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GRE 官方写作题库 21

Laws should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.

范文

The argument asserts that that laws need to be flexible. This flexibility, it is stated, could be afforded by offering consideration to various circumstances like changing social environment, time and place. But laws are the principles we adhere to in our daily life and if too many allowances are made the result could be chaotic.

	内容	详细条目
段落	此段结构	本段的前两句话简单分析了题目的 statement , 后一句提出了作者对此的观点:法律是人们日常生活中需要遵守的准则 , 太多宽容会导致混
		乱。
	此段功能	总启全文,分析题目背景,提出了作者观点。

The purpose of law is to maintain social stability. Laws help people make prediction about the consequence of their behaviors. Under a system where exceptions were always made for different circumstances, times and places, people would always find a way to shirk the responsibility that they have to obey the law. In business, for example, the ultimate goal is to maximize profit. Businesses can and do enterprise to thwart laws by churning out exceptions as to what they have done wrong should not be punished. Stringent, unchanging laws would create an atmosphere wherein businesses could no longer escape responsibility for their actions.

	内容	详细条目
段落	此段结构	总分结构。本段的论点是法律的目的在于维护社会稳定,使人们的行
		为有规矩可循。因此法律本身也必须具备稳定性,如果容许太多的例
		外,人们会想法设法逃避责任,这样就难以保证社会稳定了。作者以
		企业做生意为例,证明了这种观点。
	此段功能	论点一,从法律的目的谈起,论述了法律保持稳定的必要性。

On the other hand, we should observe that laws themselves can be changed. History is filled with examples that laws have been changed over different circumstances, time and places. Take the right of inheritance as an example. Heirs were once only considered the eldest sons. That law was later revised to include other sons, daughters and wives. This law represents social progress and it wasn't the law that was considered with more flexibility but a new law, put in place without exceptions. What is more, in the field of criminal law, there used to be a practice of implication whereby a criminal or his family members must accept punishment for wrongdoing. Today, this practice has changed to reflect social progress. Essentially, over time, we're able to look carefully at changing laws that have worked to serve their purposes. However, while they change, they aren't flexible.

内容	详细条目



段落	此段结构	总分结构。作者提出法律是会根据事件、时间、地点发生变化的。
		作者用继承权和对罪犯家人连带责任发生变化的例子说明法律随着
		社会的进步在改变,但这些变化不是说法律是 flexible 的,而是更完
		整更完善,不容许 exceptions 发生。
	此段功能	论点二,谈到法律的性质,法律不是一成不变,但变化不代表
		flexible,反而是为了更加稳定。

In conclusion, laws should not be indefinitely fixed. However, laws cannot be flexible because of the chaotic effect that it would have on social stability.

	内容	详细条目
段落	此段结构	非常简单,两句话概括了前文的论述,总结 laws 与 flexibility 的关
		系。
	此段功能	总结全文, 重申作者观点。

满分要素剖析

语言表达

这篇文章脉络清晰,行文流畅。作者用到了很多不同的句型,并且词汇选用也很符合 GRE 级别的要求。

The purpose of law is to maintain social stability. 这句话采取了不定式作表语的用法。此处使用是为了表示目的。

Under a system where exceptions were always made for different circumstances, times and places, people would always find a way to shirk the responsibility that they have to obey the law. 这一句使用了虚拟语气,前半句用 were 假设了总是允许例外发生的情况,对应后半句的 would,表明这个假设条件可能带来的后果。用词上,shirk 一词的选择非常好,它是 GRE 级别的词汇,表示 avoid,但更能体现作者的词汇量。

……and it wasn't the law that was considered with more flexibility but a new law, put in place without exceptions. 这里使用 it was not…that 的句型强调了 the law,和 but 后面的 new law 作对比,指明两者的性质上的区别:不是旧的 law 灵活了,而是 new law 变得完整,更加不容 exceptions 了。

逻辑结构

本文采取总分总的结构,论述了作者对 laws 和 flexibility 关系的看法。作者围绕法律的稳定性



展开讨论,先解释了法律如果不稳定,将会带来哪些恶果;然后说明了法律发生变动不是因为它灵活不稳定了,而是为了更加稳定地维护社会秩序。因此作者反对题目中的 statement ,认为法律不应过于灵活,因为会失去权威性,从而难以达到维护稳定的目的。



