

#### 46. In modern society, many people think that primary schools should teach science and technology rather than history and geography, which are useless and boring. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people opine that traditional subjects such as history and geography should not be taught in primary schools as they are boring and just add to the burden on primary school students. They believe that science and technology should be there in primary schools. I agree that arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, it has to be made clear that removing history and geography from the primary school syllabus does not mean these subjects are less important. These subjects are as important as science and technology. The main concern is to lessen some burden off the primary school children. These subjects must be incorporated in middle and high school curricula. At the primary school level, children need to be introduced to science and technology because today's children belong to an era of science and technology.

Secondly, if teachers have to teach fewer subjects, they would be able to do so in greater depth. If there is curriculum overload, then all subjects would be taught superficially and the foundation of the child would not be strong. If all subjects are taught, then children usually resort to rote learning which is definitely inferior to meaningful learning. What is more, science and technology are more interesting than history and geography, so in early years, children will develop interest in studying which will continue into later years.

Finally, schools should give priority to science and technology skills, with a greater focus on children's health, wellbeing and personal development. What is generally seen is that the weight of the primary school student's bag is heavier than the weight of the student himself. So the child is physically unhealthy and cannot bloom properly. Their individuality is snubbed. At the primary stage the child should be engaged in joyfully exploring the world around and harmonizing with it. The objectives at this stage are to nurture the curiosity of the child about the world and not to overburden the child.

To conclude, the demands of society on primary schools have risen and continue to rise but if we are to establish a 'world class' high quality curriculum, we must face the reality of prescribing less so that teachers can better teach and children can better learn. Science and technology must be started early and the arts subjects can be started after primary school years.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree. Arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula

Para 1: main concern is to lessen some burden off the primary school children

Para 2: if teachers have to teach less, they would be able to do so in greater depth

Para 3: greater focus on children's health, wellbeing and personal development

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

#### 47. Some people think that secondary school students should study academic subjects (such as history and physics). While others believe they should study practical subjects (such as car machinery and cookery). Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that secondary school curricula should have academic subjects such as history and physics whereas others opine that students should study practical subjects like car machinery and cookery. This essay shall look at both arguments before forming a conclusion.

Those who wish academic subjects in the school syllabus say that academic subjects have withstood the test of time. They represent the accumulated wisdom of our ancestors down through the ages, and equip us with the knowledge and confidence to make sound judgments about any problems, which may crop up. Secondly, they say that it is the duty of parents, not teachers, to prepare their children to deal with the practical affairs of life. The home, not the classroom, is the ideal place to learn about cookery and car machinery. Finally, schooldays devoted solely to instruction of practical matters would be dull indeed. Lessons in diverse subjects such as literature, science, geography and mathematics add spice to school life.

Those in favour of practical subjects such as car machinery and cookery opine that the subjects taught in schools tend to be too academic, and contribute little to preparing a young person for the real-life tasks he or she will have to perform after graduation. They say that academic subjects are rooted in the past, and are not useful for solving modern problems.

On balance, I believe that we need to provide young people the best possible chance of doing well at school. In traditional curriculum there should be a wide variety of subjects with a mix of academic and non-academic subjects. In this way a young person is formed with a rounded education. Car machinery, however, is not needed at school level. Non-academic subjects should include sports, cooking and music. I believe this is the best form of education. A young person should also learn things other than academic subjects.

To conclude, secondary school curriculum with only academic or only practical subjects is not good. It should be a combination of both for the holistic development of the student.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people are in favour of purely academic subjects

Para 2: Why some people are in favour of practical subjects

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

#### 48. Students in schools should learn practical skills like car maintenance and managing a bank account in addition to academic subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that children learn academic subjects at school, but not many practical skills. However, I disagree that schools should teach skills like bank account management and car maintenance.

To begin with, there is a lot of importance of academic subjects like mathematics, science, languages etc. Academic subjects have withstood the test of time. They represent the accumulated wisdom of our ancestors down through the ages, and equip us with the knowledge and confidence to make sound judgments about any problems which may crop up. We live in a knowledge-based economy where independent thinking and problem solving are the most important skills. With timetables already full, schools do not have time to teach children anything else.

There are also non-academic subjects such as sports and music, which are taught in schools. These are very important along with the academic subjects. They bring out the hidden talent and stimulate the creative ability of students. These subjects are as important as academic subjects as they act as stress-busters and give the students the much-needed relaxation.

On the other hand, bank account management is a 'life skill' that anyone can learn by simply opening a bank account. Most adults have no problem managing their finances without being taught accounting lessons at school. Other skills like car maintenance are not really necessary. Most people take their cars to a qualified mechanic. Therefore, these practical skills do not need to be added to the school curricula.

To conclude, schools are already doing a good job teaching the traditional academic subjects along with the non-academic subjects. If they start to teach practical skills, the study of important academic subjects will suffer.

**Plan followed**

**Intro:** disagree

**Para 1:** Importance of academic subjects

**Para 2:** Importance of non-academic subjects such as music and sports

**Para 3:** Why practical skills such as car maintenance and opening a bank account not needed.

**Conclusion**

## **49. Some say that secondary school should spend less time on traditional subjects such as history and should spend more time on communication skill and business courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?**

At the secondary education level, students are taught a variety of subjects that are suppose to help guide them in their future career and personal choices. It is irrefutable that in today's global era communication skills and business courses are very important. However, I disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance than these subjects in the secondary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

On the one hand, there is no doubt that today we belong to a global era, in which there is cut-throat competition in every field. To be successful, the most important skills needed today are communication skills. The study of business courses is also invaluable today. Eventually, all students will encounter the world of business, whether they work in urban or rural areas. They must be prepared to engage in business activity with confidence and competence. Young people need to understand how business functions, the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires, and the impact it can have on their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

On the other hand, the field of history is important for many educational, as well as practical, reasons. Through historical study, one can pursue a career in a wide array of fields. A student of history can go on to law school or delve into politics, because he will possess knowledge that will help him make invaluable choices that affect society. Although the practical side of it may not be noticeable to the student, it is true that every subject deals with history, and every inanimate object and every enjoyable pastime has a history behind it. For example, a student of medicine can't become a doctor without studying the history behind the profession, and most legends of Hollywood have studied the history of acting and film before obtaining their stardom in this field.

Regardless of whether or not a 17-year old will ever take another history course outside of high school, teaching history to that student will help him or her acquire the skills necessary to continue on with education at the college level. History will also make that student a better prepared citizen in society, capable of making informed choices about current issues and being able to follow up on events by using basic research techniques.

To conclude, although business and communication skills subjects are important in today's scenario, it is also important for people to have a basic understanding of what has driven, and what drives, the world in which we live in. That is perhaps why it has been rightly said that, "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything."

Plan followed

Intro: disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance

Para 1: Importance of the study of business and communication skills

Para 2: Importance of the study of history

Para 3: More importance

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

## 50. Some think the subject of music is not necessary in primary school, and other practical subjects like science should replace it. What is your opinion?

I disagree with the notion that music as a subject is not essential in elementary school and should be replaced by other practical subjects such as math and science. I firmly believe that music is a more potent instrument than any other for education and it is even more important than other subjects in the early years of life. Music uses both sides of the brain as a result of which the child's brain develops academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The most important advantage of music in primary classes is that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking. It was seen in a research that second graders who were given music lessons scored 27% higher in math than children who received no music lessons. This means that children who learn music in schools are better problem-solvers and are better at analysis and overall critical thinking. Because studying or playing music uses the same part of the brain that is used in mathematical thinking, music education can help promote better math students. Additionally, exposing children to music in the early and primary years increases listening and concentration skills also.

Moreover, music is an art form. We are emotional beings and every child requires an artistic outlet. Music may be the child's vehicle of expression. Music helps the child to open up and improve his communication skills. It helps him to express his ideas and thoughts in a better manner. What is more, music education can open doors for children who can later adopt it as a hobby or even profession in later years. Young children can experience camaraderie and teamwork by participating in music activities done in groups. Involvement in a music group, chorus or band gives the young child a sense of importance and belonging.

Those against promoting music in primary schools say that children are already overburdened with so many subjects. They feel that children of today belong to an era of cut-throat competition and they should be well versed with practical subjects, which they will need for a successful career in later years. They opine that those interested in music may take it as an optional subject in later years, but primary school children need not learn music. However, their reasoning does not hold much water.

To sum up, music is very important for children especially those in primary schools because it helps the brain develop fast and is needed for the holistic development of children.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: importance of music

Para 2: More importance of music

Para 3: opponents view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

## 51. Schools should teach children good behavior and introduce ideas of 'right' and 'wrong'. It should not only be left to parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Families and schools are the two institutions, which impart moral education and virtuous qualities in children. I disagree that it is solely the onus of the schools to teach such things to children. I believe it should be a joint responsibility of both, schools as well as parents.

It is understandable why parents should be responsible for inculcating good habits in children. They are responsible for bringing their children into the world and it is their responsibility to teach them social values. First of all, they can act as role models and children are their copycats. Secondly, as children spend a huge amount of time with parents, they get more time to build up good behavioral pattern in children.

On the other hand, schools can play a pivotal role to mould a child's character. To begin with, peer group interaction at schools makes a child highly social and he learns a lot of what is right or wrong from his fellow students. Tenderhearted children do not accept wrongdoings. Furthermore, many competitions held at school teach a child to accept defeat and to appreciate success, which makes him a well-behaved person later on. Finally, teachers are observed very intently by the students and inadvertently children learn a lot of social values from them. Teachers can also admonish children for wrong doings and pat their back for good gestures.

I believe that children are our future and they have to be groomed to be well behaved and respectable citizens of tomorrow. Therefore, both parents and schools should play their role in shaping the behaviour and teach them good manners and etiquettes.

To sum up, schools are the temples of learning and this learning should not be restricted to only academic learning. Social learning is as important as academic learning.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of schools

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

## 52. Some people think young people are suitable for learning foreign languages. Some people think adults are more suitable. Discuss both and give your opinion.

Learning a new language is an activity, which is very useful and takes a considerable amount of time. Some people opine that children learn a foreign language quicker than adults. Others believe that adults are better equipped to learn a new language. This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before forming an opinion.

There is no doubt that a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. In this way, a child is in a good position to learn the new information associated with a new language. What is more, children also don't have any hesitations while learning; they are not afraid that others will laugh at them if they speak wrongly.

However, there are a number of significant advantages for the adult language learner. Firstly, the adult learner has his or her first language to compare with the new language. In this way, new terms or concepts are very quickly understood by comparing them with concepts or ideas that are already known.

In addition, adults often have a strong motivation to learn a new language. When learning a language is connected to an employment opportunity, the learner is typically very focused and motivated. Also, because most adult learners have participated in study earlier in their lives, they are usually aware of what has worked best in their learning experience and therefore approach the new language with more mature and realistic expectations.

To conclude, in learning a new language, adults and children, both are good, but adults definitely have an edge

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before forming an opinion

Para1: why young learn better

Para 2: why adults learn better

Para 3: why adults learn better

Conclusion: adults are better at learning

### 53. An increasing number of people decide to learn a foreign language. What is the most difficult part when learning a foreign language? How can the learner overcome these difficulties?

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.  
(Nelson Mandela)

In this era of globalization, it is often beneficial to be bilingual or multilingual. Learning a foreign language may be a piece of cake for some while others may take years to master it. There are many components of language learning. This essay shall outline the toughest part of learning a foreign language and also suggest some solutions to overcome these problems.

One of the challenges in learning a foreign language is phonological difference. No language makes use of all the many sounds the human speech organs can produce, and no two languages use exactly the same set. In other words, the student should be aware of the differences in the system of sounds between the mother tongue and the new language. There are some sounds that do exist in one language but not in the other language. For instance, Hindi has approximately half as many vowels and twice as many consonants than English. This leads to several problems of pronunciation.

Moreover, vocabulary, grammar and the sentence structure of the new language have to be learnt which may be a daunting task for many. For example, the standard word order in Hindi is Subject-Object-Verb as against Subject-Verb-Object in English. Thus it can be very difficult for a person to obey the grammar rules and the sentence structure of the new language every time. What is more, while learning a foreign language one needs a partner with whom to practice. This could be the most difficult part in learning a foreign language.

However, if a person is determined he can overcome all these hurdles and be proficient in the new language acquisition. One should join a language course if available in the propinquity of one's residence or join an online course. Learning a new language is an ongoing process and one should be willing to give it time every single day. Practice is the key to success. Reading newspapers in that language would also be useful. Adding a few new words to one's vocabulary would definitely help and last but not least, one should listen to the native speakers as often as possible. This can be done by watching movies in that particular language. If a person can afford the time and money, he should stay for some time in the country where that language is spoken to learn the language better.

To conclude, learning a foreign language is a challenge. Learning accurate pronunciation is the most difficult task. But, all these difficulties can be overcome with determination and practice.

Plan followed

Intro: Problem and solution intro

Para 1: Problems

Para 2: more problems

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

#### **54. In some countries students are required to learn a foreign language, but in other countries it is not necessary to do so. Discuss the benefits of each case and give your own opinion.**

In some countries, more than one language is compulsory. Sometimes pupils have to start learning a language at primary school. Foreign languages are less often compulsory in English-speaking countries. This is probably because English is widely understood worldwide. This essay shall delve into the advantages of having to study a foreign language as well as the advantages of no such compulsion.

Foreign languages are important for the economy. The more languages someone can speak the more places they can work. Employers value people who are able to speak more than one language. Learning a language will therefore help students get good jobs when they are older. It will also increase their understanding of other cultures. Moreover, foreign language skills help companies do business with other countries. It is especially important that children whose native language is not widely spoken (e.g. Hindi, Danish) learn other languages. It is also important for English-speakers to learn foreign languages, since not everyone speaks English. What is more, it is polite to be able to speak some of another person's language. Governments should try to promote economic growth. Since languages are important for the economy, governments should make all young people learn them.

On the other hand, there are obvious advantages of not forcing a foreign language on students. To begin with, many young people are hardly able to do simple sums or read and write in their own language. Therefore, more time can be spent on these basic skills, not foreign languages. Cultural understanding can be gained in other subjects such as history and Geography. Foreign language should be an optional subject and not obligatory. Young people have to learn to make choices. If they do not realize the benefits of learning languages, these benefits should be explained to them. If pupils choose to study a language, they are more likely to be keen and interested than if it is something they are forced to do. In any case, many adults do successfully learn new languages through evening classes or distance-learning courses if they feel the need to learn one later on in life.

On balance, there are more advantages of being bilingual or multilingual than being monolingual. In India English is taught as a second language right from primary school. That is why Indian economy has picked up very fast as many MNCs have opened here. Even countries like Canada have begun to realize the importance of a second language and French or Punjabi is taught in many areas as a second language. It has also been proved by researches that bilingual students do better in other subjects too.

Summing up, although there are advantages of having a mandatory foreign language and not having any such obligation, it is better to study a foreign language than not study one.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of a compulsory foreign language

Para 2: advantages of not forcing a foreign language on students

Para 3: On balance

Conclusion: opinion

## 55. Nowadays it is possible to use computers and mobile phones for automatic language translation, and there is no need for human translators and interpreters. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

The technology advancements have given us many benefits and the translation of languages is an important use of this technology. It may be thought that since we have machine translators now, which can translate one language to another, there is no need to have human interpreters and translators. I completely disagree with this notion and a number of arguments support my perspective, which I will elaborate on in the forthcoming paragraphs.

To begin with, translating a language from one to another is not a simple process. It is rather complex, involving the structure, meaning, nuances, culture, tone of the expression and many more such details need to be kept in mind. The machine translation is mostly direct word-to-word translation and usually doesn't take into account the grammatical differences in different languages, leading to errors in syntax. So human interpretation cannot be undermined as people can gauge the underlying tone or emotion of the text, change the structure depending on the language and take care of the subtleties of the language. For instance, the meaning of one word can be changed in terms of the context it is used in.

Another reason why human interpreters are better than automatic machine translators is because language is directly related to the culture. A machine translation cannot be designed to include this aspect. The machines cannot capture these nuances and thus, the machine-translated text will be literal and the actual message of the expression is lost. For instance, there are idioms and proverbs in every language that do not have a direct meaning and have an underlying message.

Admittedly, in this fast paced contemporary world, we need to get our work done quickly and machine translators are quick and mostly available for free. We can easily look for information about any topic and if it is available in a different language, it can be quickly translated and understood. The 'Google translate' tool is a very good example for this use. Even though there might be some sentence structure errors, we can mostly use such translators for personal use or internal use in offices. However, when sending official emails, formal letters, writing assignments, etc. it is best to have a professional human translator, so that the exact message can be conveyed, keeping in mind the differences in the culture of the audience.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that even though technology has revolutionized and eased our work, however, in areas like language translation, machines can't surpass human ingenuity.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: How human translators have an edge over machine translation

Para 2: More advantages of human translators

Para 3: Advantages of machine translation

Conclusion

## 56. Some languages spoken by very few people are losing their importance and may become extinct completely. Is it a good or a bad development? What are the reasons for this?

Today, we do not belong to a big planet called Earth. We are part of a global village and there is more interaction among people of different parts of the globe than ever before. Therefore, for easing communication, only those languages are surviving which are spoken by more number of people. This essay intends to analyze the reasons behind this phenomenon. This is both – a negative as well as a positive development.

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

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

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

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

Plan followed

Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development

Para 1 – Advantages of the increasing use of a few languages

Para 2 – More advantages

Para 3 – Disadvantages

Conclusion: restate your opinion

## 57. Schools have a limited amount of money to spend. Some people suggest that it should be spent on good teachers, while others say it should be used for buying equipment like computers. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In situations where schools are facing crunch situations, they have an option either to spend on good teachers or on technology such as computers. This essay intends to look into both choices. However, I firmly believe that there are no technology shortcuts to good education, and even with limited resources, blended learning is the answer.

Spending on hiring the best teachers is better because children require the ongoing guidance and encouragement to persevere in the school years. Caring supervision from human teachers is the only known way of generating motivation for the hours of a school day. While computers appear to engage students, the engagement is usually fleeting and children are soon distracted. No technology can provide the tailored attention for students that dedicated teachers can, and thus, attempts to use technology as a stand-in for capable teachers are bound to fail.

There are some technology enthusiasts who claim that it is advantageous to spend on computers. They argue that computers are becoming better at providing customized direct instruction and at assessing student's knowledge. They also say that computers are better at repetitive tasks like vocabulary drills. Teachers find these jobs very monotonous. Therefore, they opine that computers are better.

I believe that even though the resources of schools are limited, the focus should be on blended learning. Both teachers and technology are important. Resources should be equally spent on both. Blended learning allows much of the work of basic instruction to be done by computers so that teachers can keep students focused on studies and assess them from time to time. Blended learning does not eliminate teachers, but instead eliminates some of the job functions that teachers find most onerous. Technology will not improve our education system if we marginalize or eliminate teachers. Likewise, our education system will not meet modern needs until we incorporate technology.

To sum up, for primary and secondary schools that are underperforming or limited in resources, efforts to improve education should allocate resources equally on both. We should focus on finding ways to let technology do what it does best so that we can allow teachers to do what they do best.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay with opinion

Para 1: Why teachers

Para 2: Why computers

Para 3: Why spend equally on both

Conclusion

## 58. Some people think that schools are more effective if students are allowed to participate in running the school. State whether you agree or disagree. Give reasons for your answer using personal experience or other examples.

Today, education is student-centered and there are many sources from where students can get information. Students of the contemporary world know what and how they want to learn. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that schools can run more effectively, if students have a say in their working. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the ways in which students can be involved and the benefits of such methods.

To begin with, student involvement can help school administration in maintaining discipline in schools. Student participation in school administration through student councils gives them a voice and makes them feel important. It has been seen in many places, where such practices have been implemented, that violence and other harmful behaviours have reduced, both among teachers and students. Teachers have become more respectful and responsive to students rights. Such involvement of students helps to hold the school management account for their actions, which encourages transparency and responsiveness.

Secondly, student involvement can improve the overall results of the school. Student participation in teaching can result in better learning for the students. When students teach other students, they start actively thinking about the topics. They become active drivers of learning and do not just remain passive recipients of learning. For example, my biology teacher in class 10 used to identify some good students and give them small groups of 4-5 students to discuss what had been taught in class and also discuss some new topics. We used to enjoy those group sessions and our concepts became very clear. As a result, the biology result was always cent percent.

Furthermore, when students are given a voice in the school operations, such as by making them evaluate teachers, the administrators can retain better teachers and shunt out the bad ones, which would definitely improve the schools' overall performance. Finally, it is well known that the schools' main role is in making students into better citizens for the future. Students who are involved in school administration become better citizens later on. Students, who participate in student councils, learn about the democratic process, civic responsibility, leadership, problem solving and teamwork. All these traits make them better citizens.

To sum up, I reiterate that students have a big role in effective running of schools, and their involvement should become the norm in modern schools.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para 1: It would help in maintaining discipline

Para 2: It would help in overall results

Para 3: It would help in hiring the best faculty and make better citizens for the future

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

## 59. Road transport is taking over rail services. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this development. Is this situation true for your country?

Transport refers to the activity that facilitates movements of goods and individuals from one place to another. So, it removes the distance barrier. Roadways and railways are the two means of land transport. It is true that in many countries road transport is becoming more popular. It is both a negative as well as a positive development which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many advantages of road transport over rail transport. To begin with, it is a relatively cheaper mode of transport than rail transport. Secondly, perishable goods can be transported at a faster speed by road carriers over a short distance. Moreover, it provides door-to-door service. So, loading and unloading is possible at any destination. Finally, it is the only mode of transport in hilly areas, which are not connected by other modes of transport.

On the downside, road transport has its limitations, which are indirectly the plus points of rail transport. Firstly, due to limited carrying capacity, road transport is not economical for long distances. Secondly, road transport is affected by adverse weather conditions like floods, rains, landslides etc. On the other hand rail transport is hardly affected by such situations. Finally, road transport leads to too much congestion on roads, which in turn may cause accidents and increase pollution.

In India, over the years, more and more inland freight traffic has been shifting from rail to road. In 1951, 88% of the country's freight was moving on rail and 10% on road. But today, about 60% of the freight moves on road and 38% on rail.

To conclude, road transport definitely has an edge over rail transport. That is why it is becoming more popular. This situation has both pros and cons which I have explained in the above paragraphs.

**Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of road over rail

Para 2: Disadvantages of road transport / advantages of rail transport

Para 3: Situation in India – road transport is gaining popularity

Conclusion: Road transport has both advantages and disadvantages.

## 60. More and more people use private cars instead of taking public transport. What are the reasons for this trend? How can the government encourage people to take public transport?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that many individuals are using their own instead of going by buses and trains. In this essay, I shall discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways by which the government can motivate people to use public transport.

There are many reasons for the increasing popularity of cars. The first and foremost reason is that the car is the most convenient mode of transport. It takes you from destination to destination and you do not have to waste time to go to the bus stand or railway station to wait for public transport, which runs at specific times. Secondly, families can go out together and enjoy their outings more. What is more, you can halt anywhere you need for some refreshments. The car is also a blessing in times of emergencies when a sick family member has to be shifted to the hospital. Finally, because of the increased competition among the automobile companies, the cars have become affordable by the vast majority of people. For example, the basic model of Maruti 800 and the Nano by Tata Company are called the poor man’s cars.

This increased number of cars on the roads is causing many problems such as traffic congestion and pollution. To reduce these problems, the government can encourage people to use public transport. This can be done in many ways. Firstly, the comfort of the public transport could be made better. Secondly, the fares could be reduced and the frequency of public transport should be increased. Definitely, if all these improvements are made in buses and trains, then people would prefer them over cars in many situations.

Another way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient. The introduction of tolls along urban motorways has been successfully employed in many cities. Other such measures such as high parking rates in urban areas also could help a lot. Faced with high costs or no place to park, people would perhaps be more willing to abandon their cars in favour of buses or trains.

To conclude, it could be said that there is no doubt that the private vehicle is gaining a lot of popularity but if the government takes some steps to encourage public transport then definitely the use of cars could reduce a lot.

Plan followed:

Intro: write the intro suitably to answer the question

Para 1: Why people are using cars more

Para 2: How government can encourage people to use public transport

Para 3 More measures

Conclusion:

## 61. Some people say the cars should be banned from the centers of cities. Do you agree or disagree?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. The increased use of cars has created many problems. Therefore, I strongly believe that cars should not be allowed in city centres. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason is pollution from car exhausts, which damages people's health causing respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. At the same time, traffic fumes attack the stonework of historic monuments and buildings, while the vibrations from passing vehicles damage their foundations. This, for instance, has happened to the Taj Mahal in Agra because of which private vehicles are not allowed in the vicinity of the Taj.

A second reason why I am in favour of cars being banned is in order to reduce the noise pollution from traffic, which forces people to keep their windows permanently closed and may cause psychological problems including stress and depression among people living in busy streets.

A further reason is that most cities were not designed for motor traffic. A good example of this is the old part of Ludhiana city in Punjab, which has narrow streets and few facilities for parking. As a result, traffic moves at a snail's pace and there are frequent traffic jams. Beautiful buildings are spoilt by always having cars parked in front of them and pretty streets become unpleasant due to permanent traffic congestion and exhaust fumes.

Finally, I am sure that if cars were banned, people would find other more pleasant ways to move around cities. For example, they would walk or use bicycles as these would once more become safe and enjoyable activities within the city. This in turn would bring about a general improvement in people's health.

In conclusion, therefore, I strongly support the idea that traffic should be banned from city centres, as this would enable people to rediscover cities as pleasant and healthy places to live.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: Final reason

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

## 62. Airline companies in many countries have reduced the cost of tickets. Discuss whether this is a positive or negative development. Give some examples based on your own experience.

In today's world, we are now in a position to enjoy cheaper air flights than in the past. It is both – a positive as well as negative development. It is advantageous in terms of freedom and the opportunities to learn from other countries. It is detrimental in terms of the pollution it creates.

Cheap air flight can be beneficial in many ways. One of them is the opportunity to go overseas. Earlier, only the affluent could afford it, but now it is within the pocket of the ordinary man. Some of the discounted tickets are fairly cheap and flying abroad is no longer a dream for many. Moreover, small businesses have prospered because of the ease of travel because of these flights.

In addition to this, cheap air flights enable intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap airfare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

On the other hand, it is generally known that aeroplanes consume a vast amount of oil and the gas emission generated by an airplane is enormous. Therefore, the environmental impacts would only get worse in the long run. Besides, cheap air tickets at times are extremely disturbing in terms of certain conditions that go along with them. One problem is that the date and time cannot be changed once purchased. As a result, many people find it inconvenient if they are to reschedule due to emergency.

To conclude, cheap air fares have both pros and cons. I am convinced that giving people the freedom to travel is essential, but at the same time people should be made aware of avoiding un-necessary travel.

### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: more benefits

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

### 63. These days many countries face excessive traffic. Describe the situation in your country? Describe some possible ways to overcome traffic congestion.

It is irrefutable that the increasing traffic has become a grave problem worldwide. My own country, India, is no exception. This essay intends to suggest measures, which can be taken to ameliorate the situation.

The rising traffic is a global problem. India too is facing a boom in the number of cars on the roads. With developing economy, people's buying capacity has risen and so everyone is having his/her own vehicle. On top of that, the road system is not so good, and traffic jams and gridlocks have become very common. Although the government is expanding the roads and constructing more motorways, the situation is not improving because the number of private vehicles is also rising at an unprecedented rate.

One effective method to reduce traffic congestion is using public transportation. Since most car trips are by a single person driving alone, a bus substituted for driving can take 20, 30 or more cars off the road while a train has the potential to reduce congestion by hundreds of cars. A rail line can carry substantially more passengers using less physical space than a highway. Public transportation not only reduces congestion on the roads, but also helps eliminate the necessity of building additional roads and benefits those who continue to travel by automobile, whether by choice or necessity.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people to use their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. In Houston, Texas, there are special HOV (High Occupancy Vehicles) lanes for those vehicles, which have three or more people. Cars move faster on these lanes because of fewer cars on these lanes. This is a step by the authorities to encourage car-pooling.

Furthermore, there are many steps, which people can take at the individual level to reduce congestion. Car-pooling is one such measure. If five people from one area have to go to the same office then each one can take his car per day. In addition, people can choose to walk or use bicycle for short distances.

To conclude, building more roads is not the solution for traffic congestion. It is essential that people use public transport and do car-pooling to decrease the traffic on roads.

#### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Measures to address the problem

Para 2: Other measures

Para 3: steps at individual level

Conclusion:

## 64. In many countries, there are an increasing number of private cars. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that nowadays, the number of cars has increased at an unprecedented rate. This situation has both - advantages as well as disadvantages.

There are many advantages of car. The most important advantage is that it has given people freedom of movement. The ease of transportation, which a car brings is more than any other form of transportation. For instance, you can go from destination to destination and no time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance are not a barrier any more. What is more, families can go out together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly or the disabled and sick members in the family.

Furthermore, the automobile industry provides jobs to millions of workers. Filling stations, restaurants, and other businesses that serve automobile travelers are of major importance to a country's economy. In addition, many developing nations have begun making automobiles to boost their economy. That is why India has promoted many automobile manufacturing industries such as Tata and Mahindra.

On the other hand the disadvantages of the car cannot be overlooked. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural sequel to the burgeoning population of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to decrease in practices such as walking and cycling and this has led to a number of diseases such as obesity.

On balance, the advantages to people's lives and the economic impact created by the car definitely outweigh the disadvantages. However, we must know when and how-much to use the car so that we can minimize the demerits to some extent

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: Advantages of car

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: Advantages more than disadvantages

## 65. Some people think that there will be decrease in international travel in future. Do you think the less amount of international travel is a positive or a negative development?

Because of economic reasons in some areas, international travel is becoming less common. I believe that it is largely a negative development. International travel has more positive than negative effects.

International travel can have many benefits for individuals. The most important benefit is that it provides regular employment for many local people who might otherwise be unemployed. They can find work in restaurants or hotels, or with tourist agencies as guides or drivers, for example, and earn regular wages. This, in turn, means that they may be able to save money and improve their standard of living. The second reason is that tourists spend money in the country and this allows local businesses such as restaurants, bars and taxi companies to flourish. In turn, other businesses, food suppliers or petrol stations, for instance, may be established in order to provide services to support the companies, which cater for tourists. In other words, the whole economy of the region develops.

A third reason is that in order for tourists to be able to visit remote areas, roads, airports and hotels have to be built and local people also benefit by being able to use these new facilities. Furthermore, when communications improve, it becomes possible for other industries to move into the area, bringing with them more employment opportunities and increased prosperity. A final reason why I am in favour of tourism is that visitors from outside bring fresh ideas and different ways of doing things to the local community. Consequently, local people may learn from tourists. Likewise, visitors learn about the local people and culture, and return home with a deeper understanding of the host country.

On the other hand, that there are some problems associated with international travel. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry visible items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed of quickly for a profit. Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading contagious diseases around the world. Also to be considered is the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral reefs.

To conclude, international travel has both advantages and disadvantages. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore if international travel decreases, it is largely a negative development.

Plan followed

Intro: it is largely a negative development      Para 1: advantages of international travel

Para 2: more advantages      Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

## 66. Young people say that traveling to different countries benefits them and the society. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

Youth travel is one of the fastest growing and most dynamic markets of the global tourism sector. Some individuals believe that travelling abroad is beneficial for the youth whereas others opine that it is wastage of time and money. This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Some people consider it a waste of time and money because of several reasons. They believe that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people should concentrate on their studies and careers. They do not earn yet and if they travel at a young age they are wasting their time as well as their parent's hard-earned money. What is more, they are not mature enough and may face problems while travelling such as food and language problems. Finally, they believe that today, the satellite TV and the internet has brought the whole world into their bedroom, so they should be doing other useful work instead of travelling.

On the other hand, travelling in young age has enormous benefits. It provides tremendous opportunities for fun, adventure and discovery. When young people visit places in other countries, they gain a better understanding of the people living there. They learn their cultures, history and background. They discover the similarities and differences. It is interesting to learn from people with diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, research suggests that traveling overseas at a young age leads to successful careers. It helps them decide what they want in life. Traveling when young can be a great platform to diversify one's experience early in life and to discover one's purpose in life. Each country, each city, even each restaurant a person visits is an opportunity to experiment something different. It is better to realize one's true desires and potential early in life than when it is too late.

To conclude, it can be said that although travelling at a young age involves time and money it is worthwhile and has a lot of benefits for the youth. So if the young people get the chance to broaden their horizons and go and experience new places it may make a world of difference to them.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people say it is a waste of time and money

Para 2: Why it is useful

Para 3:

Conclusion:

## 67. Some people believe that travelling alone really benefits in learning a country's culture and experience, while others believe it is better to travel with someone you know. Discuss both these views and share your opinion.

Nowadays there is a significant increase in global tourism. While some people argue that solo travel is good for learning the host country's culture and enriching your experience, many others believe that travelling with partners is better. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, some people believe that travelling alone can enable a person to learn different customs and gain more experience. This is because you are alone in an alien environment and all your focus is on absorbing your surroundings and noticing the people around you. For instance, you will discover how the local residents talk, dress and even walk. If you need any help, you will have to ask the natives of that place and by interacting with them you will be able to understand their nature also. If you are with your friends or family, you will be engrossed among them and may miss a lot of these observations. Thus, it is clear that why some people hold this point of view.

On the other hand, many argue that it is better to travel with friends as this can have many benefits. First of all, it would substantially lower the cost of travelling. To illustrate, you will share the cost of the hotel and food and at times you may get discounts for certain group activities. Thus, you can enjoy the journey with your friends and save money.

Furthermore, when you are with someone you know, you feel secure. After all, you are in unknown surroundings and there is always security in numbers. You can also learn the country's culture when you are with friends. You can discuss your observations with those of your fellow travelers and you may get to see things from a different perspective. After analyzing these points of view, it is easy to see why many support this claim.

In conclusion, travelling alone is good to understand the local culture and experience, but definitely travelling with friends or family has an edge over travelling alone as you lower your cost of travelling, feel secure and share your experiences.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of travelling alone

Para 2: Advantages of travelling with friends

Para 3: More advantages of travelling with friends

Conclusion:

## 68. Many people agree that free public transportation should be available in most major cities. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this idea?

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic congestion is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this approach.

Undoubtedly many people especially daily commuters would benefit from free public transport. But such a service would be a big burden on the governments, as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted, as it would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economical grounds to run free public transport.

There are plethora means to solve the traffic problems. The most effective would be to encourage people to use public transport. This could be done by decreasing the fare, increasing the comfort and increasing the frequency of public transport. Obviously, if people do not have to waste time waiting for the bus or train, get comfortable seats and have to pay far less than what they would have to spend on their own personal vehicle, then they would willingly choose public transport and would not mind paying for it. So this step would prove better than giving a totally free public transport.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people to use their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. This would be a win-win situation for the environment and the people.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement, as it would not be economically viable for the people. Therefore, it would not be the best method. The better methods would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Points for free public transport

Para 2: Points against and other better methods

Para 3: Better methods

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

## 69. Some people think visitors to other countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

Today, with the passage of time each and every country is on the path of development, and with this development there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a highly debated issue whether tourists should do and behave as the people of the host country or should the host country accept visitors as they are. Both situations have their own pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of adopting host countries customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People visit other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if tourists copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. The visitors become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture. To begin with, no country should cling to its own customs and traditions and accept the new customs and traditions brought by visitors. Secondly, there should be no binding on the visitors to adopt the customs and traditions of the hosts. For example, if the visitors are pure vegetarians, they should not be forced to eat non-vegetarian food just because the host country's people eat that.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country. This is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it is not reasonable to compel a believer of certain religion to ignore his religion in order to comply with the local customs.

Summing up, mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: benefits of adopting host countries customs

Para 2: reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

## 70. The level of noise around us is constantly increasing, and is affecting the quality of our lives. What cause the noise? What should be done about it?

Displeasing sound that interrupts the balance of human or animal life is known as "Noise pollution." It has harmful effects on the physiological and psychological health of human beings. It can cause heart problems, hearing problems, sleeplessness and mental health problems. This essay shall discuss the causes and possible solutions to reduce noise problems.

There are a plethora of causes of noise pollution. One of the major sources of noise pollution is the traffic noise. Transportation systems create noise pollution. The number of vehicles on the road is increasing day by day and hence the sound produced by them is no less than a nuisance and is chiefly responsible for the noise pollution. To add to it, industrial noise also leads to noise pollution. Machinery and motors used in the industries create a lot of noise.

Furthermore, the construction of buildings, highways and city streets also cause a lot of noise and hence lead to noise pollution. People living beside railway stations also have to put up with a lot of noise from engines, horns and whistles. Other causes are the loudspeakers usually used in marriages, social and religious functions. The noise is just jarring and harmful for the ears. It can cause sleep disruption. It can also cause deafening.

Because of the harmful effects, it becomes quite necessary to curb noise pollution and take measures and steps to control noise pollution. Roadside plantations are one of the great solutions to help in reducing noise pollution. Vegetation buffer zones must be created in different parts of the city. Changing the design and operation of machines like sound proof cabins and sound-absorbing materials can greatly help in reducing noise pollution. Residential buildings should be as far as possible from noise source. To block unwanted noise from outside soundproof doors and windows can be installed. The major cause of noise pollution in public areas is loudspeaker. For the welfare of the people it should be banned at any cost. Those who violate and play loudspeakers in crowded areas and public places strict laws should be imposed against them.

To conclude, there are various sources of noise pollution but many steps can be taken to reduce it.

### Plan followed

Intro: Problem solution essay intro.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

## 71. Some people say that popular tourist destinations are receiving bad effects from travelers. Why does this happen and what can be done to resolve this?

These days the pollution produced by tourists has threatened the natural environment of some tourist attractions, making it a big problem to be addressed before those places are completely damaged. This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason why people litter these tourist places is that they have little awareness of environmental conservation. People think that their one plastic bottle or one wrapper of chips does not matter. What they don't realize is that if each tourist has the same thought then very soon these natural scenic spots would turn into mountains of such litter. People also don't know that this rubbish is mostly of non-biodegradable material and will stay like that forever.

Another reason why people don't care is that they think it is not their responsibility. They think the onus of keeping these places clean rests on the authorities. They have to realize that the environment is everyone's responsibility. Finally, the environmental protection facilities are not enough in many tourist attractions. People would not litter these places if trashcans were there at regular intervals.

The first step towards sustainable tourism would be that the governments and tourist companies could educate the tourists about their responsibilities. Tourists should be made aware through the media and tour operators about responsible tourism. They should be made to realize that their careless attitude could kill future tourism and nothing would be left for the gen-next. Additionally, the authorities should have proper facilities at such places and if facilities are not enough according to the number of tourists then the number of tourists should be limited.

To conclude, it can be said that irresponsible tourism has led to damage of the natural environment and at many places the tourist places have been so much littered that they have ceased being a tourist attraction any more. The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government. One should remember the saying, "A good tourist is one who leaves behind nothing but footprints and takes away nothing but photographs."

### Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: they have little awareness of environmental conservation

Para 2: they think it is not their responsibility

the environmental protection facilities are not enough

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion: The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government

## 72. Tourism has caused environmental problems in many parts of the world. What sort of problems has been caused and what can be done about them?

Tourism and the environment have a very complex and interdependent relationship. Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with them. This essay intends to analyze the damage to environment caused by tourism and suggest ways to alleviate the problem.

To begin with, tourism development can put pressure on natural resources when it increases consumption in areas where resources are already scarce. For example, water, and especially fresh water, is one of the most critical natural resources. The tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. To cite another example of forest resource, one trekking tourist in Nepal - an area already suffering the effects of deforestation - can use four to five kilograms of wood a day.

Secondly, tourism can cause many forms of pollution such as air, noise and even visual pollution. Tourism now accounts for more than 60% of air travel. One study estimated that a single transatlantic return flight emits almost half the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by all other sources (lighting, heating, car use, etc.) consumed by an average person yearly. Noise pollution from airplanes, cars, and buses is an ever-growing problem of modern life. In areas with high concentrations of tourists, waste disposal is a serious problem and improper disposal can be a major despoiler of the natural environment - rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. For example, some trails in the Peruvian Andes and in Nepal frequently visited by tourists have been nicknamed "Coca-Cola trail" and "Toilet paper trail". Visual pollution occurs when large dominating resorts are built in any natural environment and may look out of place there.

Many steps could be taken to ameliorate the negative effects of tourism. The attainment of sustainable tourism is an urgent need. It implies balanced commercialization, resource conservation, waste disposal management and pollution control. Eco-tourism is the need of the day. Depending on the resources, only a fixed number of tourists should be allowed in any place. Tourists should be aware against littering and spoiling natural places. Sustained active role of firms and governments is considered vital for the future of tourism development.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that environmental issues have become pivotal in economics of tourism. Many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative effects of tourism.

### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Effects on environment

Para 2: More effects

Para 3: Solutions      Conclusion:

### 73. Some people believe that tourists do not learn anything during their holiday, while opponents believe they learn a lot of things. Discuss both views and opine.

The world has become smaller and we can now travel to even the remotest parts of the world. Some individuals opine that travellers don't learn anything new when they visit a new place. Others are of the view that travelling teaches myriad of things to the tourists. I intend to delve into both the perspectives in this essay. I, however, side with the latter view.

Some people reckon that travelling is not a learning experience. The main reason for that most people travel in groups with their family or friends. They do not mingle with the local people and do not try the local foods. Tourists usually look for their own cuisine or international food brands like McDonalds or KFC. Another reason is that people go on holidays to relax, rejuvenate and take a break from their routines. So, people mostly do not want to learn anything new when they travel to a new place. For instance, many tourists today simply check into resorts and don't move out of the resort for the entire duration of their stay.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that travelling brings a lot of learning with it. We not only get to experience a new way of life, but also learn about different cultures, history, food and languages. Furthermore, it makes us more responsible, independent and confident. We learn to plan and organize better. We come across different situations that help improve our decision-making and resource planning skills. Moreover, when we travel to a new place, we meet new people, make new friends and it helps build our social network. It also gives us an opportunity to get a different perspective on things, which broadens our horizons.

I believe that travelling is the best way to learn about a new culture, language, or history among many other things. I think that it is always an enriching experience and we become more aware about the world around us when we visit new places. Even if people do not go out of the resorts, it will still be a learning experience in terms of the social interaction with the staff of the resort or with other guests at the resort.

To conclude, I will reiterate that tourism offers tremendous opportunities for the travellers to discover, learn and grow. It will be wrong to say that tourists do not learn anything at all when they travel.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why some say that tourists don't learn anything

Para 2: Why some say that tourists learn a lot

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

## 74. Nowadays, more people are travelling to other countries. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative impact for the countries they travel to?

International tourism has become a huge industry as more and more people are travelling to other countries. This essay intends to delve into the reasons why people travel overseas, and also the positive and negative effects on the host country. I believe that the effects are largely positive.

There are many reasons for international travel nowadays. The main purpose is for holidaying. People like to see new places and meet new people and thus widen their horizons. Besides vacationing, tourism today has expanded and includes many other reasons. People do medical tourism when they go abroad for treatments of various illnesses. For example, our famous cricketer went abroad for getting treatment of lung cancer. Many people now come to India for complex surgeries. Secondly, people do business tourism to expand their business network. Then we have religious tourism, sports tourism, education tourism, political tourism, adventure tourism and many more types of tourism. The names are self-explanatory.

On the positive side, the host country's economy is boosted. Many people get jobs in tourism sector. Tourists spend on various things and everyone benefits. Secondly, people of the host country get chance of culture exchange. They get to know foreign cultures and get to spread their culture. Moreover, when the government sees the influx of tourists, it develops the infrastructure of the country, which also benefits the natives.

On the negative side, sometimes tourists destroy the beauty of the place when they throw litter here and there. Secondly, there is air pollution because of air travel. In addition, diseases such as swine flu and bird flu can spread like wildfires. Last but not least, terrorists can come in guise of tourists. Petty crime incidences are also there where too many tourists are seen.

To sum up, people travel abroad for many reasons and the effects on the host country are largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Positive effects

Para 3: Negative effects

Conclusion

## 75. Some people think it is better to travel by car in the city. Others, however, think traveling by bicycles is better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Travelling by bicycle is fun, healthy, environment friendly and an economical means of travelling within a city. However, some people opine that it is better to travel by a car in cities, than by bicycles. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I personally side with the view in favour of bicycles.

Undoubtedly, in today's world where global warming and climate change have become burning issues, bicycles can greatly help reduce the pollution. Studies have shown that cycling 10 km each way to work would save 1500 kg of greenhouse gas emissions.

Secondly, bicycle is an affordable and independent means of transport as well, especially for those who have restricted travel options, like the unemployed, those under 18 and the lower income people who cannot afford a car. Besides all these advantages, riding a bicycle for short distances within the city would keep people physically fit, which is very necessary in today's time, where people have sedentary lifestyles.

The proponents of car travel within the city say that in this fast-paced life, time is of the utmost importance. They think that the faster means of transport is what is needed in today's world to get to work, schools, business meetings, etc. However, the use of bicycles in the city would rather save time of people than waste their time. The cars move at a snail's pace especially during peak hours, which literally increases the commuting time two or three fold. Bicycles have actually reduced the commute time, which has been seen in Denmark, where the government has made 19000 km of bicycle tracks all over the country for the convenience of the people.

The supporters of car travel within the urban areas also opine that if the numbers of vehicles are reduced, it will have an adverse effect on the economy of the city and subsequently the country. This may be true to an extent, however, it will only be a short-term issue. In the long run, it will be very beneficial to any country's economy, if more and more people start using bicycles for travelling short distances and to and from work everyday. It will drastically decrease the hidden motor vehicle costs, such as accidents, congestion, pollution, road maintenance and so forth. This would be immensely beneficial at an individual level as well.

We cannot ignore the great advantages of travelling by a car and other motorized vehicles, especially when travelling long distances. However, for travel within the city people should be encouraged to use the eco-friendly and economical means of transport.

### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of bicycles

Para 2: More advantages of bicycles

Para 3: Advantages of car with refuting arguments

Para 4: Advantages of car with refuting arguments

Conclusion

## 76. Some people believe that taxing companies, which cause it, is the best way to reduce industrial pollution while some suggest that there are several other ways to solve this trouble. Discuss both the views and give your opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that industries, which cause pollution should be taxed heavily so as to reduce pollution, whereas others opine that pollution should be controlled by other means. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

Those who are in favour of taxing companies say so because it is these companies, which cause pollution and they should pay for cleaning it up. The ordinary people should not have to pay for it through taxes. Obviously, if government pays for it, it would be through the common man's pocket.

On the other hand, other methods to deal with the situation would be better. This is because it would be very difficult to judge which industries are causing how much pollution. They would all shrug off their shoulders and that would make matters worse. Secondly, these companies would claim that they are already paying a lot of taxes and so it becomes the governments' responsibility.

Other methods should be used to tackle this problem. To begin with, the government can make it mandatory for these industries to set up effluent-treatment plants. Government can also give them subsidies for such projects. This would ensure that these effluents don't contaminate the underground water. These industries should also be encouraged for tree plantation. They should have green belt all around them so that the trees absorb all the carbon dioxide liberated.

To conclude, taxing the industries would not work as a good solution for reducing pollution and other methods should be looked into.

Plan followed

**Intro:** Some individuals wish to reduce pollution by putting taxes on those companies, which cause it. However, I do not agree to this view.

**Para 1: advantages of taxing the companies** most of the students do not know about the advantages of this method

**Para 2: Why, taxing companies would not work-out.** about how to earn stuff at that method

**Para 3: Other methods** about how to earn stuff at that method

**Conclusion:** about how to earn stuff at that method

## 77. People generally know that the environment is important. However, most individuals still don't take responsibility to protect the environment. Why is this? What should be done to encourage people to protect the environment?

It is irrefutable that environmental damage is occurring at a very fast pace and people know that it is a global priority today to save the environment. However, when it comes to doing something, no one steps forward. This essay intends to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures to encourage people to think about the environment.

There are many reasons behind the indifferent attitude of people. The main reason is that we people don't know that we are also the cause of environmental damage. We don't realize that global warming is the result of billions of decisions. We are cutting down trees for our needs; we are using too many luxuries in the home; we are driving too many cars and we are wasting resources like fresh water. If only awareness is brought about these things then many people would take a step forward in this direction.

People are also not doing anything because they think that it is a global problem and only government action can solve it. What has to be made clear is that small measures taken at the individual level will take mammoth dimensions when mounted up. For example, in a country like India with a population of more than one billion, if each person plants a tree and nurtures it for the first few months, the result would be un-imaginable. We can all take simple steps like recycling things such as newspapers, plastics and glass. We could also walk for short distances instead of using our vehicles and for long distances we could use the public transport.

Another reason why people do little about the environment is that people have become very busy in their pursuit of wealth and fame that they have no time to think about the environment. What they don't realize that if nothing is done today, it might be too late tomorrow. The rate at which global warming is occurring would soon transform the Earth into a boiling pot and it would be un-inhabitable for us one day.

Summing up, the onus of saving the environment is not just on the shoulders of the governments and big industries. We all must come forward and do our bit to save the environment before it is too late. It has rightly been said—"little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the vast land"

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: People don't do anything because they don't realize that they are the cause of this damage

Para 2: People don't do anything because they think it is a big problem and can only be tackled by the government

Para 3: People don't do anything because they have no time

Conclusion:

## 78. Nowadays people are using more consumer goods like refrigerator or washing machine. Does this have more advantages or disadvantages?

Today we belong to an era of materialism and everyone wants to have more and more in life. Things like a fridge, TV and washing machine were the luxuries of yesteryears, but have become the necessities of today. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon but the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, the quest for material possessions is what keeps the society going. People work hard to fulfil their needs and achieve their goals. It is people's right to own the comforts of life. Secondly, because of the demand for such things, the national economy is boosted. Manufacturing units provide round-the-clock employment to thousands of people to produce things in bulk. Someone has rightly said that, "Be glad that you're greedy; the national economy would collapse if you weren't." What is more, when demand is more and mass production is done, then the cost of the things is cut down and the consumer is ultimately benefitted.

On the downside, this is leading to stress and strain in the lives of people. People have become workaholics and are missing out on the joys of family and social life. Sometimes, people even adopt unethical means to get these things and this leads to crime and violence. There is no harm in owning things such as a car, TV or fridge, but things turn bad when this simple materialism turns into over-materialism and people start wanting a TV in each and every room of the house and a car per person of the family. Our neighbours have a triple storey house and there is a refrigerator on every floor just for their comfort. People fail to draw the line between necessity and indulgence and this creates all problems. They fail to realize that - "If you live for having it all, what you have is never going to be enough."

The most significant disadvantage of excessive materialism is on the environment. Manufacturers promote their products through ads and people are lured into buying new things even without need. It is a bitter truth that a society in which consumption is artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand. For example, new models of TVs and refrigerators are introduced every other day and people just go and buy them even if they need those things or not. The disposal of old ones is adding to global litter and is destroying our environment.

To sum up, there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge and a washing machine, but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family.

### Plan followed

Intro: the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages

Para 1: Advantages of materialism

Para 2: Disadvantages of materialism

Para 3: Disadvantages of materialism

Conclusion: there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge, a TV and a car but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family

## 79. In many countries there is a lot of rubbish (garbage) because more and more people buy things. What are the causes? In your country, does it have the same problem?

Environmentalists today are campaigning for "reduce, recycle and re-use" in a bid to save the world, but many countries populace have adopted "replace" as their mantra. My country, India, is no exception. This and many other factors are leading to a highly consumerist society. In this essay, I shall discuss the causes of this consumerism and some steps that can be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, modern lifestyle has contributed greatly to the increasing amount of waste and garbage we produce every day. In other words, we have turned into a materialistic and mass-consumption society where we use more and throw away more than ever before. Once new things are acquired, we dispose-off these "unwanted" things to second hand shops or just in the trash cans. The solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible.

Secondly, the markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items. Our houses and closets seem to be overflowing with goods that are more in quantity and less in value. Then, there is too much packaging done by the companies in a bid to make their things more attractive. Here too, the onus lies with us. We should not buy things with excessive packaging. This will deter companies from doing too much packaging. We can also bring our own personal shopping bags instead of using plastic bags provided by stores and shops. Besides, the government can enforce stricter laws on companies to use biodegradable packaging.

Furthermore, plastics, waste metal, glass can be recycled. Companies can also contribute by developing new raw material, which is recyclable and will ultimately lead to less garbage.

To sum up, individuals, business and the government can share the responsibility to reduce the amount of waste material and to save the earth. If we do not take steps to tackle this problem on a war footing, our Earth will become un-inhabitable.

Plan followed

Intro: In this essay, I shall discuss the factors which are leading to consumerism and some steps that can be taken to solve this problem

Para 1: reason and solution

Para 2: reason and solution

Para 3: The answer lies in recycling

Conclusion –

## 80. The amount of garbage produced by our cities is a big problem for governments around the world. How can this problem be fixed?

Cities are producing more garbage than ever before and the amount is likely to double by 2025. This essay intends to study the ways to tackle this, global garbage crises.

Most contemporary waste management efforts are focused at local government level and based on high-energy waste disposal by methods such as landfill and incineration or burning. However these methods are becoming increasingly expensive and energy inefficient. Therefore we have to focus on other sustainable methods for waste disposal.

The first way to deal with waste is waste minimization. This is an approach that aims to reduce the production of waste through education and the adoption of improved production processes and less wasteful practices. Ultimately, by discarding less and preferring durable goods and through appropriate handling methods, consumers can lessen the waste generated. We should reflect on what we really need and what we can do without.

Secondly, we should focus on the mantra of 'reuse'. Most materials are made from nature, such as trees, minerals, oil, gas and metals. The waste we create is really a resource that is thrown away sometimes after a single use. Reusing and then recycling these materials helps limit resource use, keeps valuable materials out of landfills, and prevents pollution. When we reuse things, fewer materials are wasted and non-renewable resources are conserved.

Thirdly, we should recycle things. As much as 80 percent of everyday waste materials can be recycled and given new life when broken down and used again and again. Recycling still uses energy and resources, but it's much better than making things from scratch. For example, every ton of newspapers recycled saves approximately 17 to 19 trees and over 70 percent less energy is needed to produce aluminum from recycled cans than from raw materials.

Another important step we can all take at household level is composting. Organic materials (food scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, yard waste, etc.) make up about 30 percent of the garbage going to landfill. Instead of wasting this valuable material by throwing it in the garbage, it can be composted. Composting waste has two key benefits: it reduces the amount of waste going to landfills and it produces a free natural fertilizer that helps build healthy soil and plants, achieving a healthier environment.

To sum up, solid waste generation is becoming a colossal problem, but we can deal with it in many ways. The time has come to stop waste before it stops us.

Plan followed:                  Intro:

Para1: Contemporary methods being used

Para 2: Reduce

Para 3: Reuse

Para 4: Recycle

Para 5: Composting

Conclusion:

## 81. In spite of technological developments in transportation, many people believe that bicycle is the best way to reach any destination. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using bicycle nowadays?

A bicycle is a mechanism that has transported man for many decades. Nowadays, many people use bicycle to move from one place to another in short distances. I believe that by riding a bicycle, people can decrease gasoline consumption, improve the quality of their lives, and protect the environment. This essay shall discuss the pros and cons of riding a bicycle in today's scenario.

The first benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can cause a decrease of pollution. Because many people use their cars to move short distances, they increase the rates of pollution causing more pollution problems to our environment. That is why the use of a bicycle for short distances is a really good idea to help lower the rates of pollution.

The second benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can help lower petrol or diesel consumption. If you use a bicycle or a car to move to a place that is near your home, you will decrease the petrol or diesel consumption of your car. This can save you a lot of money because the price of these fossil fuels is expensive. Maybe, it is the laziness of some people who use their cars to drive to places that are near their homes. However, this habit of driving causes an increase of gasoline consumption.

Finally, the most important benefit of riding a bicycle on short trips is that it can help you have good health. When you ride a bicycle, you use your legs to move, and this physical exercise is aerobic which means that your heart is pumping blood throughout your body, so it fortifies your heart, lungs, and other important parts of your body.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of riding a bicycle in the contemporary world cannot be denied. Heavy traffic has become the norm of the day and bicycle has become unsafe, especially where there are no separate lanes for bicycles. Moreover, it is more time consuming as compared to car or other forms of transport. Finally, if the weather is not favourable, it is impossible to ride a bicycle.

To sum up, these are some excellent reasons to ride a bicycle. I think that we need to make a distinction when it is better to use a car or a bicycle. We need to keep in mind that riding a bicycle will provide us with health and other benefits. That is why if we use a bicycle, it can improve the quality of life of the person who owns it.

### Plan followed

Intro:

- Para 1: First benefit - decrease of pollution
- Para 2: Second benefit - save you a lot of money
- Para 3: Final benefit – help you have good health
- Para 4: Disadvantages Conclusion:

## 82. Most countries allow 18 year olds to start driving a car. Some say it is good to allow at that age. Others think that the age to start driving should be at least 25 years. Discuss both views and opine.

People are divided on the legal age of starting to drive a car. Many countries issue a licence at the age of 18. However, some believe that this age should be raised to 25. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I side with the latter view.

There are convincing arguments to support that the age of 18 is good enough to be officially allowed to drive. This is the official age of adulthood in many countries, including my country, India. So, if a person is considered mature enough to be given voting rights, then he is mature enough to be given driving rights. Another argument, which goes in favour of the younger age for getting driving licence, is that most of the accidents are because of inexperience and not age. A 25 year old may also cause the same accidents. So, instead of raising the driving age, the driving test conducted before issuing the licence should be done with proper vigil.

On the other hand, if the age of legally being able to drive is raised to 25, then the number of accidents happening on the roads would definitely come down. This is because many youngsters do fast and rash driving just to show off and get attention. In doing so, they are harming not only themselves, but also other innocent people who come their way. Another very important benefit would be to the environment. The use of public transport would increase, as people would be forced to use the public transport till they are 25 years old. This might promote the use of public transport in general, even after they get their own rights to drive.

I believe that the age of driving should be raised to 25, because maturity to understand the rules of driving is definitely more at 25 than it is at 18. Secondly, it would be a big saving for those parents, who have to buy independent vehicles for their 18 year olds, and then give them money every month for fuel. All this expenditure could be deferred for 7 years. The cost of public transport would definitely be less. The use of bicycles, which do not need any licence, would also go up.

To sum up, getting a driving licence at 18 or 25, both have their pros and cons, but keeping the environment and health into consideration, I believe that the age of 25 has an edge over the age of 18.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why 18 is a good age for getting driving licence

Para 2: why 25 is considered a good age

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

### 83. Some people say that giving a smaller amount of money weekly to children will help them become more capable as they grow older. Do you agree or disagree?

I definitely agree that providing children with a little amount of pocket money on a weekly basis is helpful to their development. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Firstly, giving children a small amount of money instills in them a sense of independence and responsibility towards spending the money the right way. They learn and understand that the amount of money is limited and they need to always choose between their various desires to ensure correct use of their pocket money. Children get into the habit of planned income and expenditure. They also learn about saving and budgeting. For e.g. if they want to buy a present for their mother's birthday, they will need to put aside some amount of money every month to collect the commensurate amount and buy the gift.

Secondly, parents who issue their children a minute weekly allowance encourage the development of their child's sense of responsibility. It makes them feel an important part of the family since they know that they get a part of the family's monthly income. Furthermore, giving your child a set amount every week can work out much cheaper in the long run provided you don't top it up with more money if your child runs out of money. Parents who don't give pocket money but buy children whatever they need would be surprised if they just total the amount they spend on their children's desires every week.

What is more, when children are given the independence to buy things themselves they become more aware of how much things cost, therefore they begin to see the value in the things they already have and other household items more clearly. They may start to treat the DVD player or PlayStation with a bit more respect, for example, and realize that with their limited money, they can't just run out to the shops and buy a new games console if the other one breaks. Giving pocket money to their kids saves a lot of time for grownups to buy small things for their children. They can utilize this time for other important tasks.

After analyzing how giving children a little cash on a weekly basis develops their financial comprehension and level of responsibility, it has been proven that this practice is more positive than negative. Thus, parents are encouraged to consider adopting this regime.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para1: 1<sup>st</sup> reason – learn and understand the value of money

Para 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> reason – encourage the development of a child's sense of responsibility.

3<sup>rd</sup> reason – can work out cheaper in the long run

Para 3: they begin to see the value of things they already have

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

#### 84. Nowadays plastic money replacements such as credit and debit cards are extremely popular, even more than banknotes and coins. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Include your personal opinion and examples based on your own experience.

The ease in swiping a credit card for a purchase has made it very popular nowadays. Therefore, many opine that this plastic money will replace the coins and paper money in future. I believe that it is both a positive as well as a negative development. The weight of the merits and demerits of credit card is in the hands of the user.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, people can use them practically everywhere, even overseas. Credit cards can also boost peoples' purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills through credit card.

Furthermore, credit cards allow you to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when you make purchases using the credit card you can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of your expenses, helping you to monitor your financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once a person falls behind by one payment, then late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast, because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out. Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fee, the processing fee and also the annual fee, which is quite an amount. Additionally, one of the most overlooked negative aspects to credit cards is the ease with which cardholders overspend. The psychology behind this is simple. Cardholders purchase items without ever exchanging actual money, so they don't get the feel of spending. Finally, people have to be cautious when they use their credit card for online transactions. It can be hacked and misused, if the site is not secure. Misuse can also happen if they lose their credit card. They have to report promptly if such a thing happens.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: More disadvantages

Conclusion:

## 85. Many people believe money is a very important factor for achieving happiness. Others, however, believe that money has nothing to do with happiness. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is irrefutable that money can bring ease and comfort in a person's life. However, the negative side of having too much money cannot be overlooked. This essay shall look into the advantages and disadvantages of having too much money.

It is easy to see how money can enrich our lives and make us happy. The world runs on money. The basic amenities of life such as food clothing and shelter can be got only with money. You can trade money for almost anything. With money one can buy all comforts and luxuries of life. One can study in the best schools and colleges and can also enjoy the best health services. Money is needed to enjoy holidays with family and with money one can bring smiles on the lips of one's nears and dears.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why people say that having a lot of money has no relation with happiness. To begin with, the richer you are the more taxes you have to pay. You will also have to keep track of what you have. You may have to pay people to keep accounts of all of your holdings. Money may become an obsession; it can alter your perception of life; you may stop trusting even your true friends. In this way, it can alter your social behaviour. Too much money won't let you see every day's little pleasures.

It can be said that the excess of money is as bad as the lack of money. The poor person is certainly not happy, nor can happiness be seen in a very rich person. Happiness is in contentment. There are many things which money can't do. For example, money can buy you a pretty good dog, but it cannot buy the wag of his tail. Money can buy books, but not knowledge; money can buy medicines, but not health and money can buy a bed but not sleep.

To conclude, definitely money is needed for everything in life. However, excess of money has its downside. Therefore, one should be satisfied with just enough. However, how much is 'enough' is a very difficult question to answer.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree with both halves of the statement

Para 1: Advantages of having money and too much money

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much money

Para 3: Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of too much money. The excess of money is as bad as the lack of money

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**86. Many people spend a lot of money on clothes, haircuts, and beauty products to enhance their appearance. Some people think that it is a good way to spend money, while others think that there is a better way to spend it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

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For centuries, men and women have beautified their eyes, lips and body. However, in today's contemporary society, people are spending excessively on their looks. Some people opine that this expenditure is justified, but others are opposed to this overspending. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

This disproportionate spending on their façade appeals to many because it is a general perception that when you look good, you feel better; when you feel better, you behave better; when you behave better, the people around you tend to respond to you positively. There is no doubt that fashionable clothes, stylish haircuts and high quality beauty products can turn any ugly duckling into a beautiful swan.

Secondly, in today's competitive era, looks are very important, so much so that some professions are totally dependent on looks. Many film stars have got face-lifts and other cosmetic surgeries done on their faces to look younger and thus be in job for longer. Even in some other jobs such as receptionists in offices and air-hostesses, looks are given weightage over other things.

On the other hand, some people opine that such extravagant expenditure on looks is unreasonable. They say that one should save or invest money to build a bright future. That money can also be spent on quality education in a reputed university. Some money should also be donated for charity.

I believe that looks are important and it is everyone's right to look their best. However, one must remember that ultimately what matters is the inner 'you'. It is more important to be beautiful from within. What is more, these products are not without their side effects. Too many products used on hair and face may damage the hair and skin permanently. Therefore, one must not overspend on these things.

To conclude, outrageous spending on improving looks is bad. The outer appearance may have a temporary appeal but what ultimately matters is the person within.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss

Para 1: Why spend

Para 2: Why not spend

Para 3: Why not spend – own opinion

Conclusion

**87. Some people think spending a lot on birthdays and marriage celebrations is a waste of money but others think it is important to the young people and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Celebrations such as birthdays and marriages are an important part of everyone's life. However, it is matter of intense dispute whether spending a lot on such events is a waste of money or whether it is significant for the youth and society as a whole. This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before coming to a conclusion.

There are many reasons why some people opine that having big weddings and birthdays is good for the youth and the society. They believe that such events are very special should be celebrated with great pomp and show. As it is the youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth. Secondly, in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them. They believe that spending on such events is good to revive the community spirit among people.

On the other hand, there are those who are against such frivolous spending. They say that such days can be celebrated in simple way with only a few relatives and friends. There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful. To cite an example, our great celebrity, Amitabh Bacchan celebrated his daughter's and son's wedding very simply with only a few friends and relatives.

Another reason, which goes against overspending on such events is that many a time people go into debt in order to keep up with their affluent friends and relatives. This one day may give them stress for many days or even months later on. What is more, if we want to be rid of dowry system and female foeticide then it is very essential that we keep these celebrations simple and easy on our pockets so that there is no stress on anyone.

In my opinion, those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society. It is essential to celebrate such days. Celebrations bring a break from the routine and give us "milestones" for our life. Celebration reminds us that we belong to a larger community, be it a family, a nation, or anything in between. However, it is not necessary to make them very big.

To sum up, it can be said that celebrating such events is important for the youth and society but it is not necessary to overspend on them.

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced view as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: For spending on these events

Para 2: Against such frivolous spending

Para 3: My opinion.

Conclusion:

**88. There are an increasing number of serious crimes committed each year. While some people say that the best way would be to use death penalty as a deterrent, many people say that other measures will be needed. Discuss both sides and opine.**

Death penalty is based on the principle of retributive justice. Supporters of capital punishment argue that it is morally justified in cases of heinous crimes such as murders and mass killings. Others opine that other measures to curb crime should be employed. This essay intends to analyse both views. I, personally oppose capital punishment with some concessions for the heinous criminals.

Supporters of death penalty believe people who commit murder, have taken the life of another, have forfeited their own right to life. Furthermore, life imprisonment is a drain on public finances. Maintaining a secure prison system for high-risk, violent offenders act as a drain on government resources. Then it has a deterrent effect on potentially violent offenders for whom the threat of imprisonment is insufficient restraint. Finally, in many countries with capital punishment, a vast majority of citizens are in favor of retaining capital punishment. A survey held after the Delhi rape incident of Dec 2012, found that nearly 70% of Indians favored the continuance of capital punishment.

On the other hand, there are many arguments, which go against capital punishment. Firstly, innocent people get killed, because of mistakes or flaws in the justice system. For example, in 2012, 13 convicts had been erroneously sentenced to death (according to the Supreme Court's own admission) and were facing the threat of imminent execution. They were found innocent and were pardoned on the appeal of 14 former judges of various high courts.

Secondly, the death penalty doesn't seem to deter people from committing serious violent crimes. According to a survey conducted by the UN, executions do not have a greater deterrent effect than life imprisonment. Moreover, in countries with costly and lengthy appeals procedure like India, capital punishment becomes more expensive option than long-term imprisonment. It is also argued that it is used more often against perpetrators from racial and ethnic minorities and from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, than those coming from a privileged background.

To sum up, death penalty should be there only for the very serious crimes, such as mass killings and murders, but in all other cases life-imprisonment is better. Every person should be given a chance to reform. Oscar Wilde has rightly said that, "Every saint has a past, and every sinner a future."

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Points for

Para 2: Points against

Para 3: Points against

Conclusion:

## **89. Most of the people in the society enjoy watching crime movies and criminal TV programmes. Why do you think people have more interest to watch them? What is the impact to the society due to this?**

It is irrefutable that crime and violent world events are among the most frequently watched topics on TV and in films. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this phenomenon and also discuss the effects of this on society.

The most important reason for this is obviously that such shows and movies aware people about the crime and violence happening in the society, and they can thus avoid landing into such situations. For example, through the television shows such as 'Crime Patrol' and 'Savdhan India', which are based on true stories, people can be alert of such things happening around them.

Secondly, people watch such movies and TV programs purely for entertainment. They get the thrill out of watching such shows and movies. The TV channels also telecast more and more of such shows as they want to increase their TRP (television rating point). If any channel has high TRP, it gets more adverts and hence more revenue.

There are many positive and negative effects on the individuals and society. On the positive side, the people are abreast of the crime around them and can take protective steps, as and when needed. On the other hand, the most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Media violence can stimulate fear in some children as it frightens them, making the effects long lasting. This can become traumatic in our children as they see it more and more. Children are starting to grow and are shaping their personality, values and beliefs. They can become aggressive or they can lose a sense of reality and fiction of what they are seeing.

Furthermore, young people imitate what they see, and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers, as the streets are full of violence. Too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people, and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes also don't make people shed a tear any more.

Summing up, there are many reasons why people love to see too much violence on TV and in movies. These have a lot of detrimental effects on the individuals and society.

**Plan followed**

**Intro:** I shall discuss the reasons of this phenomenon and discuss its effects on society..

**Para 1:** Reasons for this phenomenon

**Para 2:** One useful effect and harmful effects on the individuals and society

**Para 3:** More harmful effects

**Para4:** Solutions

**Conclusion:**

## 90. Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. Some hold the view that education and job training are the long-term solutions to cut crime. In my opinion, prison is the only answer in a few situations, but in most cases education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. Some people also say that people would not be afraid of doing crime if fear of imprisonment is not there. But I still feel that in majority of cases, we can do without prisons.

In traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they will commit even more crime. In other words prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shop-lifters and pick-pockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be removing the causes of crime. If criminals are rehabilitated by some form of employment then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden from the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be sent to prison. Focus should be on reforming them.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: partially agree

Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which prison is the only answer -

Para 2: Why prison is not the answer -

Para 3: Maintaining prisons is a burden on the govt.

Conclusion:

## 91. Some people say that the main purpose of television should be education, while others say it should be for entertainment only. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

People are divided on the purposefulness of television. Some believe that TV should primarily be for education, whereas others opine that TV should be for entertainment. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, believe that television should equally fulfil the role of educator and entertainer.

Television has been given considerable importance in many countries as a source and a tool of teaching. Television is used for formal and non-formal education. To support formal education, television can be attached with school curriculum and time-tables. It can enhance quality in education and reduce dependence on verbal teaching and teachers. It can stimulate learning and give opportunity for mass education.

In non-formal education, television can directly or indirectly teach many things. Television benefits the masses by making them conscious of the environment, their rights, duties and privileges. It is a source of teaching etiquettes, language skills, hobbies, social relations and religious beliefs.

On the other hand, the role of television in entertainment is indubitable. As in this contemporary, busy world, majority of people lead a stressful life, and they require a sort of passive entertainment to feel relaxed. There are countless channels on TV providing entertainment in the form of soaps, video songs, movies, and game shows. Thus, every person irrespective of his age group can find something interesting to see on TV. Moreover, today smart TV is capable to record our favorite program, which we can enjoy in our free time. Same way, it also offers thousand of games to play.

I believe that TV is simultaneously doing both – entertainment and education. Even the daily soaps that we see have some social education. So the role of TV is overlapping as far as education and entertainment are concerned.

To sum up, television is equally meant for education and entertainment both. To use it solely for education or for entertainment would be wrong.

Plan followed

Intro: Equal role

Para 1: Role in education

Para 2: Role in education

Para 3: Role in entertainment

Conclusion:

## 92. Some people believe that watching TV is good and makes life more enjoyable. Others, however, feel that it is a waste of time. Do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.

Some individuals opine that TV adds joy and fun to our lives, whereas others believe that it is a total waste of time. In my opinion, both perspectives have some element of truth in them. TV is our source of happiness, but only if we know where to draw the line. Otherwise, it can eat away all our leisure time and we would miss out on many other things, which could bring us greater joy than this idiot box.

On the one hand, the usefulness of TV in entertaining us cannot be denied. There is a huge variety of TV shows available. It is a nice way to relax after a busy day. In this day and age of global competition, everyone is leading busy and hectic lives. Due to such busy routines, people are not able to take out time for leisure, like in the past. They do not have time to meet their friends and relatives very often. They can remain in the comforts of their home and watch shows of their choice.

Secondly, TV keeps us up-to-date with what is going on all around, and it can also be very educational. It is now possible to see new places, learn about their culture and food, without visiting those places. Not only that, through this armchair tourism, we can see animals, which we may not get a chance to see in reality. Watching TV can be coupled with some other task such as walking on the treadmill. In all these ways, TV has enriched our lives.

On the other hand, TV has destroyed social interaction. In a recent survey it was seen that an average person watches approximately 3 hours of TV per day, which accounts for more than half the leisure time in a 24-hour day. More productive things could be done in that time, such as playing with other children, reading books, doing homework and so on.

Another reason, which goes against TV is that some of the shows that teenagers watch are very negative and destructive to their mind. On top of that, many youngsters have started developing unhealthy habits in front of the TV. Snacking while watching TV is very common and these things make people obese and lazy. It has been proven that the more time a person spends sitting in life, the sooner he is going to die. Being active is one of the most important necessities of a person's body. Leisure time we have is limited, so the onus is on us not to waste it on wasteful TV viewing.

To sum up, watching TV is good entertainment, But if we don't limit our TV viewing time, it can prove to be a sheer wastage of time.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: How TV is entertaining

Para 2: How it is a waste of time

Para 3: How it is a waste of time

Conclusion:

### 93. Among Internet, radio, TV and newspaper, which has the greatest effect on the social activity of people? Tell reasons.

In the last 50 years the media influence has grown exponentially with the advancement of technology. Each of these four media - internet, TV, newspapers and radio - impacts the social life of the people in different ways. All these media shape people's opinions, provides entertainment and information, is a link between the government and the people and helps in providing justice at times. All these media have their own importance and uniqueness. However, TV has the greatest influence on society as it is the most pervasive of all media.

Newspapers have better breadth, which means that a large number of items, issues and viewpoints can be covered. They also have better depth, which implies news can be presented in detail. Newspapers can also be read and re-read at one's convenience, as opposed to being scheduled to run only during fixed time periods as is the case with TV and radio. The disadvantage of newspaper is that the ability to comprehend news in print depends on educational and literacy level, which is a clear-cut advantage in case of radio and TV.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. People listen to radio while they dress and eat in the morning, commute to and from work, perform work or study, have meals and so on. Radio news reporters can provide live, local coverage in a timely manner. However, the television has an edge over radio as it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more appealing. With the appearance of all-news cable television networks, it is now possible to bring news coverage of important global events instantaneously.

The Internet is the newest source of news and is fast becoming popular among the computer literate sections of society. However, its usage depends on availability and affordability. Theoretically, we can say that the Internet incorporates characteristics from ALL of the traditional media, such as sight, sound and online versions of newspapers and magazines. The youth are the most influenced by the Internet. The social network sites on the Internet have made it possible for the youth to have the widest circle of friends.

To conclude, all these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. It is very difficult to pin point which one is the best. The television, however, is the most pervasive news media.

Plan followed

Intro: Tell how media affects people. TV has the maximum impact

Para 1: advantages of newspapers

Para 2: Advantages of TV and radio with some comparison

Para 3: Advantages and limitations of the Internet especially on youth

Conclusion: very difficult to pin point which is the best. All have unique characteristics.

#### 94. Radio will no longer be able to hold its presence, as television and Internet media will replace it very soon. Do you agree or disagree?

In the past, radio was considered the most convenient and important source of information. Even today, despite the emergence of other media such as the TV and the internet, the radio has held its place as an important mass medium. I strongly disagree that the radio will lose its importance in the future. In fact its popularity will grow even further. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

One of the main reasons why radio will retain its value is because of the fact that driving has become very popular across the world as a way of life. Radio is a regular piece of equipment installed in a car, and to car users, listening to the radio while driving is an effective means of taking full advantage of their time and gaining the latest information, such as news, weather forecast, share markets, and so forth. As car use is likely to increase in future, the popularity of radio will also grow.

Secondly, for those people who have no time to watch TV, radio provides immediate and easy access to information. Another advantage of its continued popularity is that it is highly affordable. Radio broadcasting is free to the public, unlike the TV on which one has to pay for the channels of choice. Furthermore, the radio is portable. On the occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

The newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio. For example, people can get radio via satellite, the internet and cable nowadays. There are many other electronic devices, such as MP3 and MP4 players, which allow people to listen to the radio more easily and to use it for various entertainments, such as sharing their music collections. The only disadvantage of the radio is that it is unable to convey messages with sight and motion, as television or internet do. However, the radio is still able to serve the needs of audiences as it always did.

To conclude, the radio has many advantages that give it an edge over TV and the internet. Therefore, it will always remain popular.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Advantages while driving

Para 2: highly affordable. – even radio broadcast is free //Portable

On the occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

Para 3: The newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio.

Conclusion:

## 95. Nowadays people depend on newspapers, radios, television and the Internet for news and information. Which in your opinion is the best way for getting news and why?

People receive news from different sources. This essay shall compare four popular media from which people receive news - newspapers, radio, television and the Internet and then come to a conclusion as to the best one out of these four.

Newspapers have better breadth, which means that a large number of items, issues and viewpoints can be covered. They also have better depth, which implies news can be presented in detail. Newspapers can also be read and re-read at one's convenience, as opposed to being scheduled to run only during fixed time periods as is the case with TV and radio. The disadvantage of newspaper is that the ability to comprehend news in print depends on educational and literacy level, which is a clear-cut advantage in case of radio and TV.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. People listen to radio while they dress and eat in the morning, commute to and from work, perform work or study, have meals and so on. Radio news reporters can provide live, local coverage in a timely manner. However, the television has an edge over radio as it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more appealing. With the appearance of all-news cable television networks, it is now possible to bring news coverage of important global events instantaneously.

The internet is the newest source of news and is fast becoming popular among the computer literate sections of society. However, its usage depends on availability and affordability. Theoretically, we can say that the Internet incorporates characteristics from ALL of the traditional media, such as sight, sound and online versions of newspapers and magazines.

To conclude, all these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. It is very difficult to pin point which one is the best. The television, however, is the most pervasive news media.

Plan followed

Intro: Opinion to be reached after comparing the four media.

Para 1: advantages of newspapers

Disadvantage

Para 2: Advantages of TV and radio with some comparison

Para 3: Advantages and limitations of the Internet

Conclusion: very difficult to pin point which is the best. All have unique characteristics.