

TOEFL Notes

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Abstract

Before we start, please note that this note is by no means for any commercial utilization. Also sharing should be authorized and please indicate the source. If you have any question, please feel free to contact me by email.

I do hope that the long abstract and instruction can be read carefully as I believe it helps you better use it and learn efficiently.

In this note, I basically share something that is taken, collected, written and rearranged by myself during my preparation for the TOEFL iBT test.

The note is arranged as follows. First, we have a terse review of the vocabulary. Specifically, it encompasses a bunch of equivalent expressions collected by myself, the utilization of which, I think, does count in that we are always using simple words that we have been quite familiar since middle school. Moreover, we also present words that occurred in recent tests and some basic words Chinese students may not know.

Then we turn to the verbal part, which seemingly the most challenging one. From my perspective, however, there do exist fixed patterns (which are exactly the common Chinese word "Taolu"). We will have detailed analysis and share some templates. Also I will share part of my own tricks and a decent reference from which most of my analysis comes.

What follows is the writing part. There are smashing expressions and templates, which may not be necessary to you but may benefit beginners. Then my practice articles follow. Although they are not so good and with flaws, I still hope that you can get something you like.

1 Introduction

I shall make it clear by an introduction of the note first, including some of my suggestions about how to use it.

As I put in the abstract, this is basically a study note I collected and rearranged when I was preparing for the TOEFL iBT tests. Since the listening and reading parts are relatively easier for the majority and also there are tons of practice tests online, I did not go through these two parts. What it covers is mostly good expressions for the improvement of writing and some tricks about the Speaking part.

Except for section 2.2, I never include Chinese translations since I feel it imperative to read in English, remember in English and then moreover, think and express in English. I hope this could help. Note that I may also write some words beyond the requirement of TOEFL, which you may choose to omit for the sake of time, but I think there is nothing bad about knowing more words especially for those who are also preparing for the GRE General test.

Here comes a guide of using it. For those who have difficulty in reading and listening and do not current know most of the so-called TOEFL words, I think it may be a better choice for you to do more TPO exercises and cultivate a better sense of English first, since directly read and remember in English may not be the best way for you. For those who have a better sense of English, you may skip section 2.3 and section 2.2.

The last thing I want to point out is that there is never a shortcut and I must have made mistakes when writing this note. Hence, you are not supposed to totally depend on this. You have to check each unfamiliar word by yourself, as well as find your own ways and tricks when preparing for the test.

2 Vocabulary

2.1 Alternatives

Below are some almost equivalent words sorted by part of speech, that is you can substitute one for the other in most cases for diversity of your writing and speaking. However, there do exist nuances and moreover, a single word can have distinct meanings, so if you meet some words for the first time, a double check will be imperative. Also, if you meet most of them for the first time, a review of basic words covered by TOEFL will be quite an urge.

verbs

use	utilize
claim	assert
exert	put force
waste	squander
build	erect
agree	concur
puzzle	perplex
depict	describe, delineate, sketch
subdue	defeat
discard	throw away
assess	appraisal
desire	long for
expect	anticipate
prevent	deter
inhibit	hinder
dig out	excavate
restart	resume
mandate	require
genuine	true; real; sincere
support	be supportive
originate	emanate
replenish	supplement
adhere to	hold on to, cling to, abide by, insist on
illustrate	demonstrate
do harm to	do a tremendous disservice to
ought to do	be supposed to do
result from	stem from
manufacture	make, produce, fabricate , ...
be away from	deviate from
the reason is	the reason lies in
promise to do	pledge to do
participate in	engage in
embark on sth	start to do sth
keep pace with	keep abreast of
be appointed to	be posted to
teach a student	nurture a student
ask sb for help	reach out to sb for support
think about sth	give ... some thought
be occupied with	be mired deep in
pay attention to do	make it a point to do
take measures to do	adopt immediate measures to
keep up (a building)	maintain or preserve
keep your word/promise	be a man of his word
earn the respect of sb.	be respected by sb.
be a double-edged sword	serve as ...
there exist both A and B	A coexists B
have advantages in doing	hold ...
have a positive impact on	give rise to a positive effect on
learn from past experience	draw on past experience
make your own decision about	take ... on/upon yourself
play an extremely vital role in	take prominent position in

adjectives

some	several
good	beneficial
heady	intoxicated
terse	succinct
clear	conspicuous
absurd	ludicrous, preposterous
better	superior
upbest	optimistic
famous	renowned, notable
hectic	hasty
faraway	absent-minded; distant
crutial	pivital
obscure	puzzling
destroy	sabotage
feasible	practical
peculiar	unique; unusual
liminary	initial, starting
smashing	nice; good, . . .
negative	undesirable
complete	intact
absolute	sheer
shattered	separated
important	significant
chariming	charismatic
stringent	rigorous
ambitious	aspiring
practical	pragmatic
opportune	proper
expensive	costly
competent	capable
excellent	prominent, distinguished
clear-cut	clear; definite
a scad of	a multitude of
exceptional	phenomenal
complicated	sophisticated
a portion of	part of, some of
one more hour	an extra hour
be careful with	be meticulous in

nouns

stop	halt
basis	rudiment
danger	jeopardy
thesis	dissertation
person	individual
teacher	pedagogue
argument	contention
intuition	instinction
standpoint	perspective
lack of sth	paucity of sth
difficulties	uncharted waters
characteristics	personal traits
current situation	status quo
negative influence	undesirable influence

adverbs and others

however	nonetheless, nevertheless
everyday	on a daily basis
virtually	nearly
regularly	on a regular basis
specifically	to be more specific, in particular
think creatively	think outside the box
do ... together	do ... jointly
During that time, ...	It is during that time that
at the same time, ...	in the meanwhile, simultaneously
It is quite possible that ...	High chances are that ...
Now you have to use your intuition.	This is where your natural intuition has to kick in.

2.2 Recent Shoots

The following lists, Figure 1,2,3 and 4, show most of the words that appeared in recent tests. They are a good reference, but not that important, so maybe a glance will be enough.

2.3 something basic

This part presents something even more basic than the section 2.2 in Figure 5. Also, you don't have to put too much emphasis on it since they are just common words that Chinese students may not know. I collected these words from everywhere when I was preparing the tests. For the sake of time, I add the Chinese meaning so that you can have a quick look.

3 Speaking

In this section, we first analyze each question briefly and then we give some basic templates and expressions. Note that templates and the so-called good expressions are good for beginners as a framework or a starting point, but excellent answers come from a flexible use of the language. I will also share some of my own tricks when taking the tests. Most of my notes in this section originates from a Chinese book called *You Only Need This Book For TOEFL Speaking* by Han Zhang. It is quite a decent reference and it will also be attached when I share this note. So if any of my following analysis is not clear, you can also refer to the book with my notes on it.

3.1 Question 1 & 2

This two questions focus on topics that we are familiar with. Basically the most important thing is learning to depict things, articulate your contention, using detailed examples. And also, speak to the point. Note that simple reasons and examples can be quite good as long as they are reasonable and to the point.

However, how to depict and how to use a detailed example is a big topic, maybe beyond my capacity. Hence, I shall only share some reasons we can adopt when demonstrating our points, some topics you may use to do some exercises and also good expressions. I also provide references which tells more about how to describe things and use examples.

Reasons

Some reasons are listed below. For detailed examples showing how to use these reasons, take a look at the file *reasons* with my notes already. Hence you only need to focus on those emphasized words.

- Money
- Health
- Relaxation
- To learn more
- For my own interest
- To save time, money
- To be more efficient
- Expand one's horizons
- For better communication
- Traits & characteristics
- Emotion (loneliness, passion ...)

To be continued ...

Topics with hints

a. Describe places and environment

- picturesque view
- The amazing part is its picturesque view and enjoyable surroundings.
- When I am doing sth, I can smell ..., see ..., and feel the bracing breeze on my face and then I will be totally relaxed.
- Im fascinated to the harmonious atmosphere which could make me refreshed and energetic.

b. Release my pressure

- relieve the pressure from work and study When I am doing sth, I can smell ..., see ..., and feel the bracing breeze on my face and then I will be totally relaxed.
- In this way, I can release my emotion and pressure and temporarily escape from the academic workload such as exams and essays.
- I think walking in ...doing, ...seeing, ...is the best way for me to relax myself when I am very stressful.

c. Describe books

- impressive
- There are a great many beautiful and delicate pictures to illustrate the words and make it more understandable. With those wonderful pictures, learning can be real fun and easy.

d. Friends

- We could have pleasant conversations not only about the academic topics such as history, biology and economics, but also about the international events. She can always consider things from an original point of view and I can learn a lot from her.
- Friends in different background/ from different cities such as ... help us to develop deeper insight into culture.
- improve the understanding of the culture, custom, history and many interesting stuff about a different country/city.

e. Study

- I can have an easier access to a huge amount of knowledge and information from all over the world.
- polish my speaking and listening skills
- a good opportunity to do sth. and eventually put me in a favorable position in the upcoming competition.

- peer pressure. Specifically, when everyone around you is staying up late to study, reading tons of books, you will also push yourself to study hard since doing nothing will be simply stepping backwards.

f. Protect the environment

- With the help of this, we can better protect our planet and prevent our environment
- Eco-friendly
- Some animals or plants are part of the entire ecosystem.
- do a tremendous disservice to (I got this expression from Trump's speech at the press on 16 Feb lol)

g. Family

- My mom will prepare me the food I like the most; my father will talk to me and help me figure out a way to solve the problem I encounter at school.
- I don't like to live with my family. Sometimes I just need some private time and deal with my personal stuff like calling my friends.

h. Employment

- contribute to the increase of employment rate
- it can provide the local people with a large amount of jobs. As a result, it would in turn bring benefits to the social stability and economic development.

i. Annoying habits

- It is embarrassing to say that some people really have terrible manners.
- For example, someone in my class always spits and litters in public, which make me feel really awful. You know, I'm pissed off by those behaviors and can not stand them at all. So I have no choice but to ...

j. Delicious food

- It serves the amazing dumpling of all kinds of flavors, pork flavor, chicken flavor and so on.
- One thing I like the most is the caraway there, it really helps enrich the taste of dumplings.
- Anyway, it never fails to make my mouth water.

k. Keep a promise

- He is a man of his word.

- He always keeps his promise.
- He never breaks his promise.
- I remember once I asked him to pick up my cousin when I couldn't come back. He did so even though he had caught a bad cold. I said thanks and sorry but he said it's ok because he promised me.

l. Be helpful

- obliging
- He will always be there to support you and do whatever he could to figure out your problems.
- Once, it was he first came to help and stood by me until my car was fixed.
- Eventually it took him 3 hours and when I said thank you to him, he simply smiled and said Friends don't say thanks.

m. How to handle a presentation

- convey the ideas effective and efficiently.
- speak loudly and clearly
- put complicated things in a way that is easy to understand.
- break a big idea into several sub-points and present those sub-points step by step to the audience.
- use examples that most of the audience are familiar with so that audience would be interested in it and listen to you carefully.

n. Be considerate

- thoughtful
- shows much care and concern about others.
- He is always able to view things from your angle and not to hurt your feelings.
- For example, if he knows that I am taking a nap or reading books, he would turn down the volume of his CD player and close the door for me.

o. Be tolerant

- tolerate those relative small faults when actually others didn't mean to do so.
- Doing sth wrong is inevitable, as long as it is unintentional.
- Others will also appreciate it a lot when their faults are tolerated.

p. Be brave

- the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.
- In this rapidly developing society, if we're easily freaked out by various challenges, then there's no way we can succeed.

Good expressions

specifically	relatively
such as	like
consequently	moreover
in this way	candid
amazing	smashing
definitely	undoubtedly
favorable	dedicated
time-consuming	vague
broaden my horizon	
get response on the spot	
enlarge their social circles	
hone the communication skills	
The best part is that ...	
The key point is that ...	
One thing I like the most is ...	
Sure, it is generally true that ...	
timely and effective communication	
As a result, it would in turn bring benefits to ...	
The possibility of ... would be relatively small.	

3.2 Question 3

About question 3, there are three vital points in the reading and three in the listening, by catching which we can easily handle this question. And those **points** are,

- one topic
- two aspects (reasons, results, effects, etc.)
- one attitude
- two reasons

Also, there are some **tips**.

- The listening part is more important than the reading.
- In your answer there should be connections between reading and listening.

Finally, we shall look at a **template**.

- The school is planning to ... because it has come to peoples attention that
Also, ... However, the woman/man doesn't like it/doesn't think this is a
good idea/thinks it's a bad idea.

- He thinks, first, the reason why ...lies in ...rather than ...Also he believes that doing ...is a bad idea since/as it would/may cause ..., which is definitely an unwanted consequence.

The above analysis is super succinct since all of these are concluded from the book I mentioned before, which is full of details. What I write here is only the key points. And it is the same with what follows.

3.3 Question 4

In this question, there are also three **vital points**, which are,

- one academic concept (a clear name)
- two aspects (examples, explanations, applications, etc.)

A specific **template** is below and note that **tips** for Q3 are still useful here.

- The professor is talking about a xxx concept called xxx, which means that And the professor gives us two examples to illustrate this.
- In the first example, And this is because the concept of xxx. (connection)
- In the second example, ...and again, this can be well-explained by xxx. Again, xxx can be easily observed here.(connection)

3.4 Question 5

In this question, two students will talk about a problem that one of them is facing. And there are two solutions. You should summarize the problem and the solutions, as well as give your suggestion. My suggestion is 30s for summary and 30s for your advice.

Now think about what are the vital points in this question. I won't analyse more about this question since this is almost the easiest one in the speaking part. Let's glance at a **general template** and some **expressions**.

- The problem the woman faces is that she finds it difficult to ...
- The man suggests that the woman should try to ...Or she could ...
- If I were the man/woman, I would definitely choose to/I guess I would ...
- Speaking of the reasons, first, ...and second/moreover, ...
- I cant even imagine how ...I would be ...if I had to ...
- Even if ...it still ...and itll just lead to even more hectic future.
- Because only in this way can I really fix this problem without further worries.

3.5 Question 6

This one is also academic but easier since the professor always uses simple examples (usually his own experiences). Hence, the only thing is to understand those examples and recap them (it could be only one example and thus it will be longer and more detailed, but still quite simple).

My suggestion is to write as much as you can, but you have to ensure the understanding while writing. But if you even have problem understanding even if you only focus on listening, you should practice your listening first. Usually this won't happen since this listening material will be much easier compared to the real listening part.

The template is much of the same as that in Q4.

3.6 My tricks

My tricks for the speaking test, which I just found in the past test I took, are that **do not write anything during the 15s or 20s preparation time and just start speaking as soon as you can.**

For example, for the first two questions, you can just read about the key words quickly (I mean, ignore those words like "Do you agree or disagree with the statement". Try to grab the key words at the first sight!). And for the rest four, just start speaking at the end of the listening (since you always know the questions and in this way you will get more practice time).

Of course, the preconditions are that, first you have clear understanding of the listening material and second you have the draft in your mind when you are listening and taking notes. Sounds commanding, but actually it is quite pragmatic since your notes should naturally be your outlines while speaking.

It's true that even though you make use of every second you can, it is just impossible for you to finish your practice. It's totally fine. I can't finish it either. But the best part is when you have practiced the first 30s, you will be much more fluent at the beginning. Hence, a good impression is made and you are also much more confident. Confidence does count a lot because you know, if you stuck at the beginning you would get super nervous and the whole answer would just end in a mess.

So this is why I am telling you such tricks. Also, for the first two questions, you should use like 3s to 5s to quickly search your mind for a point and an example and then start. Please do not refuse to use some simple reason like "just for fun".

4 Writing

Since I am not so good at writing, there's little I can talk about the writing strategy or topic analysis. But I think the most important thing is to make a reasonable, coherent argument by thorough analysis and detailed examples. Below are **templates** and some good **expressions** that I collected.

4.1 Integrated writing task

- **Template 1**

The lecture talks about ..., which apparently refutes the points illustrated in the passage. According to the passage, Conversely, the professor holds the view that

Referring to ..., the professor believes that ..., casting doubt on the reading passage. As the professor states, it would seem to ..., thus makes the consequence of the reading less likely. It is more likely that ... as the professor indicates.

The professor also asserts a different outcome of ... whereas the author of the passage claims that ... For instance, the professor believes that ... That directly contradicts what the reading passage illustrates.

The last point that the professor challenges the reading is that ... According to the professor, ... However, the reading demonstrates an opposite results from ...

In brief, based on a thorough analysis of ..., the professor disagrees with the passage strictly.

- **Template 2**

The lecture talks about ..., which apparently refutes the points illustrated in the passage. According to the passage, ... Conversely, the professor holds the view that ...

First, the professor argues that ..., namely/that is ... In other words, ... nevertheless. This directly contradicts what the passage indicates, that is, ...

The second point the professor uses to cast doubt on the passage is that ... However, the passage states that ..., which is in stark contrasts to the lecture. It is ... that ... according to the lecture. ... So there lies another part where experience contradicts theory/assumption.

Another evidence the lecturer adopts to refute the passage is ..., differing from the statement of the passage.

To sum up, scarcely the lecturer agrees with what is presented in the passage. He claims that ..., whereas the reading materials states that ...

- **Template 3**

Both the author and the the lecturer discuss about ...and the lecturer contradicts all the three methods proposed by the passage by pointing out the potential problems respectively.

The first solution is ...according to the passage. However, the lecturer points out that even if ..., ...since ...In other words, ...

Second, the lecturer argues against the idea of doing sth. In his opinion, when ..., ..., which may lead to ...

As for ..., the lecturer also shows his strong disapproval. Even though ...chances are that ...

4.2 Independent writing task

- **Beginning**

Significant changes took place during the past years.

It is not uncommon that xxx is increasingly popular nowadays when ...

...has been a popular topic among the public which has caused heated debate over a long time.

Currently, the importance of protecting celebrities privacy has loomed up wide public concern.

A or B, which one is of more importance, has always been an issue of considerable controversy.

There is no consensus over which one is superior to the other, but rather that ...

Hence I cling to a rock-solid believe that B plays far more essential role in ... than A does.

When it comes to the issue about doing ..., peoples opinions differ from person to person, and culture to culture. Some prefer ...while others may choose ...From my perspective, I prefer the former one for reasons of ...and ... Meanwhile, ...

It is true that ... has its own merits to some extent. Specifically, it means that ... At the mean time, ...

However, when taking more factors into consideration, it has to be admitted that ... outweighs ... However, close analysis does not bear out the argument.

To choose A or B is something of a dilemma to the public because they sometimes are confused by the seemingly good qualities of B, and thus lose sight of the genuinely good aspects of A.

Not all human beings are the same. People have cultural perspectives, language barriers, different educational backgrounds, personality traits and varying value systems that greatly affect the way that information is processed and interpreted.

From my perspective, there are more defects lying in such a measure than merits.

- **Body**

To begin with, ...

The importance of B comes next only to that of A. That is ...

Further lending credence to my position is that ...

The last thing I want to point out is that ...

- **Conclusion**

Therefore, based on all reasons listed above, I reinforce my statements that ...

To sum up, from what has been discussed above, we may safely draw the conclusion that it is better for ... to ... Only in this way can sb obtain an all-round development and ...

All things considered, it is safely to conclude that ...

To sum up, chaining together all the merits elaborated above, ...

Judging from all the reasons analyzed above, ...

it is reasonable to conclude that ...

we are completely convinced that ...

4.3 Expressions

- **verbs**

reinforce	enhance
bolster	support
refute	challenge
contradict	question
cast doubt on	disagree with
assert	argue
hold the view that	argue that
illustrate	demonstrate
corroborate	substantiate
indicate	underscore
strengthen	fortify
neglect	negligence
ignore	overlook
forget about	lose sight of
faults	weakness
defect	mistake
discuss	investigate
promote	give a boost to
focus on	put much emphasis on

- **adverbs**

Indisputably	absolutely
admittedly	conversely
unfortunately	extremely
hardly	scarcely
undoubtedly	unambiguously
likewise	comparatively speaking

- **"conjunctions"**

(I mean they can be used like a conjunction between sentences.)

besides	in addition
moreover	likewise
at the mean time	as a matter of fact
whereas	however
hence	consequently
in spite of	dspite
admittedly	indeed

- **phases**

cling to
 be discontented with
 substantiate his claims
 pose a great threat to
 pose serious influence to
 have negative influence on
 play far more essential role in
 occupy overwhelming superiority
 be intrinsically beneficial for
 weaken the authors argument on sth. by ...
 establish corroboration of his standpoint

- **sentence patterns**

A case in point has association with Albert Einstein in the realm of Physics.
 We may easily quote an example to better illustrate this point. Just imagine that ...
 Examples like this happen everywhere.
 Take A as an example = Take, for example, ...

Based on ... ,
 Despite the fact that ...
 Hardly can sb. do sth.
 However, chances are that ...
 It is an undeniable fact that ...
 It is my contention that ...
 There is little doubt that ...
 What make the matters worse is ...
 So it is high time that we seriously take ... into consideration.
 ... comes closer to expressing genuine human feelings.
 Doing ... , if not accompanied by, ... can lead to ... that would hamper ...
 Although you may assume that ... it is undeniable that / chances are that ...

- **For specific topics**

Below are something I wrote by myself, related to some specific topics.
 I know it is more convenient for readers if I attach the Chinese translations, but I don't think you would have difficulties. Why not take it as a reading? :)

However, some others hold that scientists take prominent position in the world due to their contribution and achievements.

Among numerous factors that ... the proportion between male infants and female ones, there are several conspicuous factors.

narrow down the gap between the rich and the poor widen the gap between haves and have-nots guarantee that people all have equal access

to education opportunities.

More taxes should be levied against the wealthy people

This should be used in improving poor peoples life standard, constructing public facilities and infrastructure.

This just renders the rich richer and thus widen the gap between haves and have-nots.

Furthermore, history is collective memory and a storehouse/trove/cache of experience through which people can form/develop a knowledge/sense of theirsocial identity and future prospects.

Some assume that there is a close link between wealth and happiness, while others hold that true happiness lines in emotions and relationships.

The transportation system is the lifeline of a countrys economy activities, the paralysis of which would lead to the disintegration of the country.

However it is unfair to assert that the only thepursuit of money is the only purpose of business people.

modern citizens ought to be encouraged to keep a close watch on current events.

I would rather regardcollege education as a stepping stone toward success rather than the most important factor. It is a wise choice for the company leaders to invest some of the fundings into human resource improvement.

However, comparatively speaking, more happiness could be obtainedif one manages to accomplish all the challenging work rather than an easier one.

To sum up, there is no need to completely prohibit teachers from presenting their favorable views in class.

adopt immediate measures to renovate their paying systems.

In conclusion, it would be unbearable for anyone to be confined in his work and be unable to engage in relaxing activities.

4.4 My practice

a. Integrated Writing form test on 1.14

Q: An university offers students two choices during a study break, one is to take a course that ia not required be one's own major, the other is to do some volunteer work. Which one do you think is more helpful for students? ...

My article :

It is always of vital importance for college students to spend a long break between semesters in doing some meaningful things. As for a choice between learning a course unrelated to my major and doing volunteer work, I would personally prefer the latter for the following reasons.

Admittedly, learning some courses in other different majors does benefit to a student since it would broaden the students horizon, help students learn more about multidisciplinary knowledge. Also, students can make more friends in different major in this way. However, this can all be done during the semester. Moreover, with the help of professors in college, students are more likely to learn courses in some unfamiliar fields better.

Hence, considering the unique characteristic of a long break, doing volunteer work benefits students more than simply taking a course since students can learn more about social skills, cultivate more social accountability, and relax more during the break.

First, students are sure to improve their social skills by doing volunteer work. For instance, when assigned to take care of some elderly people in their community, students have to think about a good and efficient way to communicate with the elderly and thus take good care of them, which could be a challenge since how to better communicate and take care of an unfamiliar elderly person is definitely not taught at school.

Further lending my credence to my position is that doing volunteer work helps cultivate the sense of responsibility of a college student. It makes students feel it imperative to do something to make the community, the country, the whole world a better place for our next generation. For example, by doing volunteer work in the community, students may know a lot of people who have always been dedicated to such volunteer work and be touched a lot. Therefore, college students truly understand what it means by accountability. That is try your best to help and to give little by little.

The last point I want to mention is about relaxation. After all we are talking about how to spend a break. Doing volunteer work means students need to go out and to talk rather than sit down and study a course for the whole day. It is undeniable that the former choice, volunteer work would be much more relaxed for college students and it definitely helps more in the sense of relaxing the mood and releasing the pressure

To sum up, based on all the above analysis, I reinforce my opinion that doing volunteer work during a long break benefits college students more than learning a course that is unrelated to ones major.

- b. I forgot where this task came from ...

Q: Some people always have ambiguous dreams, while some focuses on realistic dreams. Which one do you prefer? (Not exactly the requirments, but key parts are included.)

My article:

When it comes to the issue about dreams, people from all walks of life have various opinions. Some are aspiring and tend to dream big while others are more pragmatic and always make it a point to accomplish those realisti goals. As far as I am concerned, I prefer the latter point of view, that is to be pragmatic and realistic.

Inspite of the zeal and passion that big dreams can give rise to in our heart, realistic goals do take a prominent position because of the chance to realize those goals and their positive impact on ourselves, as well as on the whole society.

In the first place, high chances are that we can actually fulfill those realistic goals if we have a strong desire to do so. A case in point has association with my father. When I was a kid, he always told me never to reach for what is beyond my grasp, that is never to dream about any impractical things that far beyond my capability. And he himself is such a person. He managed to buy a small car when I was ten and a bigger house for our family when I was 14. These were all his realistic dreams and all in his plan. Finally, he made it step by step. Just imagine what would happen if my father were always dreaming about something big like being a president. I am afraid that our family will never have the chance to enjoy the decent life we are having now.

Further lending credence to my standpoint is that realistic goals can have multitude positive impact on our lives. As I state above, since those goals are much more likely to be achieved, we can thus benefit a lot from them. First, it is conspicuous that we can benefit directly from what we gain by achieving those goals. For instance, if our goal is to get a decent job and earn more money, we can be more wealthy enjoy more of our life by realizing this goal. Moreover, we will be mentally affected by achieving goals. In other words, it is by realizing those goals that we can gain much confidence. Being more confident, we will thus achieve more and more goals.

The last point I would like to make is that realistic goals definitely benefit the whole society more than those ambitious and big dreams. Admittedly, big dreams, if accomplished, do have huge impacts on our society. However, take a retrospect through the whole history, are there more realistic workers and engineers or more scientists? It is those realistic workers and engineers who actually do their job whole-heartedly and

thus contribute more to the whole development of our society. For example, building a bridge needs numerous workers to work day by day. If everyone is dreaming big and not willing to be realistic, what would our country become?

... Almost the same conclusion. Omit!

5 Good luck

Thanks for your reading. I would be happy if there is something you like in this note!

Again, please feel free to contact me if you have any question. Also, sharing should be authorized by me and please indicate the source when sharing this note.

Good luck with your test and your application!!

9.3	akin to = Similar to
remote = distant	occasionally = Sometimes
aggregate = collection	ingenuity = inventiveness
adverse = negative	exclusively = solely
permeable = easy to be changed	supplement = add to
pursue = engage in	autonomous = independent
segmented = divided into several parts	erased = eliminated
cluster = group	fluctuations = variations
transparent = seen through	maintained = claimed
	merely = only
9.10	dramatic = productive
Constraints = Limitations	fulfill = achieve
Depleted = Use up	9.20
Ultimately = finally	hasten = speed up
Hence = Therefore	inevitable = unavoidable
Insure	9.24
viable = survival	cultivated = Encouraged the growth of
Abrupt	permeated = Spread throughout
Accessible to	duties = responsibility
Unfavorable	chronological = page number
Triggered	resembled = be similar to
Severely	relatively = comparatively
Reinforcing	wrought (work : worked or literary wrought) = created
emergence = rise	distortions = irregularities
distinctive = characteristic	
obscure = unclear	temporary = briefly
10.15	uniformly = consistently
adequate = rich	much deterioration = worse condition
compelling = persuasive	innumerable = countless

Figure 1: Recent Shoots(1)

marvelous = wonderful	end = purpose
afford = produce	conversely = in contrast
detect = distinguish	vocation = occupation
resolve = settle	justification = good reason
painstaking = at great effort	10.28
precious = expensive	extreme = great
his imitators = people who copied his work	upon reflection = after consideration
10.16	consult = ask
addressed = dealt with	emit = release
scarcity = insufficiency	elevate = upward
prolonged = extended	dismiss = rejected
lucrative = profitable	simultaneous = at the same time
revered = greatly admired	chaotic = disorganize
advent = arrival	11.5
impulse to = push forward	appeal to = attract
postulate = propose	anxiety = worry
portable = movable	enduring = lasting
exceedingly = extremely	emergence = appearance
their component = what they consist of	highlighting = emphasizing
10.22	ongoing = continuing
simultaneously = at the same time	correspond to = matches
trigger = start	complexity = sophistication
allowing = making possible	flourished = do so well
pragmatic = practical	autonomy = self-rule
founding = establishment	pervasive = widespread
fragments = pieces	signifying = indicate
11.12	function = purpose

Figure 2: Recent Shoots(2)

recur = repeat frequently	cease= stop
notable = well-known	bare = not covered by leaves
shatter = broke	dispersive = scatter
sparse = scarce	sparse = thinly distributed
skepticism = doubt	11.26
scrutiny = examination	inspiring = striking
scatter = spread	discarded = abandoned
concept = idea	baffled= puzzled
speculate = conjecture	confirming = proving
mechanism of dis-composition=how dis-composition take place	Of no need to say= obvious
eventually = in the end	adhesive = sticky
solely = only	Ensured=guaranteed
	Duration of =the length of
11.13	enabled= allowed
expended = used	In some extent = to a certain degree of
fluctuating = varying	massively = extensively
potential = possible	disperse = scatter
mounted = grew	12.3
collated = assemble	compounded = added to
incredible = amazing	accessible = available
account for = involved	consensus = widespread agreement
11.19	exclusive=sole
reflected = shown	indefinitely = endlessly
compensate for = make up for	adverse = unfavorable
extended = lengthened	vigorous = genetic
consistent = unvarying	12.17

Figure 3: Recent Shoots(3)

robust = healthy	inexplicable = mysterious
optimal = ideal, best, perfect	engaged in = practiced
predominantly=mainly	profusely =abundant
12.10	repetitive = happen many times
intensive=strong	elaborate =developed
resume=to start again	retention = keeping
extensive = considerable	contribute = provide
Temporary = for short-term	still = motionless
modify =change	thus = therefore
recover=to return to normal	1.7
excessive= too much	properties = characteristics
complex=complicated	substantially = significantly
drastically =significantly	allegedly = supposedly
trigger=start	apparent = obvious
simultaneously = at the same time	occasionally = sometimes
magnitude =extent	drastically = extremely
12.11	segregated = separated
sculpt = carve	leftover= remains
deposit = putting	ensured = guaranteed
drastic = significant	match = agree with
reluctant= unwilling	rival = competing
accompanied by = occurred together	1.14
accustomed to = used to	faithfully =accurately
net=final	admiration for = high opinion of
Implement = carry out	perceived (as) = seen
profound = significant	fragile = delicate
garment = xxx of clothing	Obtained = gathered
thus=in this way	a wealth of data = a lot of information
install = put in place	encompass = include
Promoting = developing	are preserved = are buried

Figure 4: Recent Shoots(4)

chancellor 名誉校长
 principal 中学校长
 counselor 辅导员
 coordinator 班主任协调人
 wing/annex 配楼
 auditorium = lecture hall
 administration building 行政大楼
 archaeology 考古学
 pedagogies 教育学
 anthropology 人类学
 colloquium 报告课
 exemption 免修
 intonation 声调语调
 blue book 答题本
 back issue 过期杂志
 diploma degree certificate 文凭 学位 证书
 reserved books 仅限馆内阅读的馆藏书
 copier 复印机 photocopy room 打印室
 corridor 走廊过道
 patio 阳台
 quilt 被子
 utensil 用具
 rug 小地毯
 furnace stove 炉子
 cabinet 机箱 储藏柜 陈列柜
 tilt 倾斜
 oval 椭圆的
 psychological 心理学的
 professionalism 专业水准
 null hypothesis 无效假说
 alternative hypothesis 择一假说
 instill 逐渐灌输, 使逐渐形成
 morale 精神面貌
 (the current) state of the art 技术发展最新水平 当前发展水平; 最先进的
 viable 有望成功的
 rapport 融洽关系
 hitherto adv. 至今
 stagnation 停滞
 assimilate 吸收
 substantial 大量的, 重要的...

Figure 5: Basic words