph adequately.
9. _____ I have supplied enough detailed information and sufficient examples or facts.
10. _____ I have developed a definite point of view.
11. _____ Every paragraph that I have written has definitely helped to address the task.

Remember, filling up the stated checklist would certainly take much time in the initial stage. The only way you can utilize it most effectively and efficiently is through intensive practice of writing compositions and paragraphs. Evaluate your writing by yourself and just try to inculcate this checklist with your writing pieces. The quality of your writing should go up.

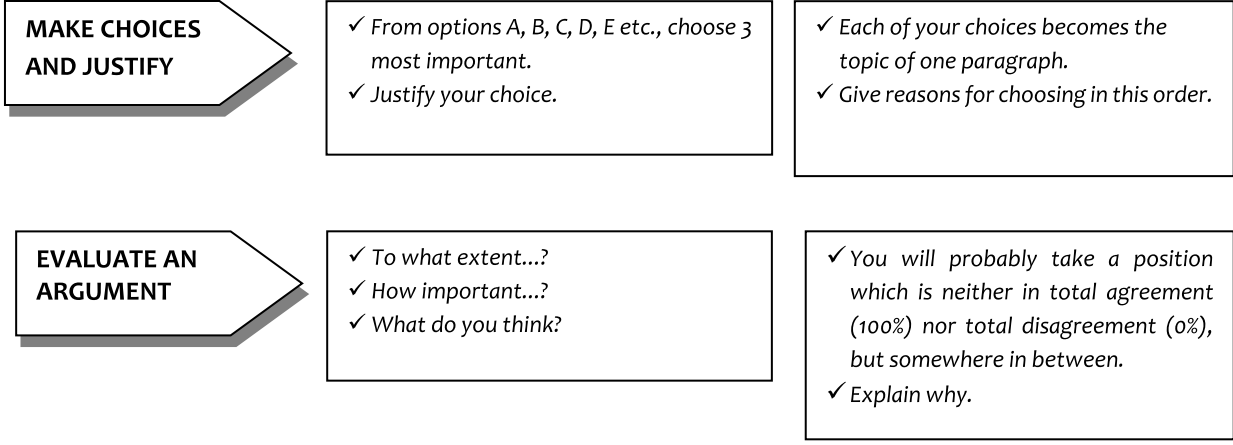
MORE ABOUT TASK 2- HOW TO DO IT

Task 2 essays require you to explore issues by comparing, evaluating or challenging ideas. You may be asked to present an argument or offer a solution to a problem. This means demonstrating your understanding of the topic by including examples and evidence. You should think of your audience as a non-specialist, educated reader. The main essay types are outlined below.

Step 1 ANALYSE THE TASK

- Know the main **essay types** and what you have to do for each one.
- Read and highlight / underline **key words** related to (1) the topic and (2) the task.
- If necessary, explain key terms in your introduction.

<u>Essay Types</u>	<u>Task words</u>	<u>This means....</u>
PROBLEM/ SOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>What can be done to solve...?</i> ✓ <i>How can this problem be addressed?</i> ✓ <i>What challenges...?</i> ✓ <i>What strategies...?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explain 2/3 aspects of the issue. (1 paragraph each) ✓ Suggest solutions. ✓ Make recommendations
AGREE OR DISAGREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Do you agree or disagree?</i> ✓ <i>Why?</i> ✓ <i>Explain your position.</i> ✓ <i>Justify your position.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Take a position.</i> ✓ <i>Defend it strongly. Give several reasons to support your argument. (1 paragraph each)</i> ✓ <i>It is useful to acknowledge the opposite view (counter argument) and say why you don't accept it.</i>
TWO SIDES OF AN ARGUMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Discuss</i> ✓ <i>Compare/contrast</i> ✓ <i>Advantages/disadvantages.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Give a balanced presentation. This means you should write equally about both sides of the issue.</i> ✓ <i>In the conclusion you can indicate your position.</i>

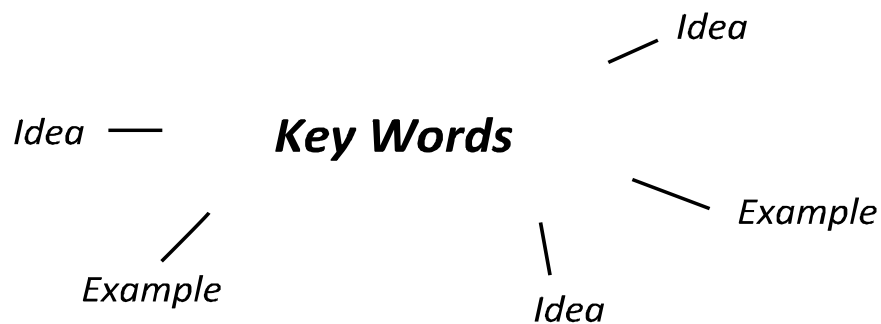


Step 2 GENERATE IDEAS

BRAINSTORM:

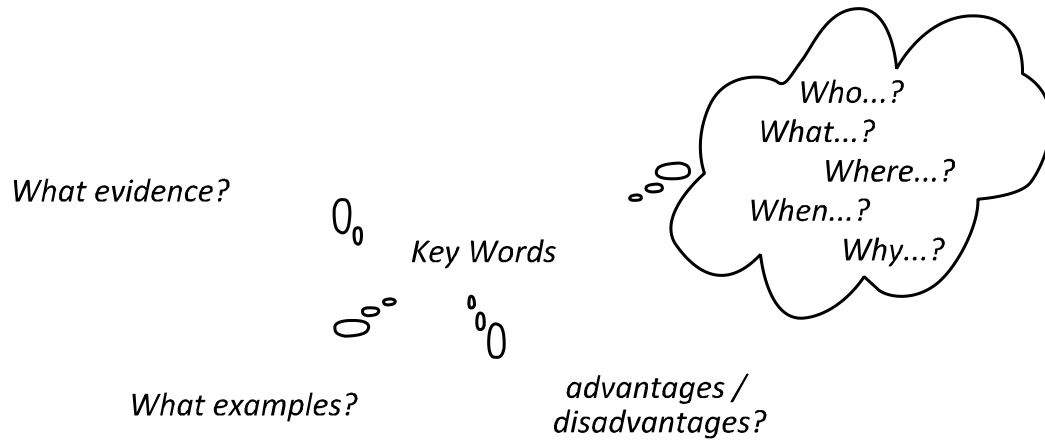
Using Spider Diagrams

- Write key topic word(s) in the centre of a circle.
- Note down any related ideas or examples that come to mind.
- Do the same for other important words from the Task.
- Group the ideas to become your paragraph topics.

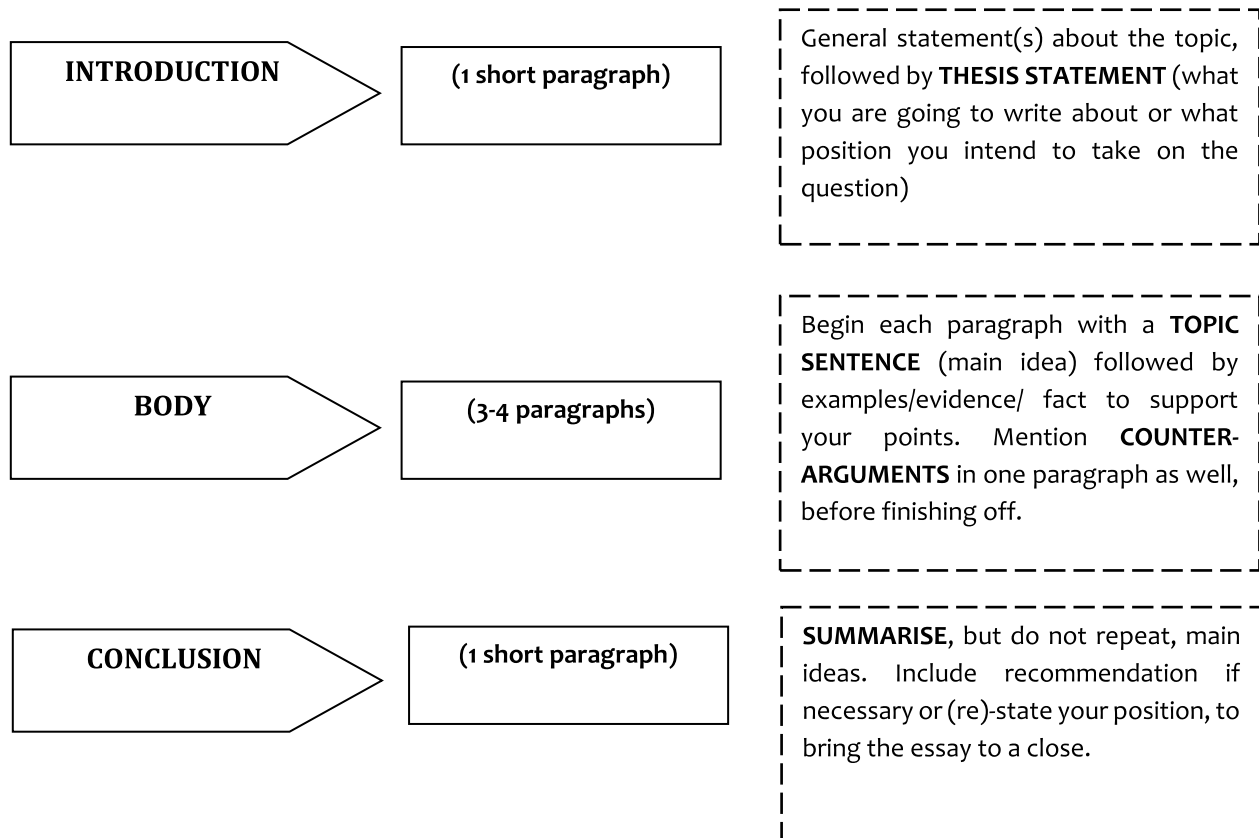


Or
Using Questions

- Start with key topic word(s).
- Think about the Task and ask relevant questions.
- Group the answers to become your paragraph topics.



Step 3 PLAN YOUR ESSAY



Topic-

There are fewer and fewer employment opportunities for graduates entering the job market and this will have serious implications for higher education.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Sample Response-

While it cannot be denied that in certain sectors of the job market there are currently fewer openings for graduates, the situation regarding employment prospects and potentials is ultimately a complex one, which does actually vary across the world as well. Demographic trends need to be considered, above all else, along with new areas of work. In certain types of employment, a refreshing change, in the form of growth of considerable extent can be witnessed. What is certainly true is that higher education will have to adapt to reflect the changing requirements of the industry and also of the modern society as a whole, which is why I think, the statement does hold true.

Firstly, because of declining birth rates, fewer young people are entering the job market and this will eventually reduce unemployment among the skilled workforce. In some parts of the world, the 21st century is bringing a shift away from traditional manufacturing towards more service-oriented work, often with less predictable working hours. No matter where the person works, methods of business and their operations have certainly taken a leap- in the forward direction.

Meanwhile, some sectors are experiencing a healthy demand for new recruits. In biotechnology, for example, there are many opportunities, although here graduates are usually expected to continue studying beyond a first degree to the doctorate level. Academic institutions, may therefore, need to seek increased funding for postgraduate research, particularly for the science faculties.

It could perhaps be argued that universities should adjust the balance of their programmes, reducing the number of graduates produced in areas such as media studies and the arts in favor of more science and maths graduates, who are more likely to find immediate work.

However, society as a whole will continue to benefit from a mix of well-educated people, so these disciplines and others should be maintained. Subsequent decades will see great changes in both the workplace and education, but this should be regarded as an opportunity in itself, rather than a problem for society.

Approximately 335 words

REMEMBER

THIS SAMPLE RESPONSE IS ONE OF SEVERAL SATISFACTORY WAYS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. OTHER SAMPLES WHICH RESPOND TO THE WRITING TASK WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE.

Topic-

The mass media, including television, radio and newspapers, has great influence in shaping people's ideas and their minds.

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
Give reasons for your answer.***

Sample Response

The mass media has a powerful influence in shaping our lives. We have come to depend on them for information and entertainment, and in doing so we let them affect important aspects of our lives.

The undeniable usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is largely taken for granted. But in our dependence on the media we have allowed them to mould our notions and opinions of events, places and people. Though few of us probably think about it, our conceptions of, say, our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will have an opinion of them. When it is time to cast our vote, we will make our decision based on how the media portray the candidates. We are similarly swayed by coverage of wars. The media, representing the values of their owners, societies and governments, tend to report wars with a bias; which is the 'good' side and which the 'bad' is determined for us by reporters, editors and commentators, and sure enough the public begins to form opinions that reflect the coverage they see, hear and read in the major media.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. The so-called 'global youth culture', in which one finds young people around the world displaying a common interest in music, clothing styles and films, is an example of the media's enormous sway in this regard. A popular figure such as Michael Jackson would never be so well known were it not for the media's extensive reach into every society on the globe.

Thus I would argue that the mass media's influence is certainly great. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely the media's influence will grow even stronger in future times.

Approximately 335 words

REMEMBER

THIS SAMPLE RESPONSE IS ONE OF SEVERAL SATISFACTORY WAYS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. OTHER SAMPLES WHICH RESPOND TO THE WRITING TASK WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE.

Sample IELTS Topics

1. Most high level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women?
2. Are famous people treated unfairly by the media? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives?
3. Should developing countries concentrate on improving industrial skills or should they promote education first?
4. Safety standards are important when building people's homes. Who should be responsible for enforcing strict building codes - the government or the people who build the homes?
5. Does modern technology make life more convenient, or was life better when technology was simpler?
6. In your opinion what factors contribute to a good movie?
7. Does travel help to promote understanding and communication between countries?
8. If children behave badly, should their parents accept responsibility and also be punished?
9. What should a government do for a country to become successful?
10. Should sports classes be sacrificed in High School so students can concentrate on Academic subjects?
11. Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients and concentrate more on patient's health, no matter how rich they are. What do you think about this?
12. Will modern technology, such as the internet, ever replace the book or the written word as the main source of information?
13. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of giving international Aid to poor countries.
14. Should criminals be punished with lengthy jail terms or re-educated and rehabilitated, using community service programs for instance, before being reintroduced to society?
15. Computers can translate all kinds of languages well. So our children don't need to learn more languages in the future?
16. Some people believe that only pupils of similar interests should be given admissions in schools. Others are of the opinion that schools should be open to all children with varied interests. How far you agree or disagree with the above view? Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.
17. Some authors believe that urbanization is a 'Contemporary Disease'. In no less than 250 words explain if you agree with this view and give your own opinion.
18. Capital punishment is a brutal decision and should be abolished. Give your views in no less than 250 words if you agree or disagree with it.

19. Most criminals are set free once they finish their jail terms. Is the re-introduction of criminals in societies justified? Place your views in no less than 250 words.
20. Working and living abroad helps us to know other cultures well. How far do you think working abroad has good or bad impacts on our cultural lives?
21. If you were given to change, what changes would you implement in this 21st century to make our world a better living place? Discuss few changes in no less than 250 words.
22. Computers can easily do all the basic and advanced calculations. Do you think your children should spend more time learning basic mathematics or advanced computer technology? Give your views in no less than 250 words.
23. Should poor countries continue to receive International Aids? Give your views in no less than 250 words.
24. Some parents grow their children in strict discipline while others leave them free to learn lessons of lives on their own. Which is one of these is a better approach and why? Give your own opinion in no less than 250 words.
25. The modern technology is making all things easily available. Internet has provided us the easy downloadable versions of most books we need. Can internet world replace the world of books and words? Give your own views in no less than 250 words.
26. As most postgraduate research is funded by industry, student grants should also come from the same source. How far you agree with this. Give your views in no less than 250 words.
27. Modern technology is transforming the way we work and is of benefit to our society. How far do you think our social lives influenced by modern technology?
28. In order keep the students more focused, the sports classes should be stopped in High schools. Do you think this will be the right approach for a better generation?
29. Smoking is a bad habit and should be abandoned completely worldwide. Give your views in no less than-250 words.
30. Time is an important factor in every field. Do you think following strict time limits is more important than giving quality results? Give your views in no less than 250 words.
31. Life was simpler without so much of technology. Give your views in no less than 250 words.
32. Should developing countries pay more attention towards education or improving business standards?
33. There is an age after which one's efficiency decreases. Should young people in the working fields replace all the old people?
34. Animals also have emotions and feel equal pain as humans. We should stop all pharmaceutical

companies from doing trials on innocent animals. Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.

35. The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.
36. Women are always better parents than men. How far do you agree with this? Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.
37. Deciding the size of one's own family is a personal preference. In your opinion, should government intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?
38. In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while in others people can work until they are 65 or 70. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment? Give reasons for your answer.
39. The idea of going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
40. Telecommuting refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting?
41. When so many people are starving to death in different parts of the world, is it justifiable for any government to spend huge amounts of money over the Space Exploration Projects?
42. Internet has made information so handy, but at the same time, it is spoiling our children with all the adult content. Should children be kept away from internet?
43. To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the 21st century?
44. Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but at the expense of personal contact, as many people choose to work at home in front of a computer screen. What dangers are there for a society which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication?
45. Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos.
46. The only way to prevent overcrowding in cities is to prevent migration from rural areas. Give your opinion and views.
47. Money is the single motivational factor for success in any work field. How far do you agree with this?

48. The only effective way to deal with unemployment is to introduce rapid urbanization. How far do you agree?
49. When most of the population in developing countries do not have food to eat and place to live, it is immaterial to talk about saving forests as a gesture to protect our environment. The aim should be to utilize maximum land for food production and making homes for the homeless. Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.
50. Reading comics only rot the children's mind than to provide any good education. How far do you agree/ disagree with this?
51. Is it wise for an industry to replace its experienced but old workers with new and young but less experienced individuals? Give your views in no less than 250 words.

Good Luck!