

### 3. Cause and effect essay

"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."

Write the introduction and two or three topic sentences for the main body.

#### Introduction

#### Paraphrase

One of contemporary issues of the population health is the increase in the percentage of overweight children.

#### Outline

This essay will suggest unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyle as the main causes of this trend and discuss the possible effects, such as a decrease in life expectancy and economic downfall.

#### Main body

##### First topic sentence (describe causes)

Arguably the obesity among children can be caused by the unhealthy eating habits, which are common in the population. As the most

##### Second topic sentence (describe effects)

accessible and low-priced types of food are processed foods and foods with low nutrition value, the majority of population, who cannot afford healthier options, are forced by the market to have unhealthy diets. This gives rise to various metabolic issues, especially among children where organisms are fragile in development.

Another trend that accounts for children being overweight is the sedentary lifestyle, that most people nowadays, including children lead. Reduced physical activity prevents children from healthy bodily development and the burning of calories that children get with food. From this stems the increase in the overweight population.

From this issue, in their own time several future problems can spring. One of them is poor health of the future population, that will surely cause a decrease in life expectancy and the quality of life. As well as this, economic downfall can occur owing to the poor quality of the workforce and decreased amount of economically active years that people have.

result	due to (negative connotation) owing to because of on account of as a result of as a consequence thanks to (positive) is caused by (negative) is brought about by spring/stem from – брать начало	cause
cause	as a consequence result in cause (negative connotation) give rise to lead to (about political and social change) bring about (about political and social change) account for spark off (for sudden, very strong reaction; often negative) produce	effect /result

put  
down

More and more roads are being build and **as a consequence** air pollution is rising.

International cooperation has improved **as a consequence** of globalization.

**Thanks to** his intelligence he managed to find the solution to that math problem.

Literacy rates have improved **thanks to** better primary education.

Many politicians believe that the increase in crime **is due to** the rising poverty levels.

Violence in films has probably **caused** crime to rise.

Intensive farming **has led to** many smallholders becoming unemployed.

His desperate need to be liked **stems from (springs from)** a deep sense of insecurity.

- 3 Read the introductory paragraphs from three student essays. Then answer questions 1 and 2.

#### Mika's essay

People have different views about the role of arts subjects in secondary-school timetables. Some people believe that they have a beneficial impact on students' learning, while others feel they are simply a form of creative relaxation. I agree with the former statement because I believe that they play a vital part in educational development.

#### Tom's essay

Obviously, success at school does not depend on study alone; it's true that arts subjects may help develop qualities in students that will further their educational achievement. However, non-exam subjects should never override the importance of academic subjects, such as maths and English.

#### Dhillon's essay

In today's world, the importance of academic subjects has grown. So I tend to feel that school time should be spent on things that help students achieve good grades and get to university, rather than on subjects that have no purpose within the school environment.

- 1 Underline the words each writer uses to introduce his/her view.  
2 When you write your essay, you need to have a clear position throughout. Whose introduction:  
a agrees with the statement?  
b disagrees with the statement?  
c mentions both sides of the statement?
- 4 Work in pairs. Read the second paragraphs from Mika's and Tom's essays. Then answer questions 1–3 in the next column.

#### Mika's essay

It is generally thought that activities in the arts can help students learn how to work in a team. A student who takes part in a theatrical production has to co-operate with other members of the cast, with the aim of producing a successful final show. The same is true of musicians who play in an orchestra. They also have to work together to produce the best sound. I would suggest that experiences like these can enhance a student's ability to work with different types of people and participate successfully in a group project.

#### Tom's essay

People who value art lessons claim that it is important to exercise the imagination. This, they say, is likely to have a beneficial impact, due to the fact that students get a break from intellectual pursuits. On the other hand, others would argue that students have a lot of schoolwork to complete and they need to feel they have time to do this, otherwise they will get stressed. Art, it seems, can have a positive influence on students, but it could also undermine their sense of well-being.

- 1 Underline the sentences in each paragraph that state the main idea. Are the ideas the same as any of your ideas from Exercise 2?  
2 Which sentences support the main idea in each paragraph? What type of support does each writer use: reasons or examples?  
3 How is Mika's second paragraph different from Tom's?

- 4 Key grammar: *Expressing purpose, cause and effect*  
5 Underline phrases in Mika's and Tom's paragraphs in Exercise 4 where they introduce their own and other people's opinions.

page 114 *Introducing arguments*

- 6 IELTS students often make mistakes introducing arguments. Find and correct the mistakes in these sentences.
- Personally, I agree the view that music helps you relax.
  - Nowadays, as some teachers claimed, schools need arts subjects more than ever.
  - I'm tend to agree with the idea that dance helps children express themselves.
  - It is generally believe that drama activities should be provided for all students.

- 7 Use phrases for introducing opinions to express agreement or disagreement with each of these views.

- Art helps children to make sense of the world. *Many experts would argue that art helps children to make sense of the world.*
- Drama classes foster creativity and self-expression.
- Classical music is more relaxing than modern music.
- Actors are born, not made.
- Formal education fails to encourage creative expression.

8 Write out Mika's third paragraph by re-ordering these sentences. Add one or two phrases to introduce the arguments.

- a It might be something concrete like a painting or object, or it might be something abstract like a piece of music.
- b This sense of achievement may then stimulate someone to achieve more in other subjects.
- c Another way in which the arts can help students is that they can improve self-confidence.
- d Both types of product need plenty of time and creativity and, as a result, can make someone feel very proud of the outcome.
- e This is because art is often about making a product.

9 Write a conclusion to Mika's essay.

10 Analyse, brainstorm, plan and write an answer to this Writing task. Take about 40 minutes and write at least 250 words.

Write about the following topic.

*Some modern artists receive huge sums of money for the things they create, while others struggle to survive. Governments should take steps to resolve this unfair situation.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

#### Exam advice Writing Task 2

- Your introductory paragraph should start with a general statement about the topic and state your position.
- Keep your position clear throughout your answer.
- Make sure the sentences in each paragraph follow a logical sequence.
- Support your main ideas with reasons, examples and consequences.
- Summarise your position in the final paragraph, but don't introduce new points or ideas.



## Key grammar

Expressing purpose, cause and effect

1 Underline these words/phrases in Exercise 4 on page 48. Then put them in the correct column of the table below, according to whether they express a purpose, a cause or an effect.

with the aim of to otherwise

purpose	cause	effect
with the aim of	because of	otherwise
in order to	due to	for
so that	for	as a result

2 Add these words/phrases to the table in Exercise 1.

as a result because of for in order to so that

3 Complete each of these sentences with the correct word/phrase from the table. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 The students study drama throughout their school lives. As a result they have high levels of self-confidence.
- 2 The artist was awarded a government grant so that he could work on his project full time.
- 3 You have to start with something easy in order to develop your painting skills over time.
- 4 Theatre audiences have been smaller over the past year due to because of the economic recession.
- 5 People sometimes go to museums ... for social purposes, such as to meet their friends.
- 6 I have to feel that an artist has some talent, otherwise I don't have any respect for their work.

► page 113 Expressing purpose, cause and effect

4 Choose the correct option in each of these sentences.

- 1 The majority of people enjoy music due to / because it helps them relax.
- 2 Working in a gallery is interesting because / because of the wide variety of customers.
- 3 Governments should fund more courses as a result / so that there is greater choice.
- 4 I strongly disagree with that statement because of / for the following reasons.
- 5 Children use art to express themselves. Otherwise / On the other hand, adults use it to relax.
- 6 The problem became worse and worse as a result / so that eventually it caused the system to fail.

# Vocabulary and grammar review Unit 4

## Vocabulary

### 1 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *make, take, do or have*.

- 1 There were a number of factors that needed to be taken into consideration when deciding on the age of the painting.
- 2 Only the wealthy can expect to ..... a profit from selling works of art.
- 3 I'm afraid that some sculpture these days ..... very little impression on me.
- 4 An extensive amount of research ..... on Mozart and his music.
- 5 Over the years, many artists ..... a strong influence on the emerging world of advertising.
- 6 It's time we ..... action to stop the forgery of famous artists' work.
- 7 It was my uncle's visit to a health spa that eventually ..... him better.
- 8 Like many parents, I wish my children ..... more interest in classical music when they were young.

### 2 Complete these adverb phrases that writers use to generalise.

- 1 broadly speaking
- 2 on ..... whole
- 3 by and .....
- 4 ..... a rule
- 5 in most .....
- 6 ..... average

## Grammar

### 3 Rewrite these statements as arguments using the words in brackets and starting with the words in bold. You may need to change the form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Artists have a considerable impact on everyday life. (*can, argue*)  
It ...
- 2 People sometimes think artists are less talented than they used to be. (*think*)  
Artists ...

- 3 Wealthy people often purchase art for investment purposes. (*tendency*)  
**The wealthy** ...
- 4 I agree with people who say that graffiti is the most interesting modern art form. (*tend, view*)  
**Personally**, ...
- 5 One of the most influential figures in 20<sup>th</sup>-century art is Pablo Picasso. (*often said*)  
**Pablo Picasso** ...
- 6 Children are better able to express themselves through art than adults. (*seem*)  
**Children** ...
- 7 According to most historians, art has played a key role in cultural development.  
(*majority, claim*)  
**The** ...

### 4 Circle the correct option in *italics* in these sentences.

- 1 With the aim of / In order to generate more money for restoration, visitors to the archaeological site were asked to make a small donation.
- 2 Technology has become very sophisticated, with the result that consequently complex musical pieces can be produced without anyone playing an instrument.
- 3 The event had to finish early owing to / because an electricity failure.
- 4 It was fortunate that so many copies of the poster were made, otherwise / as a result it would have been lost forever.
- 5 Is there a way to upload photographs onto your website so that in order to no one can copy them?
- 6 The torrential rain has resulted in / has caused all the chalk pictures on the pavements being washed away.
- 7 Soft music was playing in the background so as to / with the intention of encouraging shoppers to spend more money.

People don't think about the level of planning that is involved. → **What people don't think about is** the level of planning that is involved.

- **What** + subject + main verb + **is/was** + infinitive with **to**:  
Space explorers want to find water on other planets. → **What space explorers want is to find** water on other planets.
- **It + is/was** + noun/noun phrase + **(that)**:  
The astronauts enjoyed the space walk most. → **It was** the space walk **that** the astronauts enjoyed most.
- **All (that) + subject + verb + is/was**:  
We only require political will to set up a permanent base on the Moon. → **All (that) we require** is to set up a permanent base on the Moon **is** political will.

### Expressing large and small differences

We can use words and phrases with comparative forms to express large and small differences.

#### Expressing large differences

We can say there is a large difference between one thing and another with the following patterns:

- **much/far/a lot/considerably** + adjective/adverb + **-er** more + adjective/adverb:  
Scientists have found that eating fish is **far healthier** than eating red meat.  
Health risks for overweight people are **considerably more substantial** than for people whose weight is normal.
- **not nearly as** + adjective/adverb + **as**:  
The British do **not eat nearly as much** fish as the Spanish.

#### Expressing small differences

We can express small differences between one thing and another using these patterns:

- **slightly / a bit / a little** + adjective/adverb + **-er/more** + adjective/adverb:  
**Slightly lower** speed limits have led to considerable reductions in traffic accidents. Scientists have found that by eating **a little more slowly**, stress levels are significantly reduced.
- **not quite as** + adjective/adverb + **as**:  
The graph shows that consumption of chocolate was **not quite as high** in 2012 **as** in 1992.
- **nearly/almost as** + adjective/adverb + **as**:  
Coffee drinking was **nearly as** popular in 2011 **as** in 2010.

#### Quantifying differences

We can quantify differences exactly using these patterns:

- **a quarter, one-and-a-half times, twice, three times, 30%, etc. + as much/many as**:

A house in London may cost **twice as much as** a house in the north of England.

A house in the north of England may cost **half as much as** a house in London.

A house in the north of England may cost **50% as much as** a house in London.

- three times, four times, 50%, etc. + more/greater, etc. than:  
Fuel prices in Western Europe are on average **40% higher than** in North America.
- a quarter, one-and-a-half times, double, three times, etc. + the number/amount + of + as:  
**The British import three times the amount of sugar as** the Portuguese.  
**The Portuguese import a third the amount of sugar as** the British.

Note the use of **as not than**:

**Men can eat two-and-a-half times the number of calories than as women.**

#### Saying things have no similarity

We can say that things have no similarity by saying:

- **X is completely/totally/entirely/quite different from/to Y**:  
**The Chinese medical system is completely different from** the American one.
- **X and Y are not the same at all / X and Y bear no similarity to each other**:  
**The Chinese and American medical systems bear no similarity to each other.**

#### Expressing purpose, cause and effect

We can use the following words/phrases to express or introduce:

- a purpose:
  - **with the aim/purpose/intention of ...**:  
**The law was introduced with the intention of** encouraging more young people into higher education.
  - **The aim/purpose/intention (of ...) is/was to ...**:  
**The purpose of the experiment was to** see whether the disease had a genetic component.
  - **so as to / in order to**:  
**The entrance was altered so as to** make wheelchair access easier.
  - **so / so that**:  
**He studies at night so (that) he can work during the day.**
- a cause:
  - **The cause of X is/was ...**:  
**The cause of** children's failure to learn maths is often poor teaching at school.
  - **X is/was caused by ...**:  
**The increase in unemployment has been caused by** the financial crisis.

- due to / owing to / because of:  
Some people argue that children are neglected **due to** their parents working long hours.
- an effect:
  - with the effect/result/consequence that ...:  
*The Tate Gallery held an exhibition of Bardega's work **with the result that** it instantly became more valuable.*
  - consequently / as a consequence / in consequence:  
*The cave paintings were discovered 20 years ago, and **in consequence**, the whole area now attracts more tourists.*
  - result in + noun/verb + -ing:  
*The large numbers of people visiting the cave **have resulted in** the paintings **fading** and **losing** their fresh, bright colours.*

We can use *otherwise* to express an alternative effect to the one which occurs/occurred. It is often used with:

- an order or suggestion in the future:  
*You'd better **fill up with petrol**, **otherwise** we won't get there.*
- a second or third conditional (see *Speaking hypothetically* on page 118): *Fortunately, the hotel had a free room, **otherwise we would have had** to sleep in the railway station.*

(See also *Using participle clauses to express consequences* on page 121.)

## Generalising and distancing

We have a number of ways of talking in general, or making general points that may not be true for every case. These may also soften your tone and distance you from the argument. (This is considered good academic style.)

We can use:

- attitude adverbials (see page 112), e.g. *on the whole, in general, broadly speaking, generally speaking, generally, by and large, as a rule, in most cases, on average*:  
**By and large**, artists don't make much money from their art.  
**As a rule**, art is a greater part of the curriculum in primary schools than in secondary schools.
- verbs and phrases, e.g. *tend, seem, appear, have a tendency, be liable, are likely + infinitive*:  
*Small children **tend to be** more creative than adults.*  
*Art works **have a tendency to increase** in price when the artist dies.*  
*Children **are liable to get** frustrated when they can't express their feelings.*

## Introducing arguments

### Introducing other people's ideas/arguments

We can introduce ideas and arguments which we do not necessarily agree with using these phrases:

- *It can be argued that:*  
**It can be argued that** sport is more important than art in the school curriculum.
- *It is (generally/often/usually/sometimes, etc.) claimed/suggested/argued/said that:*  
**It is often suggested that** young children have more facility for learning languages than adults.
- *... is/are (generally/often/usually/sometimes, etc.) believed/felt/understood/claimed/thought to be:*  
**Women are often thought to be** better at multi-tasking than men.
- *Some / Many / Most / The majority of people/teachers/experts, etc. argue/suggest/believe/claim/say/agree/think/feel/take the view that:*  
**Most experts agree that** children should start their formal education from the age of three.

Note how the modals, verbs and adverbs in these examples soften the writer's tone and make the argument more thoughtful and less assertive. This is good academic style.

## Introducing our own arguments and opinions

We can introduce our opinions using these phrases (we can use *personal/personally* to emphasise that the opinion may not be shared by other people):

- I (personally) (tend to) think/feel/believe that ...*
- I (personally) agree with X that ...*
- In my (personal) opinion / From my point of view, ...*
- My (personal) feeling / belief / opinion / view / point of view is that ...*
- I (personally) (would) take the view that ...*
- My (personal) opinion is that ...*
- I (personally) would argue/suggest that ...*
- I (personally) (would) agree with the view/idea/suggestion that ...*

**I personally would suggest that** adults are just as capable of learning languages as children if they make enough effort.

Note: unlike other people's arguments, personal arguments have a very strong tone in an essay and should, therefore, not be used too often.

## Negative affixes

Affixes are letters or groups of letters added to the beginnings or ends of words to form other words. Affixes added at the beginning of a word are called prefixes. Those added at the end of a word are suffixes.

**Note:** when we add a negative affix, we do not normally change the spelling of the original word. For example, when we add *dis-* to the adjective *satisfied*, the new word is *dissatisfied*. When we add *-less* to *hope*, the new word is *hopeless*.

## SECTION 3 Questions 21–30

Questions 21 and 22

Choose **TWO letters, A–E.**

Which **TWO** characteristics were shared by the subjects of Joanna's psychology study?

- B** They had all won prizes for their music.
- C** They had all made music recordings.
- D** They were all under 27 years old.
- E** They had all toured internationally.
- F** They all played a string instrument.

female professional musicians



Questions 23 and 24

Choose **TWO letters, A–E.**

Which **TWO** points does Joanna make about her use of telephone interviews?

- A** It meant rich data could be collected.
- B** It allowed the involvement of top performers.
- C** It led to a stressful atmosphere at times.
- D** It meant interview times had to be limited.
- E** It caused some technical problems.



Questions 25 and 26

Choose **TWO letters, A–E.**

Which **TWO** topics did Joanna originally intend to investigate in her research?

- A** regulations concerning concert dress
- B** audience reactions to the dress of performers
- C** changes in performer attitudes to concert dress
- D** how choice of dress relates to performer roles
- E** links between musical instrument and dress choice



Questions 27–30

Choose the correct letter, **A, B or C.**

27 Joanna concentrated on women performers because

- A** women are more influenced by fashion.
- B** women's dress has led to more controversy.
- C** women's code of dress is less strict than men's.



28 Mike Frost's article suggests that in **popular** music, women's dress is affected by

- A** their wish to be taken seriously.
- B** their tendency to copy each other.
- C** their reaction to the masculine nature of the music.

29 What did Joanna's subjects say about the audience at a performance?

- A** The musicians' choice of clothing is linked to respect for the audience.
- B** The clothing should not distract the audience from the music.
- C** The audience should make the effort to dress appropriately.

30 According to the speakers, musicians could learn from sports scientists about

- A** the importance of clothing for physical freedom.
- B** the part played by clothing in improving performance.
- C** the way clothing may protect against physical injury.

## SECTION 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

### The use of soil to reduce carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) in the atmosphere

#### Rattan Lal:

- Claims that 13% of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the atmosphere could be absorbed by agricultural soils
- Erosion is more likely in soil that is 31 dry ✓
- Lal found soil in Africa that was very 32 hard ✓
- It was suggested that carbon from soil was entering the atmosphere

#### Soil and carbon:

- plants turn  $\text{CO}_2$  from the air into carbon-based substances such as 33 sugars ✓
- some  $\text{CO}_2$  moves from the 34 roots of plants to microbes in the soil
- carbon was lost from the soil when agriculture was invented

#### Regenerative agriculture:

- uses established practices to make sure soil remains fertile and 35 moist ✓
- e.g. through year-round planting and increasing the 36 variety of plants that are grown

#### California study:

- taking place on a big 37 cattle farm
- uses compost made from waste from agriculture and 38 gardens ✓

#### Australia study:

- aims to increase soil carbon by using 39 grasses that are always green

#### Future developments may include:

- reducing the amount of fertilizer used in farming
- giving farmers 40 payment for carbon storage, as well as their produce

I still have a shitload of homework tho  
it's feb 14. and I'm failing  
I've got nothing my to do  
wasted a weekend  
I've got nothing better to do anyway

am I sad cause I'm tired?  
SAD  
I'm just too lazy?

or I'm bored to death. Might as well do homework  
will pizza make me happy?  
should still leave pizza for tomorrow  
I think I'm even sadder now...

## 1. Essay \_ advantages and disadvantages

- Complete IELTS \_ WB \_ ex 5 p 41
- Study the uploaded structure of the **Advantages-disadvantages essay**.
- Think about the topic sentences (main ideas) for the following essays:

The problem of monopolization is widespread &  
Small businesses are disappearing and being replaced by large multinational companies.

+ everything  
↓  
↓ David Liar  
more resilient  
less risky  
↓ no competition  
↓ quality decreases  
↓ large amount of wealth in one hand  
↓ small communities suffer  
↓ traditional things suffer

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

products that are impossible to manufacture here  
+ international relations cooperation

Many products that we buy are made in other countries. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this and give your own opinion. Import of goods is a crucial element of the economy

- higher prices  
- few job opportunities here

carbon footprint

People now have the freedom to work and live anywhere in the world due to the development of communication technology and transportation. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

## 2. Reading

freedom of choice  
+ ✓  
bigger chances of finding your place  
and contributing to society

people leave underdeveloped regions and overpopulate cities ?

Student's book \_ Unit 6 \_ pp 63-66

## 3. Speaking

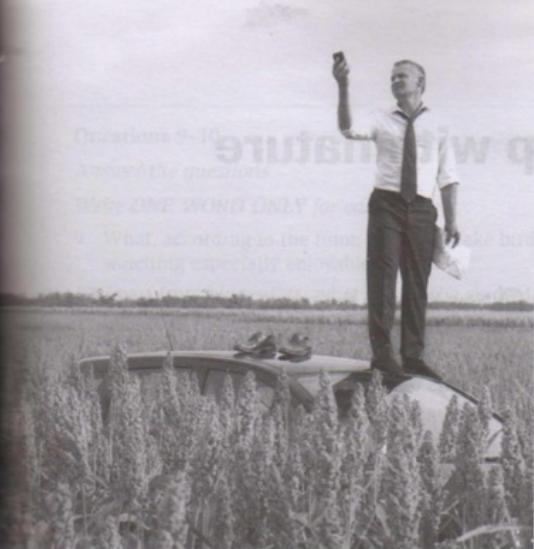
Student's book

Ex 1 p 68

Ex 9 p 69

SNOW - plow

grader



- 3 Here is the introduction and the beginning of the second paragraph from a sample answer. Complete each gap with one word from the left-hand box and one from the right-hand box.

biggest	detrimental	benefits	drawbacks
huge	integral	effect	part
invaluable		resource	

Modern technology has become an 1 ..... of our everyday lives, and has brought 2 ..... . In many cases it has made certain tasks much easier. However, technology designed to simplify things can have a 3 ..... . One of the 4 ..... is that people have become so reliant on it that they are not acquiring some basic life skills.

Take satellite navigation (sat nav) systems, for example. Although they are an 5 ..... for people such as taxi and lorry drivers, many people are no longer learning how to read a map.

- 4 The writer uses two discourse markers above to make a counter argument. Identify them, then use them to complete these sentences.

- 1 Technology has many advantages, ..... we need to make sure we use it responsibly.
- 2 Technology has many advantages. ...., we need to make sure we use it responsibly.
- 3 ..... technology has many advantages, we need to make sure we use it responsibly.

- 5 Use these other discourse markers to complete sentences 1–6. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

~~even though~~ ~~in spite of this~~ ~~nevertheless~~  
~~on the other hand~~ ~~whereas~~ ~~while~~

- 1 Some photo processing software is very easy to use, ~~whereas~~ ..... some takes months to master.
- 2 My new computer keeps crashing, ~~even though~~ it's supposed to be one of the most reliable ones available.
- 3 My old mobile had lots of useful apps. My new one, ~~on the other hand~~, has lots that I don't think I'll ever use.
- 4 The word processing programme on my computer has a spell check feature. ~~Nevertheless~~, my last essay was full of spelling mistakes.
- 5 ~~while~~ I'm keen on modern technology, I sometimes feel we rely on it too much.
- 6 I don't like tablet computers. ~~In spite of this~~, I can see why a lot of people do.

- 6 Can you think of one or two advantages for each of the items or applications you mentioned in Exercise 2?

Item or application	Advantages
Satellite navigation system (sat nav)	- helps prevent traffic congestion - reduces traffic accidents
Mobile phones	- enable us to communicate with others - enable us to access the internet - enable us to send messages - enable us to download apps
Computers	- help us to work more efficiently - help us to learn more easily - help us to communicate with others - help us to access the internet
Smartphones	- enable us to communicate with others - enable us to access the internet - enable us to download apps

- 7 Now write your own answer to the Writing task. You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Use your own ideas, try to provide at least two or three counter arguments, and use discourse markers where relevant.

## Reading Section 3

1 Work in small groups. You are going to read a passage about an innovative approach to teaching maths. Before you read, discuss these questions.

- 1 Did you enjoy studying maths at school? *7-*
- 2 What do you find particularly easy or difficult about working with numbers? *the fact that it should be about numbers*
- 2 Work in pairs. Read the title and subheading of the article. What do you expect to read about in the article?
- 3 Skim the passage quickly to find out what Khan Academy is, how it is changing education, and how people feel about it.

### The new way to be a fifth-grader

by Clive Thompson

*Khan Academy is changing the rules of education.*



I peer over his shoulder at his laptop screen to see the math problem the fifth-grader is pondering. It's a trigonometry problem. Carpenter, a serious-faced ten-year-old, pauses for a second, fidgets, then clicks on "0 degrees." The computer tells him that he's correct. *It took a while for me to work it out*, he admits sheepishly. The software then generates another problem, followed by another, until eventually he's done ten in a row.

Last November, his teacher, Kami Thordarson, began using Khan Academy in her class. It is an educational website on which students can watch some 2,400 videos. The videos are anything but sophisticated. At seven to 14 minutes long, they consist of a voiceover by the site's founder, Salman Khan, chattily describing a mathematical concept or explaining how to solve a problem, while his

hand-scribbled formulas and diagrams appear on-screen. As a student, you can review a video as many times as you want, scrolling back several times over puzzling parts and fast-forwarding through the boring bits you already know. Once you've mastered a video, you can move on to the next one.

Initially, Thordarson thought Khan Academy would merely be a helpful supplement to her normal instruction. But it quickly became far more than that. She is now on her way to "flipping" the way her class works. This involves replacing some of her lectures with Khan's videos, which students can watch at home. Then in class, they focus on working on the problem areas together. The idea is to invert the normal rhythms of school, so that lectures are viewed in the children's own time and homework is done at school. It sounds weird, Thordarson admits, but this reversal makes sense when you think about it. It is when they are doing homework that students are really grappling with a subject and are most likely to want someone to talk to. And Khan Academy provides teachers with a dashboard application that lets them see the instant a student gets stuck.

For years, teachers like Thordarson have complained about the frustrations of teaching to the "middle" of the class. They stand at the whiteboard trying to get 25 or more students to learn at the same pace. Advanced students get bored and tune out, lagging ones get lost and tune out, and pretty soon half the class is not paying attention. Since the rise of personal computers in the 1980s, educators have hoped that technology could save the day by offering lessons tailored to each child. Schools have spent millions of dollars on sophisticated classroom technology, but the effort has been in vain. The one-to-one instruction it requires is, after all, prohibitively expensive. What country can afford such a luxury?

Khan never intended to overhaul the school curricula and he doesn't have a consistent, comprehensive plan for doing so. Nevertheless, some of his fans believe that he has stumbled onto the solution to education's middle-of-the-class mediocrity. Most notable among them is Bill Gates, whose foundation has invested \$1.5 million in Khan's

line 40

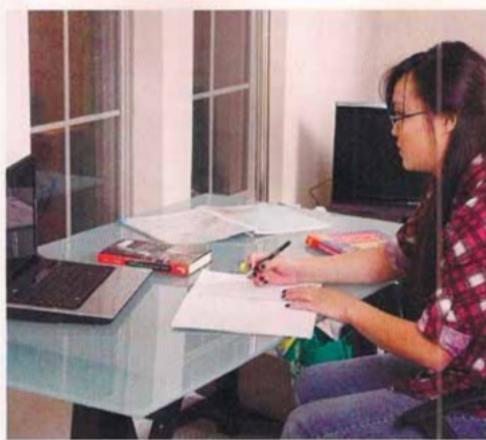
site. Students have pointed out that Khan is particularly good at explaining all the hidden, small steps in math problems—steps that teachers often gloss over. He has an uncanny ability to inhabit the mind of someone who doesn't already understand something.

However, not all educators are enamored with Khan and his site. Gary Stager, a long-time educational consultant and advocate of laptops in classrooms, thinks Khan Academy is not innovative at all. The videos and software modules, he contends, are just a high-tech version of the outdated teaching techniques—lecturing and drilling. Schools have become “joyless test-prep factories,” he says, and Khan Academy caters to this dismal trend.

As Sylvia Martinez, president of an organization focusing on technology in the classroom, puts it, “The things they’re doing are really just rote.” Flipping the classroom isn’t an entirely new idea, Martinez says, and she doubts that it would work for the majority of pupils: “I’m sorry, but if they can’t understand the lecture in a classroom, they’re not going to grasp it better when it’s done through a video at home.”

Another limitation of Khan’s site is that the drilling software can only handle questions where the answers are unambiguously right or wrong, like math or chemistry; Khan has relatively few videos on messier, grey-area subjects like history. Khan and Gates admit there is no easy way to automate the teaching of writing—even though it is just as critical as math.

Even if Khan is truly liberating students to advance at their own pace, it is not clear that schools will be able to cope. The very concept of grade levels implies groups of students moving along together at an even pace. So what happens when, using Khan Academy, you wind up with a ten-year-old who has already mastered high-school physics? Khan’s programmer, Ben Kamens, has heard from teachers who have seen Khan Academy presentations and loved the idea but wondered whether they could modify it “to stop students from becoming this advanced.”



Khan’s success has injected him into the heated wars over school reform. Reformers today, by and large, believe student success should be carefully tested, with teachers and principals receiving better pay if their students advance more quickly. In essence,

Khan doesn’t want to change the way institutions teach; he wants to change how people learn, whether they’re in a private school or a public school—or for that matter, whether they’re a student or an adult trying to self-educate in Ohio, Brazil, Russia, or India. One member of Khan’s staff is spearheading a drive to translate the videos into ten major languages. It’s classic start-up logic: do something novel, do it with speed, and the people who love it will find you.

adapted from *Wired Magazine*

- 4 Writers often use reference words/phrases (e.g. *it*, *such*) to avoid repetition and to link different parts of the text. Find these words and phrases in the passage and decide what the words in *italics* refer to.

- 1 work *it* out a trigonometry problem
- 2 on *which* students *video website*
- 3 the next *one* *video supplement*
- 4 more than *that* *helpful supplement*
- 5 such a luxury *one-to-one instruction*
- 6 plan for *doing so* *overhauling the school curricula*
- 7 among *them* *learns*
- 8 this dismal trend *schools becoming joyless factories*
- 9 grasp *it* better *the lectures*

**5** Underline the key ideas in Questions 1–5 (not the options). Then scan the passage to find the relevant parts and read each part carefully to choose the correct options.

### Questions 1–5

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1 What do you learn about the student in the first paragraph?

- A He has not used the maths software before.
- B He did not expect his answer to the problem to be correct.
- C He was not initially doing the right maths problem.
- D **(Circled)** He did not immediately know how to solve the maths problem.

2 What does the writer say about the content of the Khan Academy videos?

- A They have been produced in a professional manner.
- B **(Circled)** They include a mix of verbal and visual features.
- C Some of the maths problems are too easy.
- D Some of the explanations are too brief.

3 What does *this reversal* refer to in line 40?

- A going back to spending fewer hours in school
- B students being asked to explain answers to teachers
- C **(Circled)** swapping the activities done in the class and at home
- D the sudden improvement in students' maths performance

4 What does the writer say about teaching to the 'middle' of the class?

- A Teachers become too concerned about weaker students.
- B **(Circled)** Technology has not until now provided a solution to the problem.
- C Educators have been unwilling to deal with the issues.
- D Students in this category quickly become bored.

- 5 Students praise Khan's videos because they
  - A show the extent of his mathematical knowledge.
  - B deal with a huge range of maths problems.
  - C provide teaching at different ability levels.
  - D **(Circled)** cover details that are often omitted in class.

### Exam advice    Multiple choice

- For referencing questions, read around the word(s) carefully to find what the reference refers to. The answer may come before or after the reference.
- For vocabulary questions, read before and after the word to understand the context.

**6** Underline words in Questions 6–10 which will help you scan to find the relevant parts of the passage. Then read those parts of the passage and answer the questions.

### Questions 6–10

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

Write

**YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

**NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

6 Thordarson's first impressions of how she would use Khan Academy turned out to be wrong. *true*

7 Khan wished to completely change the way courses are taught in schools. *false*

8 School grade levels are based on the idea of students progressing at different rates. *false*

9 Some principals have invited Khan into their schools to address students.

10 Khan has given advice to other people involved in start-up projects. *not given*

### Exam advice Yes / No / Not Given

- Find words in the passage that are the same as, or similar to, words in the question.
- The answers will be in passage order. They may be found in the same block of text or in different parts of the passage.

7 For Questions 11–14, underline key ideas in each of the options and use the names in the questions to find the relevant parts of the passage. Then read carefully to answer the questions.

### Questions 11–14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending,

A–G, below.

- 1 Bill Gates thinks Khan Academy B  
2 According to Gary Stager, Khan Academy D  
3 Sylvia Martinez regrets that Khan Academy G  
4 Ben Kamens has been told that Khan Academy C

- A is only suited to subjects where questions have exact answers.  
B can teach both the strongest and the weakest pupils in a class.  
C means the teaching of other school subjects will have to be changed.  
D only prepares students to pass exams.  
E could cause student achievement to improve too quickly.  
F requires all students to own the necessary technology.  
G is unlikely to have a successful outcome for most students.

### Exam advice Matching sentence endings

- Underline the key ideas in the options.
- Use names and other words in the questions to find the right places in the passage. (You will find them in the same order.)
- Read the completed sentences to check they make sense.

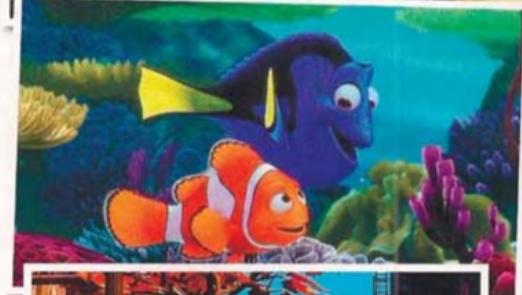
### 8 Work in small groups.

- What IT or websites do you use to supplement your classwork or lectures?
- What effect do you think IT will have on classrooms in the future?

## Listening Section 4

1 Work in pairs. You are going to hear a media-studies lecturer talking about animation technology in the film industry. Before you listen, discuss these questions.

- How did film makers make animated films before the invention of computers?
- Why do you think both adults and children enjoy animated films?



2 Work in pairs. Look at Questions 1–10 on page 67.

- What main areas will the lecturer cover in her talk?
- How does the organisation of the notes guide your listening?
- What type of word (noun, verb, adjective, etc.) and what type of information do you think you need to complete each gap?

## Speaking Parts 2 and 3

1 Look at this Speaking Part 2 task and think about what you could say. Make some notes.

Describe a website that you like using.

You should say:

what this website is

a translating website, glossary thesaurus

how people use it

to translate/learn words / quiz

who uses it

students / teachers / anyone learning new language

and explain why you like using this website.

variety of features, accurate translations

user-friendly

provides you with definitions of words and examples

Mrs

9 Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in the task in Exercise 6 and the questions below.

### Entertainment on the Internet

totally, You control what you consume

- 1 Would you say the Internet is a better form of entertainment than television? Why?
- 2 Would you agree that there are a lot of advantages to watching TV on the Internet? Why? Yes, You choose the programme and the pace
- 3 Some people say the Internet is a good place to be 'discovered' as an entertainer. What do you think? Why? Probably, It's easier to start your own platform than to get to the TV

### Exam advice Speaking Part 3

- Introduce positive and negative points clearly, using appropriate language.
- Use intonation to help signal agreement and disagreement.

6 Listen to three candidates answering the questions below. Which question does each candidate answer?

A Katalina



B Obi



C Elicia



### Children's use of the Internet

- They need to be taught how to use it for good if children don't know how to use it properly. Also unverified info.
- 1 Some people say it isn't good for children to use the Internet a lot in their free time – what do you think?
  - 2 Is it true that the Internet is sometimes an unhelpful tool when it comes to children's education?
  - 3 Would you agree that the Internet has a positive effect on children's social lives?

Different children. Internet is a tool and can be used both ways

The problem is that there are 3 different types of advantages and disadvantages essay and they each require a different approach. If you answer them in a different way then you risk losing lots of marks.

## Question 1

**"Discuss the advantages and disadvantages."**

This requires a simple structure in which the student will look at the advantages in one paragraph and the disadvantages in the other.

### Structure

25f

#### Introduction

Sentence 1- Paraphrase question

Sentence 2- Outline sentence

#### Supporting Paragraph 1 (Advantages)

Sentence 3- Topic sentence (Advantage 1)

Sentence 4- Explain how this is an advantage

Sentence 5- Example

#### Supporting Paragraph 2 (Disadvantages)

Sentence 6- Topic sentence (Disadvantage 1)

Sentence 7- Explain how this is a disadvantage

Sentence 8- Example

#### Conclusion

Sentence 9- Summary of main points

#### Question 1 Sample Answer

**In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decided to do this.**

Before embarking on college many young people are advised that a year working or travelling may be a good option. This essay will suggest that saving money is the biggest advantage of this and a reduced motivation to study is the primary disadvantage.

Third level education is very expensive and lots of students decide to work for 12 months and save up money before they begin their studies. This allows them to pay for their living costs, tuition fees and accommodation and focus on their studies, rather than struggle financially or have to get a part time job on top of their academic work. The Times recently reported that the average student at a UK university requires over \$12,000 per annum just to survive and many drop out because they cannot afford to stay.

Despite these advantages, many students often get used to working or travelling and don't want to return to a life of study after a year off. This short term view can cause some to bypass university altogether and go straight into a job that is beneath their capabilities or may not offer the same prospects their future career might have done. For instance, a recent survey by the British Government found that 26% of students who take a gap-year never enter tertiary education.

In conclusion, taking a break from studies can be advantageous if it allows people to gather up savings, however, they should also be careful that it does not lead to disillusionment with education altogether.

(252 words)

- 40

## Question 2

**"Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?"**

*In this example we will have to decide which side (advantages or disadvantages) is stronger and this will affect the structure. If you choose advantages then you will have to say why these are much stronger than the disadvantages and why the disadvantages don't hold much weight. You would also have to make this clear in your thesis statement.*

### Structure

#### Introduction

Sentence 1- Paraphrase question

Sentence 2- Thesis statement (state which one outweighs the other)

Sentence 3- Outline sentence

#### Main Body Paragraph 1 (Stronger Side)

Sentence 4- Topic Sentence

Sentence 5- Explain why it is strong

Sentence 6- Example

Sentence 7- Topic Sentence

Sentence 8- Explain why it is strong

Sentence 9- Example

### **Main Body Paragraph 2 (Weaker Side)**

Sentence 10- Topic Sentence

Sentence 11- Explain why it is not strong

Sentence 12- Example

### **Conclusion**

Sentence 13- Summary of main points and restate position.

### **Question 2 Sample Answer**

**Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at primary schools rather than secondary school. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?**

Some authorities think that it is more favorable for pupils to begin studying languages at primary school instead of secondary school. This essay will argue that the advantages of this outweigh the drawbacks. The essay will first demonstrate that the earlier someone learns an additional language the more likely they are to master it and that it brings added cognitive benefits, followed by an analysis of how the primary disadvantage, namely confusion with their native tongue, is not valid.

The main reason to start kids off with foreign languages early is that this increases the likelihood they will achieve fluency in adulthood. That is to say that they will have far more years to perfect their skills and it will seem perfectly normal to speak bilingually. For example, in countries such as Holland and Norway where English is taught from a very young age, more than 95% of adults speak it at an advanced level. Learning a second language also helps to improve overall cognitive abilities. In other words it benefits the overall development of a child's brain. A recent survey by Cambridge University found that children who studied a new language before the age of 5 were significantly more likely to score higher in Mathematics and Science.

Those opposed to this say that it causes the child to become confused between their mother tongue and the other language. However, there is actually no evidence to support this view and children from bilingual families do just as well in both languages. My own son was brought up speaking both Vietnamese and English and outperforms most of his classmates in both.

On balance, the fact that early foreign language learning leads to higher fluency and improved brain function clearly outweighs the flawed argument that it impairs uptake of native languages.

(299 words)

### Question 3

**“Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and give your own opinion.”**

Question 3 is different again because it is more like an opinion essay and a discussion essay at the same time. Your structure will reflect this by having a paragraph for advantages and disadvantages, but also having a clear position on the statement.

#### **Introduction**

Sentence 1- Paraphrase question

Sentence 2- Thesis statement (your opinion)

Sentence 3- Outline sentence

#### **Main Body Paragraph 1 (Advantages)**

Sentence 4- Topic Sentence

Sentence 5- Explain

Sentence 6- Example

#### **Main Body Paragraph 2 (Disadvantages)**

Sentence 7- Topic Sentence

Sentence 8- Explain

Sentence 9- Example

#### **Main Body Paragraph 3 (Opinion)**

Sentence 10- State opinion

Sentence 11- Explain or give example

#### **Conclusion**

Sentence 12 – Summary of main points

#### **Question 3 Sample Answer**

**Computers are becoming an essential part of education. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and give your own opinion.**

Information technology is becoming a ubiquitous part of learning. This essay will show that this is a welcome development and can enhance educational practice. It will first suggest that the instant availability of huge amounts of information is the primary advantage, followed by a discussion of how it can sometimes lead to plagiarism.

The main benefit computers bring to learners is easy access to vast amounts resources. Learners were once limited to the books they had and the knowledge of their teacher, now they can learn about anything they choose at the touch of a button. Google is a prime example, because it allows people to easily search for whatever they are looking for quickly and accurately.

One possible drawback is that using the internet to complete academic work can sometimes lead to pupils copying articles from the internet. As a result, students do not have to think about their tasks and learn very little. The Sunday Times recently reported that 72% of college graduates in the UK admitted to copying and pasting Wikipedia articles at least once.

Overall, it is a very positive development because most students will take advantage of the power of the information superhighway to enhance their studies, rather than using it to cheat. For example, in 2005 Cambridge University found that students who regularly used a computer were 26% more likely to get a first-class degree than those who did not.

In conclusion, the web has provided a gateway to knowledge unlike anything seen before and although it can sometimes lead to a few taking the easy route and plagiarising, it is a very positive step in the evolution of education.

(278 words)

## Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

### Animation Technology

#### History

Thomas Edison: first camera – 1889

J. Stuart Blackton: first animated film technique – used many 1 *drawings* of faces

Émile Cohl: first animated scene – used cut-outs made of 2 *paper*

Walt Disney:

- first talking colour film – 1928
- used 3 *hand-painted* slides
- first full-length colour film – *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* – 1937

#### Pixar Animation Studios

Origins: graphics group

Earnings: Over 4 \$ 6.3 billion worldwide

Famous films: 1995 – *Toy Story* – first computer-animated film  
2001 – *Monsters, Inc.* – included 5 *animal fur* as a new animation feature

*Finding Nemo* – new techniques in 6 *digital lighting*

*The Incredibles* – believable simulations of people and

7 *crowds*

#### Future developments:

- Digital humans: focusing particularly on skin and 8 *facial movement*
- Speed: companies producing 9 *video games* will help
- Colour: aim to preserve vibrancy
- Styles of animation: a move from 10 *realism* to new concepts

### 3 Listen and answer Questions 1–10.

#### Exam advice Note completion

- Check how many words you have written for each answer.
- Take care to spell your answers correctly.
- Use your ideas on the type of word you need to guess any missing answers at the end.

### 4 Take a minute to prepare a short talk on a film you have seen that includes some computer-animated features. Then work in pairs and take turns to give your talks. You can use these questions to help you.

- What was the film about and what happened during the film?
- What computer effects did you see in the film?
- What did you particularly like or dislike about the film?

### 5 Change partners and give your talk.

## Vocabulary

Adjective + noun collocations

### 1 Look at these sentences. For each one, cross out the adjective that CANNOT be used with the noun in bold to form a collocation.

- It was possible to build up a small scene, though a *large / big / considerable* number of cut-outs were required to do this.
- Now it has become a Hollywood icon, with earnings of over 6.3 billion dollars and *numerous / plentiful / countless* film awards.
- Many **features** of the film were seen as *outstanding / irreplaceable / excellent*.
- It is still considered to be one of the most *extensive / significant / noteworthy achievements* in the history of film animation.
- This helped to enhance the appeal of one of the film's *central / primary / main characters*.
- Many scenes took place underwater and relied on a *certain / particular / sure* level of brilliance and clarity throughout.
- Yet cinema audiences have increasingly *high / tall / great expectations*.

validate field (object, field)

set accessible  
obj value  
try to get

validate element value, Field.getAnnotation()

switch checker object ← Field

object



Fields → get

# NO PAPER intro

## Writing Task 2

- 1 Work in pairs. Look at this Writing task and make a list of benefits and drawbacks.

Write about the following topic.

*Information technology is changing many aspects of our lives and now dominates our home, leisure and work activities.*

*To what extent do the benefits of information technology outweigh the disadvantages?*

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.



- 2 Work in pairs. Read the sample answer in the next column (ignoring the underlining and bold for the moment) and answer these questions.

- 1 What is the writer's view, with regard to the question in the task?
- 2 How does the structure of the writer's answer reflect this view?
- 3 Has the writer referred to the three areas specified in the task?
- 4 How does the writer link paragraphs 2 and 3?
- 5 How does the writer link paragraphs 3 and 4?
- 6 How does the writer link paragraphs 4 and 5?
- 7 In what three ways is the last paragraph an effective summary?

information technology has become an integral part of human life, and we are becoming increasingly dependent on it. But while it enhances certain aspects of our lives, I also think it may be having a detrimental effect on others.

dis

One of the biggest drawbacks of information technology is that it can be incredibly time-consuming. People who work in international business have to read hundreds of emails every day, and children can spend hours chatting online. Some people would argue that this time could be better spent:

example  
services

A related criticism is that it leads to unhealthy lifestyles. Rather than going out and taking regular exercise, for example, some people spend a lot of time sitting at their computers or with their smart phones. In the long term, this lack of activity does not do our bodies any good.

x 2

Despite these drawbacks, we cannot deny that technology has made many aspects of life more pleasurable. We all have instant access to entertainment and social connections are just a click away. Like many people, I use a networking site, which apparently has more than 800 million active users. This type of statistic illustrates just how popular this website is.

+ topic  
topic  
x 2

There are also huge benefits to using technology for study and work. The Internet is an invaluable resource for students of all ages, provided that it is used sensibly. Also, some areas of work have moved forward in leaps and bounds due to the huge amount of data that computers can store.

Clearly, there are some negative aspects to technology. Having said that, it is the way we use it that causes these. If it is used sensibly and people take regular breaks from their computers, there are only benefits that remain.

- 3 With this type of question, it is important to present a balanced view.

- 1 The writer uses discourse markers such as *despite these drawbacks* as signposts to show that he is moving from one side of the argument to the other (or the counter-argument). Which of the underlined discourse markers has a similar function in the sample answer?
- 2 Which of the underlined discourse markers indicates that there will be a 'for' and 'counter-' argument in the same sentence?
- 3 What other linkers can you use to introduce counter-arguments?

Key grammar: Referencing