Essays
Manual

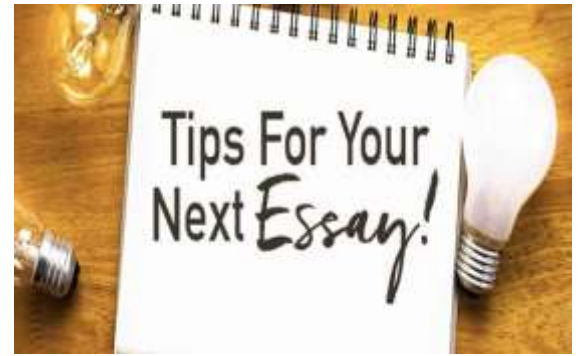### Different Essay types

1. **Opinion (often an Agree or Disagree question)**
   To what extent do you agree?

2. Advantages and Disadvantages /
   Advantages and Disadvantages + Opinion
   Positive / Negative

3. **Discuss 2 views / Discuss 2 views + opinion**

4. Cause + Effect
   Cause + Solution
   Problem + solution

5. Two Questions Essay

Agree/Disagree
To what extent do you agree?
Essay Questions

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy.

The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

==

Agree/Disagree - To what extent do you agree?

Essay Questions

STRUCTURE 1

Discuss 2 different/opposing views, but choose 1 side

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

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay structure 1:   Writer discusses two opposite VIEWS but *supports 1 view only*

1.	**Introduction -**	**Reword the question into own words + own opinion** (reword question +mention both opposite views + own opinion)
2.	**Body paragraph 1 -**	**Topic Sentence 1 / Opposite of your View that some people believe** **1-2 ideas (Explain + give examples)** *Good to be a vegetarian (other people's opinion)*
3.	**Body paragraph 2 -**	**Topic Sentence 2View that YOU believe** **1-2 ideas (Explain + give examples)** *Bad to be a vegetarian (my opinion)*
4.	**Conclusion**	**Summary of ideas in body par 1 + 2** **Repeat own opinion again** **No new ideas** **Can have a concluding sentence... In the future,**

==

===

Sample 1   Essay Agree/Disagree   1

2 views discussed, support 1 view only

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

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

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Vegetarianism Essay - Sample Answer

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

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

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

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

===

==

Essay structure 2:
Agree or Disagree / To what extent do you agree?

Discussing only 1 side/view and supporting 1 view only

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

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Essay structure :   Writer discusses VIEWS and gives examples

         Total time: 40 min
         Write at least 250 words

1. **Introduction -**   **Reword question in own words + show own opinion**
   (40 words)

2. **Body paragraph 1 -**   **Topic Sentence 1 Reason 1 Why you agree (view1)**
   (100 words)   **1-2 ideas (Explain + give examples)**
            I think advertising is bad because...

3. **Body paragraph 2 -**   **Topic Sentence 2 Reason 2 Why you agree (view1)**
   (100 words)   **1-2 ideas (Explain + give examples)**
            Another reason I think advertising is bad is because...

4. **Conclusion**   **Summary of ideas + repeat own opinion again**
   (40 words)   Never introduce any new ideas
            Optional extra conclusion sentence

==

===

ADVERTISING

Sample 2   **Essay Agree/Disagree**

Discussing 1 view and supporting 1 view only

> You should spend 40 minutes on this task.
> Write about the following topic:
> *Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society.*
> *To what extent do you agree with this view?*
> Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.
> Write at least 250 words.

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

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

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

In conclusion, it is certainly true to say that people are constantly being flooded by advertising no matter where they are. They are also encouraged to buy products or services that might be too expensive or unnecessary. I therefore believe lots of advertising is morally wrong.

===

DISCUSS BOTH VIEWS

ESSAY

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

> **Some people think that it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools. Others, however, believe that boys and girls benefit more from attending mixed schools.**
>
> **Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

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

Write at least 250 words.

DISCUSS BOTH SIDES

or

DISCUSS BOTH SIDES + OWN OPINION

Essay structure:

Many people want their country to host an international sporting event.

Others believe that international sporting events bring more problems than benefits.

Discuss both views (and state your opinion)

Introduction
Sentence 1	*Paraphrase the question* + stating BOTH sides
Sentence 2	Show your opinion (if asked for one)

Body paragraph 1   SIDE 1 OPPOSITE OF YOUR OPINION (few examples)
                (Others believe there are more problems)
Sentence 1	State first point of view that people have
Sentence 2- 3	Explain this point of view
Sentence 4-6	Give an example of the point of view

Body paragraph 2   SIDE 2 YOUR OPINION (few examples)
                (You believe there are more benefits)
Sentence 1	State first point of view that people have
Sentence 2- 3	Explain this point of view
Sentence 4-6	Give an example of the point of view

Conclusion
Sentence 1-2	Briefly summarize main ideas from body 1+2
Sentence 3	Give your final opinion again.
----

1. **Introduction -**   **Paraphrase question + mention both sides**

2. **Body paragraph 1 –**   **Discuss VIEW 1 (not your opinion's view)**
3. **Body paragraph 2 –**   **Discuss VIEW 2 (your opinion)**
   VIEW 2 should be the opposite of VIEW 1
4. **Conclusion**

SAMPLE ESSAY 1

DISCUSS BOTH SIDES + OWN OPINION

Computers are being used more and more in education. Some people say that this is a positive trend, while others argue that it is leading to negative consequences.

Discuss both sides of this argument and then give your own <mark>opinion</mark>.

There is an ever increasing use of technology, such as tablets and laptops, in the classroom. It is often argued that this is a positive development, whilst others disagree and think it will lead to adverse ramifications. This essay agrees that **an increase in technology is beneficial** to students and teachers and will discuss both points of view.

Many disagree that computers are conducive to the education realm. They feel that technology deprives people of real human interaction. Human interaction teaches people valuable skills such as discourse, debate and empathy, which is apparently not possible via the use of devices such as the computer and internet. Therefore it is advised education be carried out in real-life settings with real individuals to maximize efficiency of the transmission of information.

However, it is clear that the internet has provided students with access to more information than ever before. Moreover, learners have the ability to research and learn about any subject at the touch of a button. It is therefore agreed that technology is a very worthwhile tool for education. Wikipedia is a prime example, where students can simply type in any keyword and gain access to in-depth knowledge quickly and easily.

In conclusion, **while the benefits of technology**, particularly the internet, allow students to tap in to limitless sources of information, some still feel that **people should be wary of** this new phenomenon and not allow it to curb face to face interaction. However, as long as we are careful to keep in mind the importance of human interaction in education, the educational benefits with computers are clearly positive.

Problem and Solution Essay Structure

Global warming is one of the biggest threats humans face in the 21st Century and sea levels are continuing to rise at alarming rates.
What problems are associated with this and what are some possible solutions? (no opinion)

SIMPLE STRUCTURE - Problems and Solutions

Paragraph 1- **<u>Introduction</u>**
           Reword question in own words
           Mention that it's a problem + mention that there are possible solutions

Paragraph 2- **<u>Problems</u>**
           Topic sentence 1 - mention problem(s) you will write about
           Mention 1-2 **PROBLEMS**   Explain ,examples

Paragraph 3- **<u>Solutions</u>**
           Topic sentence 2 - mention solutions(s) you will write about
           Mention 1-2 **SOLUTIONS**   Explain ,examples
           Make sure solution 1 is related to problem 1
           Make sure solution 2 is related to solution 2

Paragraph 4- **<u>Conclusion</u>**
           Summary of problems and solutions +
           Extra concluding sentence. (NO OPINION)

SAMPLE ESSAY 1 - **PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing. What problems will an ageing crowd cause for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.

It is true that people in industrialised nations can expect to live longer than ever before. **Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, societies can take steps to mitigate these potential problems**.

As people live longer and the populations of developed countries grow older, **several related problems can be anticipated**. **The main issue is that** there will obviously be more people of retirement age who will be eligible to receive a pension. The proportion of younger, working adults will be smaller, and governments will therefore receive less money in taxes in relation to the size of the population. In other words, an ageing population will mean a greater tax burden for working adults. **Further pressures will include** a rise in the demand for healthcare, and the fact that young adults will increasingly have to look after their elderly relatives.

There are several actions that governments could take to solve the problems described above. **Firstly, a simple solution would be to** increase the retirement age for working adults, perhaps from 65 to 70. Nowadays, people of this age tend to be healthy enough to continue a productive working life. **A second measure** would be for governments to encourage immigration in order to increase the number of working adults who pay taxes. **Finally**, money from national budgets will need to be taken from other areas and spent on vital healthcare, accommodation and transport facilities for the rising numbers of older citizens.

In conclusion, various measures such as an increased retirement age and immigration **can be taken to tackle the problems of** greater tax burdens that are certain to arise as the populations of countries grow older.

Introductions

===

EXPRESSING AN OPINION

1.   People have debated whether the advent of **sophisticated modern technology** such as mobile phones, laptops and iPad have helped to **enhance people's social lives** or whether the opposite has become the case. **Personally, I strongly advocate the view that / Personally I side with those who argue that** hi-tech devices have indeed facilitated our lives and brought us closer socially.

===

AGREE or DISAGREE INTRO

People have debated whether the advent of **sophisticated modern technology** such as mobile phones, laptops and iPad have helped to **enhance people's social lives or whether** the opposite has become the case

===

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES INTRO

DISCUSS BOTH VIEWS INTRO / POSITVE or NEGATIVE

The phenomenon of mobile devices in classrooms **is associated with both positive and negative aspects**.

===

CAUSE + SOLUTION INTRO

The widespread problem of excessive mobile phone usage **has long been a major topic of concern in society**. **Some of the major culprits of (this problem) will be discussed before the most important solutions are drawn**.

===

PROBLEM + SOLUTION INTRO

Learners are becoming ever more dependent on technology, such as the Internet and mobiledevices. **This essay will discuss some of the main problems associated with** dependence on computers and **suggest some measures that deserve consideration.**

===

CAUSE + EFFECT

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

<u>Saying something is Bad / Disadvantage / Negative</u>

1.   Many people believe that playing games on mobile phones **is an undesirable phenomenon**.

2.   **The main disadvantage associated with** the increasing use of technology in education is the decrease in face to face interaction between students

---

<u>Saying something is Good / Advantage / Benefit</u>

1.   This essay will discuss how technology helps us meet people from all over the world, and that **this is an extremely positive and welcoming development**.

2.   **The** internet **has also enriched our lives by** provid**ing** us with more information than we could ever need, thus making us more independent and effective learners

---

SAYING SOMETHING IS A <u>PROBLEM</u>

1.   **One of the main problems associated with** dependence on computers **is** the addiction that it can create.

2.   **The primary drawback of** so many people travelling to the same place at the same time is the pollution and rubbish they could cause.

SOLUTION

1.

It is often argued that banning smoking in public areas **is the most appropriate way of** boosting the health of the general public, while others feel that this is not a viable solution and believe **other steps should be taken**. This essay will argue that a total ban is **not the best answer** and education **is a more suitable option**.

2.   **It is important that action is taken to combat the issue of** drinking. **Governments should ensure that** adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent young people from abusing alcohol as well as **placing** harsh penalties for offenders **high on the government agenda.**

CAUSES

1. In conclusion, **various factors are attributable to** the disappearance of face-to-face meetings.

2. The health crisis currently affecting so many individuals **is principally due to** over-consumption of poor quality food with little nutrition.

EFFECTS

1. Focusing on reading at an early age **can be detrimental**.

2. Today many children have a great quantity of toys to entertain them. **This can lead to negative consequences** for them **that are worthy of consideration**.

Topic sentences

1. **Proponents of** social media **are adamant that its merits are substantial**.
    Advocates of social media ...

2. **However, there are detractors who claim that** the internet brings more harm than good.

3. a. **On the one hand there is ample, powerful evidence that** such technology **can be detrimental especially to** the younger generation who are more easily affected by its addictive nature.

    b. **On the other hand, although there are significant downsides to** technological developments**, its multifold advantages cannot be denied.**

4. **Looking at the argument in another light**, **some feel that** technology has bridged the gap between the rich and the poor.

Giving Examples

1.)   Workers whose work demands more physical energy need to be given an early
       retirement. **<u>This can be illustrated by</u>** the workers in coal mine whose work demands
       strength and stamina which deteriorates as they grow older.

2.)   Compared to private vehicles, public transport modes can accommodate a larger number
       of passengers at a time. **<u>This is exemplified by</u>** the existence of several large public
       transport networks in Australia.

Body Paragraphs

Connecting one idea to another / Adding information

1.   **<u>In addition,</u>**
      A country can benefit from such skillful human resources in the long-term if they invest
      the tax budget to build schools, provide lecturers with training courses or hire native
      speakers to teach foreign languages. **<u>In addition</u>**, the government should also spend
      money solving transport problems.

2.   **<u>Furthermore, ...</u>**

      A vast majority of people perceive a meaningful life as helping others living in poor and
      underprivileged conditions**.** They spend most of their lifetime devoting to charity work.
      <u>Furthermore</u>, there are other people who do not enter workforce but seem satisfied with
      their lives.

3.   **<u>Moreover</u>**,
      It is clear that the internet has provided students with access to more information on any
      subject. **<u>Moreover</u>**, learners have the ability to do research at the touch of a button
      without having to leave the comfort of their own home.

Results and Consequences

1.   **... hence ...   /   Hence, ...**

     1a.   On the one hand, it cannot be denied that working **plays an important role in** one's life. According to an annual survey **carried out** in the UK, a person spends about 25 or 30 years on their occupation, **<u>hence</u>** working time **accounts for** nearly one third of a person's life.

     1b.   Moreover, the professional world of certain white collared, highly respected professions, like those of physicians, engineers, scientists can only be pursued, after graduating from the respective university courses. **<u>Hence</u>** university education is definitely perceived as a means of better employability

2.   **Therefore, ...   / Consequently, ...**

     2a.   However, only some students who are very smart are able to come top in formal exams   while normal students may think that they are incapable of competing with more intelligent students at all. **<u>Therefore</u>**, slow students might feel reluctant to bury themselves in study to achieve higher scores.

     2b.   When there is no limit to the indulgence parents show toward their kids, these children will become needy and dependent, and **<u>therefore</u>** are unable to live on their own.

     2c.   The association with celebrities may trivialize the serious work of international aid organizations since the focus of the public may be shifted away from this endeavour to the fame and public image of the celebrity concerned. **<u>Consequently</u>**, we sometimes have to question their motives for involvement.

3.   **As a result, ...**
     3a.   There is a common practice that parents assist their preadolescent children in taking a bath or a shower. **<u>As a result</u>**, children may fail to acquire basic personal hygiene skills at the right time. / Children may **<u>as a result</u>** fail to acquire basic ....

     3b.   On the social level, some traditions may be lost **<u>as a result</u> of** people **eating out** too often.

Conclusions

▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬ ▬

Agree / Disagree

To conclude, in light of the points mentioned above, I am firmly of the perspective that even though there are strong arguments in favor of being vegetarian due to the health benefits, leading a non-vegetarian life is the best choice for most if we control our meat intake.

▬ ▬

Advantages / Disadvantages - Positive / Negative / Discuss 2 Views

To conclude, in light of the points mentioned above, I am firmly of the perspective that although the growth of junk **is beneficial to some extent**, **such as** its great taste, it still **demonstrates harmful impacts on** people's health.

To conclude, in light of the points mentioned above, I am firmly of the perspective that despite some potentially serious health **implications** of computer games, **it is predicted that its popularity will continue to flourish in the future** due to their entertainment value.

▬ ▬

Problem Solutions / Cause Effect / Cause Solution

Problem + Solution Conclusion

To conclude, leading a non-active lifestyle **poses a series** of health **issues**. **However, this can be handled by** increasing the level of fitness among the society by advertising physical activity.

==
Cause + Effect Conclusion

To conclude, various factors are attributable to the reduction of physical activity, such as the distraction of the internet. Consequently, **this has several damaging effects on** health issues **which cannot be neglected**.

==
Cause + Solution Conclusion

To conclude, widespread gambling **has been caused by** the need for money and addiction, however **this issue can be tackled through** self-discipline and a desire to focus on other more significant aspects of our lives.

ANIMALS

Animal Medical Testing

Some people say that it is acceptable to test medicine intended for people on animals. Others, however, believe that it is not right to use animals in this research. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Many believe that using animals for scientific testing purposes is fundamentally immoral, while others see it as a necessary evil. In my opinion, even though it is decidedly unethical, the overall impact on human progress justifies its continuance.

Detractors of animal testing often point out that animals have rights. We would never condone this type of testing on a human, even with one with a low IQ and it follows that we should treat animals with some measure of respect. The strongest argument supporting this is the level of cruelty involved in animal testing. Many drugs that are tested on animals have painful side-effects and the test subjects may die slow, painful deaths. This is undeniably unjustifiable regarding testing in non-essential medical fields such as cosmetics.

Despite the moral quagmire detailed above, I believe animal testing does enough to advance medical testing to warrant its use. Some cursory research will reveal the importance of animal testing in fields such as diabetic medicine, cancer research, experimental surgery, and stem cells. Testing insulin for diabetics on dogs may be the most well-known example of this kind of impactful research. Many other advances in medicine often attributed to animal testing have saved countless human lives to an extent that would be impossible if researchers were working under the moral constraints of human test subjects.

In conclusion, animal testing is the best way to make breakthroughs in medicine and should be strongly encouraged. Governments should work with medical institutions to implement more medical testing on animals across the board.

Wildlife - Protecting Wild Animals or Humans

Some people think that resources should be spent on protecting wild animals, while others think those would be better used for the human population.
Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

There are many who doubt the logic of spending money and time on wild animals when there are so many humans in need. In my opinion, the valid reasons to prioritise humanity do not outweigh the fact that animals more desperately require refuge.

Those who advocate for less aid for animals believe that human life is inherently more valuable. Humans are capable of higher reasoning skills, have more emotionally complex lives, and most importantly, we share a primary obligation to members of our own species. A good example of this would be when humans and animals come into conflict. Recently, a boy fell into a gorilla cage at a zoo and the wild animal was killed to protect the child. There was a large public outcry but only extremists would argue the human should die in such situations. Increased funding for wildlife in effect means reduced resources allocated to charities for the underprivileged and the implicit elevation of animals over humans.

However, the risk to wild animals is pressing and justifies responsible action. Despite the vulnerability of particular humans, nothing imperils humanity as a whole. This is not the case for endangered animals like bald eagles, cheetahs, lions, and polar bears. They face threats ranging from the impact of climate change to deforestation to poaching. Those are all a direct result of human activity. Without our help, there is a very real chance that some species on the brink will go extinct in the coming decades. Once they have gone extinct, there will be no way to bring them back and this is the existential threat that ought to compel continued funding for programs aimed at wildlife conservation.

In conclusion, thought human life is more valuable, the danger looming for at-risk animals is greater and validates compassionate effort. The longer we neglect animals, the greater the chances of extinction.

Animal use for food, clothing, medicine

In the modern world it is no longer necessary to use animals for food, clothing or medicine. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include examples from your own experience.

The exploitation of animals **has been an unavoidable aspect of human life** for most of our history. We have raised and hunted animals for food, used their fur and skin for protection from the elements, and even used their body parts for their supposed **medicinal benefits**. However, as society advances we need to consider our effect on other living things, and it seems that we should try to **limit or even eliminate our reliance on animal products**.

Like all living things, humans need a source of food and protection from the surrounding environment. When we lived as hunter-gatherers and in early agricultural societies**, animals were an essential part in our survival**, providing us with protein and keeping us warm. The other major use of animals has been in medicine. Before **the advent of modern medical science**, people relied on traditional doctors who often **used various animal parts to allegedly cure different maladies**.

Conversely, **in a modern context there is minimal need for this**. **We can obtain adequate nutrition from vegetarian sources** and food scientists are developing lab-grown meat that will soon be indistinguishable from real meat. When we add in **the suffering that animals experience** in factory farms or in battery cages and **the devastating environmental effects of intensive farming**, it seems **extremely difficult to justify using animals for meat** and clothing. Furthermore, we now live in a brighter world where we not only **have better alternatives**, but we can demonstrate that these **traditional animal-derived treatments are absolutely ineffective**. Users and promoters of these types of medicine **highlight the worst aspects of human nature** as their stubbornness and selfishness **leads to the extinction of many of the most majestic animals that have ever walked the earth**.

Broadly speaking, **in a historical context**, the use of animals as a food, clothing, and medicine seems understandable. However, **in a supposedly enlightened modern society such practices highlight that** many of us still think and act like we are nothing more than hairless apes.

(329 words)

ART / ENTERTAINMENT / FILMS/MUSEUMS

Museum Entrance Fees

Many museums charge for admission while others are free.

Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museums outweigh the disadvantages?

Many are of the belief that museums should be free to the public because of their enormous potential to educate while others feel charging money helps ensure the quality of the art therein. I concede the benefits of the latter argument but would still side with those who advocate free admissions.

The main reason that many are in support of charging money is that it sustains both the maintenance and quality of exhibitions. A good example of this would be the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. MoMA is generally regarded as one of the finest museums in the world and is famous not only for its well-maintained facade but also the ever-rotating artworks on display. They charge a nominal entrance fee in the neighbourhood of $20 a ticket and invest that money wisely to ensure a memorable experience for all museum-goers.

Despite the advantages for a private museum such as MoMA, I think making all museums free would encourage more people to appreciate art. A contrasting example with MoMA would be a museum just a few blocks away: The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The MET has educated and uplifted millions of citizens regardless of their socioeconomic status. The wealthy who can afford museum admission are likely to already have a deep appreciation of the arts as well as the leisure time to enjoy their practice. People, and children especially, from poorer backgrounds have fewer opportunities and free museums is the best way to support appreciation of the arts *en masse*.

In conclusion, the benefits of free museum admissions, particularly for lower income families, outweigh the benefits of charging. The bigger issue is how governments and other organisations can budget free or relatively inexpensive museums.

Music & Society

Many people believe that music is just a form of entertainment, whilst others believe that music has a much larger impact on society today.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

There are those who claim that music is solely for entertainment purposes while others feel it has larger societal implications. In my opinion, ostensibly most people listen to music for fun, however it still opens up pathways for fringe elements of society to become mainstream.

Those that argue for the narrower view of music can easily highlight the ways in which music is consumed today. People listen to music at parties, nightclubs, and weddings to dance and enjoy themselves. They listen using streaming services like YouTube, Apple Music and Spotify to relax throughout the average day. The end result of all that listening is not that individuals think deeply about the lyrics or in any way question their actions, attitudes, or prejudices. Moreso than narrative forms of entertainment like movies and books, music is almost purely for entertainment and rarely rises above the level of subconscious enjoyment.

While there is some truth to the argument above, music turns a positive spotlight on previously underrepresented demographic groups. People do not simply listen to music; they are also apt to follow and admire their favourite artists. One of the best examples of this is the championing of LGBT lifestyles. Elton John was an early example of an artist whose sexuality was fluid at a time when many viewed this behaviour as deviant. He did not come out as gay until much later but his influence on aspiring artists and the average listener was immense. Today, there are many artists who are openly gay and this not only reduces bigotry in general by undermining its logic but also inspires others to come out. A person listening to and following artists in any genre today accepts these once alternative lifestyles as the norm.

In conclusion, music has an important role to play in society by giving voice to previously silent groups. In the same way that music broke down racial barriers in the 20th century, the 21st century will be the century of inclusion.

Museums and art galleries and history

Museums and art galleries should focus on works that show the history and culture of their own country rather than works of other parts of the world. To what extent do you agree / disagree?

MOSTLY AGREE

There is natural debate around the issue of whether or not museums should be showcasing works mainly from their own country or other countries. Although it is important to learn about other cultures through museums, countries have the right and responsibility **to preserve and maintain their own cultural history.**

Proponents of museums showing a variety of works from many different countries rightly argue that **people's lives are enriched through all these different cultures**. For example, Europe is a relatively small area that packs in dozens of distinct national identities. Someone going to a museum in a cosmopolitan city like Berlin is likely to find Italian Renaissance paintings next to modernist Spanish sculpture as well as German works. This allows people to feel they are travelling around the world and taking in a variety of viewpoints. **Through this exposure to culture they may come to better understand other nations** and have greater insight into what connects and differentiates countries from each other.

Despite the clear benefits of learning about other cultures, countries have the right to house the relics of their own history. Many of the museums displaying works from other countries took them without permission. For example, the British Museum's collection was mainly sourced during the height of the British Empire. Many nations have disputed the right of the museum to house their country's artifacts and some have been returned. It is only right that countries keep what was made in their country so that they can educate their own people about their history. Anything that has been taken without explicit permission should be returned, just as a thief is required to return what they have stolen if they are caught.

I think that **there is tremendous value in museums displaying works from other countries** but it does not override the basic right of nations to look after their own history. **One way forward would be to** encourage museums to have frequent exchanges and temporary exhibitions.

EDUCATION / LANGUAGES

PURPOSE OF UNIVERSITY?

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs.
Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.
Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

According to a section of society, **the primary goal of tertiary education is to enable** individuals **secure coveted jobs**. However others strongly believe that the goal of higher education is to achieve greater good; both for individuals and society. I strongly believe that **the purpose of** university education **is far beyond job prospects** and in the course of the essay I will discuss both viewpoints.

There are specific reasons why people believe that **tertiary education is the gateway to a lucrative job**. Firstly market researches in the United States and other developed countries have shown that **post graduates are able to command a considerable higher salary** at workplace when compared to **graduates or simple high school diploma holders**. Moreover, **the professional world of certain white collared, highly respected professions**, like those of physicians, engineers, scientists can only be pursued, after graduating from the respective university courses. Furthermore, in certain fields like management, **the credibility of various universities are judged by** their **ability to generate glittering well-paid employment offers** for their fresh graduates, during their campus placements. Hence university education **is definitely perceived as a means of better employability**.

In this context it is worth mentioning that, apart from generating lucrative jobs for students, universities also **benefit the nation** by creating educated societies, **containing an immense pool of forward thinking individuals, who can contribute towards social development by their respective expertise**. Individuals graduating from universities also additionally benefit from the **multicultural environments that promote intercultural tolerance and brotherhood**. The process of tertiary education also promotes teamwork and **collective development amongst individuals**. Over and above, numerous long lasting friendships, business partnerships and courtships also **bloom from the university campus life**.

Finally, to sum up, **it can be confidently stated that** apart from **generating respectable employment**, **there are numerous associated positive aspects of** university education, which **are of great social and individual significance**.

WORK AND TRAVEL BEFORE UNIVERSITY

GAP YEAR

**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 extremely 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 do
not 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**.

Skills   - practical skills

Many feel that students today should learn practical skills at school such as car maintenance and managing a bank account.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some believe that useful life skills should be taught at schools in addition to the standard academic schedule. In my opinion, school is chiefly an opportunity to learn about academic subjects.

The main argument in favour of learning these skills is self-evident: they are useful. The majority of students graduate from high school well versed in a foreign language, algebra, anatomy, and classic literature but helpless when confronted with the realities of daily life. Some skills they lack include general car maintenance such as changing the oil or a flat tire, cooking their own meals, managing their finances, and doing odd jobs around the house. The majority of what they learned in school will not be useful in their life and, without attention, will eventually fade from memory. Practical skills, on the other hand, will stay fresh in their mind due to repeated application and have a more ostensibly tangible impact.

Nonetheless, practical skills can be learned at home while the best place to learn about academic subjects is school. Many students will learn the craft of daily life from their family or naturally pick it up later. Cooking will not become a daily habit when living at home and the skills are unlikely to resurface intact years later when called upon. In contrast, schools are filled with experts in their fields only available at this time of life. A quality math or history teacher will guide you in a way books alone cannot. The accumulated knowledge from all these experts may or may not be directly useful but this singular opportunity to learn about a wide breadth of subjects will inform an individual's long-term intellectual life.

In conclusion, useful subjects are important but should not detract from the true purpose of schooling. Practical skills should be taught at schools only if they can be seamlessly worked into the curriculum and are not detrimental to academics.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in academics has become a pressing problem in many countries today.

What are the causes of this problem?

What are some possible solutions?

Plagiarism has become a serious issue in academic circles in recent decades. The main causes of this center around the dissemination of information to countries with varying attitudes to intellectual property rights and the solutions are strict censures of plagiarised works.

In many countries, plagiarism is not considered an offence or treated very lightly. For example, students in Vietnam grow up in an environment where copyright is largely just for show. It is common practice for photocopy shops to print or copy entire books with no legal repercussions. In school, many students are instructed to memorise and reproduce the works of others and prohibited from coming up with their own ideas. The rise of Facebook, which hardly polices IP rights, has led to further lawlessness. Altogether, theft is culturally permitted if not encouraged. Countries around the world all have differing standards based on their history, culture, and legal frameworks.

The best solutions for plagiarism are to implement degrees of punishments. Those who outright copy and paste works and pass them off as their own for commercial purposes should be subject to full criminal and civil prosecution. This will limit the most extreme cases. Sharing and posting materials on the internet is a thornier issue because the perpetrators do not always receive direct financial benefit and can be difficult to track down. In these cases, it is the websites, such as Facebook, that must police members and initiate warnings and bans to repeat offenders.

In conclusion, the pertinent threat of plagiarism means both companies and countries must work in tandem to limit any potential damage. In the future, this issue will only become more difficult to extricate so it is advisable that preventive measures be put in place now.

<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>

Climate Change

It is the job of governments and companies to deal with the huge environmental problems which we face. Individuals on their own can do little or nothing'.

To what extent do you agree?

It cannot be disputed that the **world is experiencing an environmental crisis**. According to recent research, if nothing is done **to tackle climate change** in the near future, **our planet will face the devastating consequences of global warming.** Undoubtedly, **it is the role of governments and corporate organisations to take action**, however I strongly feel that **individuals need to make a contribution to deal with this pressing problem** as well.

Politicians could certainly **invest public finances in order to** research the issues connected with climate change and, furthermore, could **pass laws in relation to industrial pollution**, which is making **a major contribution to the greenhouse effect**. Similarly, **corporate businesses should be adopting more sustainable working practices**, for instance, by **switching to more environmentally-friendly ways of** manufacturing using **renewable energy such as solar panels**. Likewise**, the individual as consumer can play a role here too,** by refusing to purchase products which have been manufactured in a way that damages the environment.

It must also be acknowledged that **individuals have a moral responsibility to care for our planet**. For example, reducing consumption of fossil fuels whenever possible, becoming self-sufficient by growing their own vegetables and switching off lights when they are not needed. Although some of **these actions may seem minor**, **the cumulative effect of everyone taking such actions would be enormous.**

It is probably certainly the case that governments and international companies are the key players with responsibility for protecting our planet. Nonetheless, **I am still convinced that** ordinary people, either individually or cooperatively, can help to make the changes necessary to have a significant impact on our future.

Green energy

Nowadays most green energy is becoming evermore prevalent in both developed and developing countries. Some argue they greatly reduce costs and are better for the environment, others believe they are a serious threat to energy security.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The world today **uses more renewable energy** than ever before since it contributes to the **preservation of the environment** and **is economically sound**; however, some argue that green energy **could undermine the reliability of** the global supply as a result of its dependency on climatic and meteorological phenomena. This essay will examine both views, but personally, **I strongly advocate the** adoption of **renewable sources of energy**.

On the one hand, opponents of renewables claim that the world could face disruptions to the power supply **should they be fully adopted**. This is largely due to the fact that many **green energy technologies currently in use depend on changeable and unpredictable phenomena such as wind**, rain and cloud cover. To take **the fastest growing sector** as an example, **solar panels** can only be used in the presence of strong and direct sunlight, and although the problem of directness has already been somewhat solved with moving panel arrays, a cloudy few days could still result in a blackout if we depended entirely on solar power; something that is unlikely to occur today given current oil stockpiles.

However, fossil fuels are a larger threat to energy security since **they are certainly finite in quantity**, whereas renewable energy is effectively infinite; once the Earth's **oil is depleted**, there will be no energy security without green energy technologies. Furthermore, **problems of** unpredictability **can be mitigated by** improv**ing** battery technologies (to create a larger buffer), building more renewable energy generators (to increase supply during ideal conditions) and improving current technologies (to increase efficiency), such as in the moving solar panel example. **Proponents of** renewables **therefore claim that** they are the most economically sound option.

To conclude, while many may believe that green energy technologies are a threat to energy security, the fossil fuels they frequently promote **are a greater threat**, and **renewables are in fact the only sound option**, both economically and environmentally.

Plants and Animals and Environmental Problems

Some people say that the main environmental problem of our time is the loss of particular species of plants and animals. Others say that there are more important environmental problems.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Many are of the opinion that the risks for endangered plants and wildlife are the most severe consequences of our worsening environment while others would argue that other problems are more pressing. While I consider the impact of recurring natural disasters to be important, in my opinion the loss of wildlife is the most serious threat to the environment.

The rise in recent catastrophic natural disasters has been strongly linked to climate change. Many scientists have made the case that incremental rises in temperature, specifically involving the oceans, has increased the frequency and potency of hurricanes, tsunamis, and blizzards. There are countless instances of these from the last two decades but the tsunami affecting mainly Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in 2004 is a particularly striking example. This was the largest natural disaster this century and resulted in thousands of deaths, injuries and billions of dollars in damages, the effects of which set these developing nations back economically for years. People lost their lives, homes, and livelihood in many cases.

The main reason that many people including myself are so focused on plant and animal life is because of the rising number of endangered animals in recent decades. One of the most well-known examples of this is the often cited case of polar bears. Polar bears live mainly in the Arctic and recent melting of the polar ice caps has resulted in reduced ice for polar bears to hunt on. Polar bears have become an endangered species and it is often forecast that by 2100 they will be entirely extinct in the wild. Their extinction will likely have a domino effect on the fragile ecosystems of the arctic and other endangered animals like seals and narwhales. This is just one example of the impact of global warming on animals and plants of our planet. Extinction is irreversible and there is no more lasting impression we can leave than to deplete the world entirely of a species.

In my opinion, the loss of ecological diversity trumps any other environmental concerns. In order to remedy this problem governments and individuals need to take serious steps to not only invest more in conservation efforts for endangered animals but also work towards long term reforms related to fossil fuels, carbon emissions and the other apparent catalysts for climate change.

\-

37

HEALTH / SPORTS / FOOD

Food ; junk food

Scientists agree that people are damaging their health by eating too much junk food.
Some people think that the answer to this problem is to educate people.
Others think education will not work.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Scientific findings have **clearly indicated that** the **excessive consumption of fast food** is **leading the health of people to deterioration**. According to some people, **this unhealthy practice** can be stopped **by means of education**; however, **some others have little faith in this solution**. As the supporters of each view have their own justifications, I am of the perspective that education remains an effective way of discouraging unhealthy eating habits.

On the one hand, some people **doubt the effectiveness of** education for certain reasons. To begin with, despite being aware of **the negative effects of fast food**, many people who are too busy **persist to eat** it due to its being convenient and time-saving. In this case, education hardly makes a difference as they have made a choice. In addition, compared with the wide range and availability of fast food stores and menus, healthy food is **seriously limited**. Furthermore, healthy food is **commonly inferior to** fast food in terms of taste and prices as a matter of fact. As a result, however convincing education is, it is almost impossible for people to change their eating habit without a ready **alternative to** their unhealthy food choices.

On the other hand, **raising the awareness** of people towards the dangers of unhealthy food **can certainly yield some promising outcomes**. Firstly, many fast food products provide very little or no information on the **nutritional content** in them, **deterring the consumers** from knowing the amount of fat, sodium or cholesterol which they take in. By being **informed** of how much of these harmful substances is contained in their favourite hamburgers or chips, as well as being shown the likely consequences of over-eating these foods, **consumers can be more cautious** the next time they choose their food. Secondly, education at schools can help **to form healthy eating habits** for children and parents. For instance, schools can hold some extracurricular activities such as growing and selling vegetables with the attendance of both students and parents, in order **to promote the benefits of healthy diets** and **warn against the potential risks of junk food**.

In conclusion, people have different opinions about whether to support education so as to **reduce people's consumption of fast food**. In my view, education **can be a viable measure** with **careful consideration of other impediments**.

Gym/Exercise

Many feel that going to the gym is the best way to stay fit. Others think there are more effective methods.
Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

A lot of people feel the best way to stay in shape is to regularly go to the gym while others think there are more effective methods. Although I would readily admit that the health benefits of gyms are self-evident, the best way to stay fit over the long-term is to join a sport or similar activity.

Those who swear by gyms often point out the bulk of research on the benefits of working out. People going to the gym can broadly be divided into those doing cardivascular exercise and weight-lifting (or partaking in both). Cardio workouts have been proven in various studies to increase circulation, strengthen the heart muscles and reduce risks of heart disease later in life. Weight-lifting is also a scientifically supported method of combating bone density deterioration, especially important for women, and improving muscular health. No reasonable person would doubt both the vast anecdotal and scientific support for regular trips to the gym.

Despite the aforementioned advantages, it is far more motivating to take part in an organised activity. Signing up for a gym membership is a notoriously fickle commitment. Most people go for a few months and give up, never to return again. Contrast that with participation in sports and other activities. Someone who picks up tennis or football is much more likely to play regularly for a large portion of their life, possibly deep into old age. Even activities like Yoga and Tai Chi are more likely to become lifelong habits and therefore have a greater overall impact on fitness levels.

To conclude, going to the gym has indisputable benefits but it is not motivating enough to become habitual for most gym-goers. Instead, parents and teachers should encourage children to experiment with a wide range of activities in the hopes that they can develop a lifelong passion for one of them.

Smoking

The best way to prevent people from smoking is to impose high taxes on tobacco products. In this way, people will be less likely to develop a long-term addiction to smoking.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some have suggested that the best method of reducing the number of smokers is for governments to raise taxes. Although there are economic disadvantages, I believe that this will have the greatest impact.

The economic disadvantage of increasing taxes on smoking is that it will hurt the large tobacco industries in countries like the United States. In the USA, Phillip Morris, the largest tobacco company in the world, provides thousands of jobs and pays large taxes on its revenue to prop up state and federal budgets. If taxes on tobacco had their desired effect then many people would lose their jobs and budgets would be slashed. This is a sacrifice that many might be willing to accept but that would be nonetheless negative.

Despite the aforementioned drawbacks, raising the cost of smoking is the best way to reduce smoking. A good example of this can be seen in a comparison of countries with little or no tax on tobacco products with those with high taxes. Indonesia famously has a particularly high number of smokers and the main reason for this is that the tobacco lobbies have blocked tax legislation, keeping the price of a pack below a dollar. In many European countries, smoking is on the decline because few can justify paying more than ten dollars for a pack of cigarettes.

In conclusion, although it might have a negative impact on the economy and jobs, raising taxes on tobacco related goods will reduce smoking. If more governments embraced this approach, they would reap future rewards in reduced spending for medicare.

MEDIA / ADVERTISING / INTERNET

ADVERTISING - POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

Advertising is becoming more and more common in everyday life. Some people say that advertising has a positive impact on our lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays, **people are confronted with advertisements** of all kinds **on a daily basis**. Some people believe this has both positive and negative impacts on our lives, and personally, I completely agree with such a viewpoint.

People in the modern world **come into contact with advertisements** almost everywhere, from **online commercials**, to **banners displayed on crowded streets**. **Frequent exposure to advertisements** of the same, or similar types of products, helps consumers make a clear comparison of certain aspects of the product, such as function or price, before deciding which items are suitable for their needs. **For instance, thanks to the commercials of Iphone X and Samsung Galaxy S10, people wishing to purchase a smartphone can easily weigh up the pros and cons of these two products, and then choose the right one that serves their demand.**

However, **widespread advertising** can also have **some negative consequences that are worthy of consideration**. First, **the information delivered in advertisements is not always accurate**, as **many companies** exaggerate **the features of their products** in order to **draw attention from the public**. As a result, **consumers** are likely to receive **products of much lower quality than advertised**. Second, **the heavy cost of producing a range of advertisments** can **raise the market price of many products**, meaning that people will have to pay more money to buy an item that they want.

In conclusion, **the fact that advertisements of all types surround people can influence their lives in both positive and negative ways, and companies should consider giving accurate information, and reduce their budgets for advertising to mitigate the drawbacks mentioned above.**

Internet and media and becoming famous

Nowadays an ordinary person can become popular through the Internet and TV media. Is it a positive or a negative development? Give your opinion and relevant examples   .

Television and especially the internet have made it possible for an everyday person to become a celebrity much more easily than in the past. However, this phenomenon has also created a situation where this can lead to a regular, innocent person **having their life devastated**. Therefore, it seems that **despite the positive aspects of this development, the negative effects are more apparent**.

The ability to **become popular through digital media** obviously leads to the opportunity to become rich and famous. In the past, this was controlled by film studio executives and record labels, but now a typical person can become a star simply **by word of mouth**. For example, many popular **Youtube** stars became famous (and wealthy) simply by their fans sharing their content and then things snowballed from there.

Nevertheless, **the dark side of this ease of access** to fame is that **it can lead to infamy** for a person who maybe did not do much to deserve it. For every example of **a new star emerging from the internet** or a TV talent show, there are myriad more instances of Everyday Joes who have been **harassed** and had **their lives ruined** because of **public scrutiny**. Furthermore, this can arise when someone is completely innocent, such as in the case of **online bullying**, or even when someone seeks out attention but **is ruthlessly mocked** for trying to do something creative.

Overall, an increase in the ability for people to express themselves and their creativity is a desirable thing in general. However, in reality the opportunity to become popular is also the opportunity **to become popular for the wrong reasons**. (268 words)

Television

Nowadays children watch much more television than they did in the past and spend less time being active or creative.
What is the reason for this?
What measures should be taken to encourage children to be more active?

Today children spend more time watching television than at any point in the past. The reason for this is the development of online streaming websites and parents should eschew smartphones to curb this trend towards passivity.

The main reason that many children today spend an outsized amount of time watching television is that it is widely available on streaming websites. YouTube was the earliest, and now the most popular, streaming website for video content. Children are often allowed to watch it on smartphones or iPads. The more recent rise of streaming websites like Netflix and Hulu provide the same experience as television on the internet. Simply put, children spend more time watching because they have the ability to choose whatever show they want, pause it, and binge watch TV shows on a variety of portable devices with limited adult supervision.

In order to discourage children from watching television, parents should not give their children smartphones under any circumstances. This is the first step that responsible parents must undertake. Once children are no longer tempted by phones, it is much easier to get them interested in creative outlets. Parents can sign up their children for art or music lessons. They could encourage them to do art at home and instead of putting a TV in their room, fill it with books and art supplies. Children's natural curiosity and artistic energy will naturally take over from that point and parents then need only supervise, guide and intervene when called upon.

In conclusion, parents can counterbalance the rise of streaming by banning portable devices and stocking up on art supplies. Unfortunately, it will take a concerted effort from the majority of parents to prevent children without devices from being ostracised socially.

PEOPLE / FAMILY / CHILDREN

Parenting and Children

Parents often give children everything they ask for and do what they like.
Is it good for children?
What are the consequences when they grow up?

Indulging children has become a common parenting problem in many modern families. From my perspective, this practice may create some immediate adverse impacts on children and also results in long-term consequences for them.

In the short term, it is possible that over-indulgence causes some delay to the process in which children learn important life skills. This can be seen in a variety of age groups, ranging from toddlers to teenagers. For example, many over-caring parents spoon-feed their children until they are five or six, the developmental stage in which they should have already been able to eat independently. Also in our country, there is a common practice that parents assist their preadolescent children in taking a bath or a shower. As a result, children may fail to acquire basic personal hygiene skills at the right time.

In the long run, the consequences are even direr as over-indulged children grow up. If parents unconditionally satisfy all the needs of their children, they may inadvertently make their children become over-reliant on other people. When these children enter adulthood, the inability to live independently can cause some difficulties for them to maintain their overall well-being; for instance, they may be unaware of what to do when they catch a fever. Furthermore, it is a norm that over-indulgent parents are lenient and do not require children to face the consequences of their misbehaviour. In general, this deprives children of the opportunities to learn from mistakes, which may cause their problem-solving skills to be severely lacking in the future.

From the issues outlined above, one can conclude that over-indulgence may produce a number of unfavourable effects on children, including the delay in gaining crucial life skills such as self-feeding and the long-term consequence of lacking the ability to cope with problems as adults in the future.

Children and punishment

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.
Write about the following topic:

It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behaviour to children?

One important stage in a child's growth is certainly **the development of a conscience**, which is linked to the ability to tell right from wrong. This skill comes with time and **good parenting**, and my firm conviction is that punishment **does not have much of a role to play in this**. Therefore, I have to disagree almost entirely with the given statement.

To some extent the question depends on the age of the child. To punish a very young child is both wrong and foolish as **an infant** will not understand what is happening or why he or she is being punished. **Once the age of reason is reached** however, a child can be rewarded for good behavior and discouraged from bad. **This kind but firm approach** will achieve more than **harsh punishments**, **which might entail many negative consequences unintended by the parents**.

To help a child learn the difference between right and wrong, teachers and parents should firstly **provide good role modeling in their own behavior**. After that, if **sanctions** are needed, the **punishment should not be of a physical nature**, as that merely **sends the message that** it is acceptable for larger people to hit smaller ones — an outcome which may well result in the child starting to bully others. Nor should the punishment be in any way cruel.

Rather, teachers and parents can **use a variety of methods to discipline their young**, such as detention, **withdrawal of privileges**, and time-out. **Making the punishment fit the crime** is a useful notion, which would see children being made to pick up rubbish they have dropped, clean up graffiti they have drawn, or apologise to someone they have hurt. In these ways, responsibility is developed in the child, which leads to much better future behaviour than does punishment.

Family and the Home

Many parents encourage young people to leave home when they become older, while others think they should stay at home with the family. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It has become increasingly prevalent for young adults to leave home before getting married. In my opinion, this is a positive trend taken as a whole because it fosters independence but it can have rare debilitating financial drawbacks.

The main drawback to moving out early is losing a parental safety net that safeguards financial stability. In large cities such as New York, real estate prices are so high that without a high-paying job you will struggle to contend with rent, food, transportation costs, and allowances for leisure activities. It is even possible that these hardships could prove overwhelming and pride may prevent your from going back to your parents. These individuals might end up taking a job with a low salary or that is not their passion.

The aforementioned drawbacks are the exceptions; the majority of people who move out are successful because they become self-reliant. A standout example of this is the typical American university student. Most students leave their parental home at 18 and never look back. These students take their first baby steps towards looking after themselves by doing their own laundry, managing their finances to an extent, and taking on campus employment. Once they graduate from university they will likely take over their entire financial outlay. This means they must find a good job and spend more responsibly. These qualities, of frugality and responsibility, will serve them well in their lives and increase their odds of future success.

In conclusion, the majority benefit from the added responsibility that leaving home brings. To encourage more people to move out parents should provide a degree of financial support when necessary but focus moreso on fostering their children's independence.

SOCIETY / GOVERNMENT / CITY

CITY LIFE - Harder or Easier

Some people believe that living in big cities is becoming more difficult.
Others believe that it is getting easier.
Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

There has been much debate about whether city life is harder or easier. While it is argued that it is more difficult to live there, I firmly contend that **there are more comforts of urban life**.

City dwellers may be **confronted with** various problems. The first matter can be **the higher cost of living** than that in villages or other smaller towns because **urban citizens** might have to pay higher prices for transport service or household bills. Secondly, **high population density** in urban areas may cause overcrowding, followed by a lack of open spaces for green trees or other **recreational activities for metropolitan residents**. Finally, together with thousands of tons of daily emissions discharged from families or offices, **a huge quantity of fumes are released from motor street vehicles or metropolitan factories**, leading to air and water pollution. In other words, there may be **a deterioration in the quality of air and water**; consequently, **health conditions are likely to be threatened**.

However, in my view, city life is becoming easier in several cases. Well-known universities, schools at international level or other **high quality educational centers located in** metropolitan zones **generate advantages for city** inhabitants to **enjoy better educational opportunities** to increase their knowledge level. Another factor to make urban like easier is that thanks to the governmental financial investment in improvements in public transport systems like bus or underground services in cities, **urban residents' travel can be facilitated**. Furthermore, **metropolitan citizens may enhance their spiritual life** or enjoy relaxing moments by going to the cinema and theater or spending time in art galleries as well as museums.

In conclusion, although there are numerous **difficulties of residing in metropolitan areas**, from my point of view, it is increasingly easier to spend life in big urban areas **on the basis of my above-mentioned analyses and explanations.**

Crime and young people

In some countries, a high proportion of criminal acts are committed by teenagers.
Why has this happened?
What can be done to deal with this?

Today, **<u>youth crime is rife</u>**. Theft, burglary or even murder are now **<u>committed by</u>** people of younger ages. The aim of this essay is **<u>to investigate the factors responsible for</u>** the increase in **<u>juvenile delinquency</u>** and **<u>put forward a number of ways to</u> <u>appropriately punish young offenders</u>**.

It is observed that **<u>extreme behaviours are exhibited by most children from dysfunctional families</u>**. **<u>Without the supervision from parents or caregivers</u>**, children's **<u>extreme behaviours</u>** such as aggression, **<u>hostility or defiance</u> <u>are given free rein to develop in their later lives</u>**. In addition, **<u>there is a direct correlation between the lack of engagement in educational activities and serious criminal offending in children</u>**. Out of boredom, children befriend with antisocial peers and will gradually copy their behaviours. Media also **<u>plays an enormous role in shaping</u> <u>children's criminality</u>**. For example, games such as grand theft auto can desensitise younger players to **<u>extreme acts of violence and cruelty</u>**, encourage them to commit crimes while giving them the impression that **<u>it is morally acceptable</u>** to do so.

Imprisonment <u>is often cited as a way to</u> punish juvenile offenders. However, it is my view that **<u>this approach can produce extremely destructive effects</u>**. **The youth <u>can potentially be victims of</u>** physical or sexual abuse from older prisoners, as well as **<u>can adopt their negative behaviours</u>**. I feel that **<u>the better cure for</u>** young criminals is **<u>rehabilitation</u>**. Throughout education and training, the youth can realise their **<u>wrongful actions</u>** and **<u>be given opportunities to turn over a new leaf</u>** and **<u>transform themselves into useful members of society</u>** later in life.

There are reasons to explain why today **<u>antisocial behaviour among the youth</u>** nowadays **<u>has reached a historically unprecedented high</u>** and rehabilitation is the answer for this.

Cultural integration

People should follow the customs and traditions when people start to live in a new country. To what extent do you agree or disagree ?   **(agree view only)**

Many people argue that **foreigners should adapt to the local customs and traditions** when they come **to reside in a new country**. I completely agree with this view that **newcomers will certainly face difficulties if they do not conform to the norms of social behaviour in the host country**.

Firstly, it will become almost impossible for them **to blend into their new environment**. For example, an entrepreneur who comes to live in a new country and starts up a business must **be aware of the** business **practices of that country**. There are bound to be many pitfalls, not only legal ones but also simply in terms of winning and keeping customers. Secondly, recent **immigrants might fall foul of the law** if they do not **respect the behaviour and customs of locals**. In Singapore, for instance, **residents will consider newcomers dirty and ill-mannered** if they litter the street or spit gum in public places.

There are also many benefits for foreigners when they do **adopt the customs and traditions of their new country of residence**. One advantage is that local people will be more welcoming when they feel that the newcomers are **showing respect for the local way of life**. **The establishment of closer links with the host community might lead to greater integration and mutual understanding**. Another benefit is the richness of the experience which newcomers will gain from enjoying aspects of local customs and traditions, enabling **them to participate in community life** and **avoid social isolation**. During festivals and national holidays, especially, they will feel like they '**belong'** in their new country.

In conclusion, I would argue that **it is essential for new residents to follow the traditions and habits of locals in the host community** in order **to integrate fully into society**.

The number of people who are interested in and wearing fashionable clothes is increasing.

Is this a positive or negative development?

More and more people today are interested in and have the disposable income to take greater care with their fashion choices. In my opinion, though many fashion companies exploit their workers, this is a positive development overall.

Those who criticise the fashion industry often point out its treatment of workers. The most famous fashion brands like Louis Vuitton and Chanel (as well as footwear makers such as Nike and Adidas) outsource their labour at reduced costs to East Asia. Workers in their factories make subsistence wages and are notoriously mistreated, while the countries in question often have lax child labour laws as well. Exploitive fashion companies then massively inflate prices for their products. Their actions cannot be controlled directly by consumers but nonetheless undermine every innocent transaction at a shopping mall.

Regardless, fashion is an important aesthetic choice for ordinary people. The exploitation of workers ought to be regulated by governments and corporations, not consumers. Those who buy fashionable clothes are trying to express themselves through their attire and the end result of a more fashion-conscious public is greater beauty for onlookers. No one would question the importance of beautiful buildings and public works of art but fashion is arguably more noticeable. Fashion gives not only individuals but also towns, cities, and nations a distinctive flair, without which the world would be blander and less beautiful.

In conclusion, the beauty fashion engenders outweighs any ethical considerations. Governments ought to properly regulate labour so that their citizens can shop and flaunt with a clear conscience.

Funding healthcare and education

Should education and healthcare be free of charge and funded by the government, or should it be the responsibility of the people to pay for these services?

Discuss the above and give your opinion using examples.

A healthy and **educated society is the backbone of any successful society**; however, deciding who is to provide this is a sensitive topic. I strongly believe the government should be held responsible to provide these services for two reasons. Firstly, the entire society benefits, and secondly the whole population is currently paying for the services. However, if one prefers extra services they should be prepared to pay for it themselves.

Firstly, **education is largely considered a basic right**. A population unable to calculate, read, write or even learn **would be doomed in such a competitive global economy**. Globalisation has increased competition and **shifted the emphasis to knowledge**, information and science. A state education should, therefore, be freely available to everybody. However, if people wish to purchase private education, this should also be allowed or even encouraged. Private education **reduces the strain on** public services and **provides a source of tax revenue for the government**, in effect, **subsidising state education**.

Secondly, health services must undoubtedly be available to all because the entire nation is paying taxes and, therefore, **should not be excluded from any service**. Take the NHS in the UK, for example; this organisation **caters for the entire population**, and no private medical insurance is needed. Unfortunately waiting lists can be long and service is occasionally slow; therefore, some purchase private medical insurance for a faster service. This reduces the workload of the public sector.

To conclude, I believe both **healthcare and education are basic fundamental rights**, necessary for any advanced society, and, therefore, **the responsibility should lie with the government**. Nevertheless, if individuals require more than the standard level, then they should be prepared to pay for it.

Governments Paying Unemployment

In some countries, governments provide payments for unemployed people.
How does this impact people?
Is this a positive or negative development?

In many nations, the government gives unemployment benefits to its citizens in need. This allows people to make ends meet during difficult times and is largely a positive development.

The effect of unemployment is that struggling individuals and families are able to survive challenging periods. A good recent example of this would be the record unemployment rates in the wake of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. In the United States alone, millions of workers lost their jobs. Many families live paycheck to paycheck and without government support they might lose their homes or struggle to put food on the table every day. Government money allowed them to persevere in a difficult period and use their time to look for a new job. Depending on the conditions of the payments, they can try to find a quality job rather than settling for the first position offered by a company trying to exploit the leverage of an historic jobless rate.

This is largely a positive development because it has wide-reaching effects in society. The one qualification to unemployment benefits is that some individuals will try to take advantage of them and remain jobless while living off government charity. These rare instances aside, society benefits from lifting its most vulnerable citizens out of poverty. Without aid some individuals may turn to illegitimate means of supporting themselves. It is unlikely most would become criminals, but the greater effect would be economic. The unemployed cannot buy products and stimulate the consumer economy. The money the government hands out allows them to keep buying food, going shopping, and props up both large and small businesses. A good economy in turn increases the chances that businesses will begin hiring again and unemployment will decline.

In conclusion, unemployment payments are a great boon for those without jobs and benefit the whole of society as well. It is important that unemployment agencies are well-run and strictly regulated to ensure continuance of the crucial social service they provide.

Some believe that because everyone needs a place to live, governments should provide houses for those who are too poor to afford their own.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many reformers are of the opinion that it is the responsibility of governments to provide public housing for members of the public too poor to afford their own homes. In my opinion, although there are some situations when this might be necessary, it is better to allow people the opportunity to pull themselves out of poverty.

Those who support government assistance in housing programs point out the institutional shackles that keep people in poverty. In the United States, there is a long, painful history concerning African Americans that began with slavery, discrimination and still shows its impact in various more muted forms of racism. These people have few chances to escape poverty and own their own homes because they have difficulty getting a good education and then a job. If governments provide them with housing, that frees up their money to go to the education of their children and can break the long chain of poverty that has blighted their path in America.

Although the above-mentioned argument has its merits, in my opinion people who help themselves are more likely to be able to maintain their success. Charity is a notoriously double edged sword because it fosters dependence. Someone who is in poverty who works hard and finds and escape and manages to own a home will develop reserves of willpower and determination that will serve them their entire life. Their self-respect will also help them in their work and encourage them to hold onto their house, regardless of obstacles. If the government simply gifts this person a house, they will be much less inclined to take care of it and will not develop any of the qualities that will spell out their success in life more generally.

In conclusion, people who are more self-reliant are more likely to be successful and hold onto their homes. The role of government ought to be more subtle and include educational reforms aimed at opening up opportunities that individuals can themselves seize.

Income Inequality

Many believe that the best way to ensure a happier society is to reduce the difference in income earnings between the rich and poor.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Class distinctions are an intrinsic element of human relations but many today worry over the drastically widening gap between rich and poor. In my opinion, in order to have a happy society there must be a more equal distribution of income.

The main reason that these economic reforms would make society happier is by diffusing personal frustrations. The less wealthy often feel resentful and insecure about their place in life. This has a number of symptoms ranging from relatively benign unhappiness to deep depression, and takes a collective toll on individuals, families and societies. In the most extreme examples, mass shootings in the United States are invariably undertaken by poor, white males who feel left behind economically. The net impact of lifting people out of poverty would be a boon to everyday families as well as society at large.

Furthermore, if people no longer had to stress and work themselves to the bone to make ends meet, new outlets to contribute more to society would open up. They could volunteer for a charity, if they have an altruistic bent, take up an art, spend more time being a dedicated family member, or even set aside time to try to innovate in their vocation. Small-scale parallels for this exist already in the form of scholarships given to underprivileged students who are then able to get degrees and contribute across a variety of disciplines to making society happier in general.

In conclusion, there is little doubt that in the 21st century income inequality has reached a level that causes extreme unrest among the general population and distributing capital more evenly would remedy this. Countries ought to look closely at recent proposals for a universal basic income.

INTERNATIONAL AID # 1

We cannot help everyone in the world that needs help, so we should only be concerned with our own communities and countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people believe that we should not help people in other countries as long as there are problems in our own society. **<u>I disagree with this view because</u>** I believe that we should try to help as many people as possible.

On the one hand, I accept that it is important to help our neighbours and **<u>fellow citizens</u>**. In most communities **<u>there are people who are impoverished or disadvantaged in some way</u>**. It is possible to find homeless people, for example, **<u>in even the wealthiest of cities,</u>** and for those who are concerned about this problem, there are usually opportunities to volunteer time or give money to support these people. In the UK, people can help in a variety of ways, from **<u>donating clothing to serving free food</u>** in a soup kitchen. **<u>As the problems are on our doorstep</u>**, and there are obvious ways to help, I can understand why **<u>some people feel that we should prioritise local charity</u>**.

At the same time, I believe that we have an obligation **<u>to help those who live beyond our national borders</u>**. In some countries the problems that people face are much more serious than those in our own communities, and it is often even easier to help. For example, **<u>when children are dying from curable diseases</u>** in African countries, governments and individuals in richer countries can save lives simply by paying for vaccines that already exist. **<u>A small donation to an international charity might have a much greater impact than helping in our local area</u>**.

In conclusion, it is true that we cannot help everyone, but in my opinion **<u>national boundaries</u>** should not stop us from **<u>helping those who are in need</u>**.

Some people think that it is a waste of money for countries to host big sporting events like the world cup, and that the money would be better spent on other things. However, others think that hosting large sporting events has a clear, positive impact on a country.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

There is fierce competition between nations to host major international sports events like the World Cup or Olympics as it is a unique opportunity to boost the national reputation of the host nation. In spite of its undeniable benefits, I believe that the costs are too great and therefore governments should prioritise other key issues to better benefit their citizens.

On the one hand, becoming a host nation for global events such as the World Cup or the Olympics brings a number of economic and infrastructural benefits. During these events, there is an influx of tourists from all over the world who need places to stay, restaurants to eat in and traditional products to purchase. The efforts made to cater to these tourists will remain long after they have gone. The cost of renovating a hotel might pay for itself during the event and then begin turning a large profit in later years. The other main area of development is related to the rapid expansion of quality infrastructure. Nations will be forced to invest in new sports facilities like swimming pools and stadiums as well as make renovations to pre-existing infrastructure like roads and airports. For example, China used the Beijing Olympics as an opportunity to modernise old buildings and roads.

On the other hand, these competitions use up tremendous resources from the host nation for a temporary competition. To ensure the success of these prestigious events, governments must waste a large percentage of the nation budget in the years leading up to the competition, oftentimes in the billions of dollars. The newly constructed facilities usually fall into disuse after each tournament. A salient example of this is Brazil as many of the swimming pools and sports facilities that were used in the 2014 Olympics are currently abandoned and becoming decrepit. Meanwhile, there are other pressing issues that have been festering including the need for new schools for underprivileged students and quality healthcare for the elderly population. If the government had prioritised these issues the country would be in a better position and its citizens would have a higher standard of living.

To summarize, due to the exorbitant costs, I am of the belief that the government should not allocate such a large percentage of its financial resources to hosting global events with negligible long-term impact. Instead these events should be hosted in the same countries year after year so that the new infrastructure pays for itself over time.

Work - Jobs - Working too Much

These days people spend more and more time at work and less time at home.
What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

These days, most people find themselves working longer hours, cutting into their home time. Though this brings economic stability to a nation, it also deprives people of a rich personal life.

The foundation of economic prosperity is a flourishing middle class unburdened by debts. A good example and counter-example of this can be seen in the changing fortunes of the American model of economics. In the 1950s the economy grew as people worked long hours and had large disposable incomes to feed back into the larger consumer economy by purchasing automobiles, houses, and luxuries. Since the economic crash of 2008, there have been fewer jobs to go around and most people make due with part-time labour. The result of an idle labour force was a long-lasting recession that has only abated in recent years as people began to work more.

When people have less time to spend either on their hobbies or with their family, they rightly feel deprived. Every person should have time for both a fulfilling public and private life. Work constitutes the bulk of public service for most people and home life the private. Those with families feel particularly justifiable anger, which can boil over to general unhappiness or depression at best and neglect or abuse, at worst. Even the childless still have loved ones, hobbies, and a variety of other pursuits. At the end of their lives, everyone strives to be able to look back proudly on their career and fondly on their daily life.

In my opinion, the tilting of work-life balance towards work is primarily a negative because it robs people of some of their most meaningful moments. People must individually find ways to not only survive but also prosper in a world where the private sphere shrinks with each passing year.

In many countries, teenagers are encouraged to find part-time jobs. Some think this is a good development while others disagree.
Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Some believe that teenagers ought to take part in hourly paid work while others feel this is not a good idea. In my opinion, though this can be an added burden for teenagers, it offers a host of benefits related to life experience.

Opponents of part-time work for teenagers seize on the mental repercussions of stress. Teenagers already deal with so many life problems ranging from the chemical changes inherent in puberty to social stress to academic pressure. There are countries such as South Korea and Japan where the academic workload rarely allows for recreation time, let alone paid work. Adding in a job and its encumbent concerns can only worsen a teenager's mental health and, in the most extreme cases, lead to depression and nervous breakdowns. Even students not affected as deeply are sure to be less happy due to stress.

Regardless, working is a maturing experience. Work continues and hastens the lifelong process of negotiating one's own priorities against the expectations of others. Most high schoolers start with a low-paying part-time position and that may educate them about the importance of having a good education. They are also likely to begin developing the qualities that will serve them well in a variety of future workplaces including teamwork skills, organisation, and perseverance. The experience will also give them a window into an industry and help them make more informed choices for their future career.

In conclusion, though work can take a toll on mental well-being it is a positive, overall maturing experience. Teenagers should try a variety of jobs in order to have a clear overview of possible working environments.

TECHNOLOGY

64

Sample High Band Essays on Topics (sorted alphabetically)

+ underlined high level vocabulary

Technology

A.I smarter than man or not?   #1

Some scientists believe that in the future computers will be more intelligent than human beings. While some see this as a positive development others worry about the negative consequences.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Many today are worried about **the potential drawbacks of artificial intelligence**. In my opinion, **these concerns are legitimate but on the whole A.I. will allow for new heights to human endeavour**.

The chief associated worries concern its misuse by humans initially and machines later. **The former is already coming to pass** as **automation has phased out many traditional jobs**. As artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, **the positions in jeopardy** will **transition from** low-skilled factory staff **to** data analysts and other white-collar workers. The fear is that companies will be motivated solely by their bottom line, **lay off many employees** and **trigger mass social unrest**. Some also believe **A.I. portends darker scenarios akin to the apocalyptic dystopias** of films like The Matrix and Terminator. **This is a possibility** though **it is impossible to estimate its likelihood**.

The speculations above should be taken seriously but **they pale in comparison to the technologies A.I. can complement**. Companies ranging from Google to Amazon to Tesla are **investing heavily in this industry** because of **its enormous potential**. For example, self-driving cars **are fast becoming a reality** and will **reduce the number of vehicular accidents massively**. Policymakers in government will be able to take advantage of sophisticated algorithms to project economic policy and **positively enhance the lives of billions**. **In the consumer sphere, smartphones will become increasingly helpful**, freeing up individuals to focus their time on work, family, and leisure. **This is only a partial list** and the most intriguing and impactful applications **have yet to be unearthed**.

In conclusion, **artificial intelligence poses risks to the labour market and the future of humanity**, but the opportunities for new projects **should take priority**. **It is important to find a balance and methods of mitigating the dangers**.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-writing-task-2-sample-answer-essay-artificial-intelligence-real-past-ielts-exam-test/

A.I smarter than man or not? #2

Some people believe that developments in the field of artificial intelligence will have a positive impact on our lives in the near future. Others, by contrast, are worried that we are not prepared for a world in which computers are more intelligent than humans. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

People seem to be either excited or worried about **the future impact of artificial intelligence**. Personally I can understand the two opposing points of view; I am both fascinated by developments in artificial intelligence and **apprehensive about its possible negative effects**.

On the one hand, the increasing intelligence of technology should **bring some obvious benefits**. Machines are clearly able to do many jobs better than humans can, especially in **areas that require high levels of accuracy or calculations using large amounts of data.** For example, **robots are being developed that can carry out surgical procedures with greater precision than a human doctor**, and we already have **cars that use sensors and cameras to drive themselves**. Such technologies can improve safety by **reducing the likelihood of human errors**. It is easy to imagine how these developments, and many others, **will steadily improve our quality of life**.

On the other hand, **I share the concerns of people who believe that artificial intelligence may harm us** if we are not careful. **In the short term**, it is likely that we will see a rise in unemployment as **workers in various industries are replaced by machines or software programs**. For example, **self-driving vehicles are expected to cause redundancies in driving jobs, such as taxi drivers** and bus drivers. In the medium term, if intelligent technologies gradually take jobs away from humans, we may find that **people become deskilled and lose their sense of purpose in life. A longer term fear is that** computers become so intelligent that they **begin to make decisions without human oversight** and **without regard for our well-being**.

In conclusion, while intelligent machines will no doubt improve our lives in many ways, **the potential risks** of such technologies **should not be ignored**.

(295 words,)

A.I and car technology

Scientists predict that in the future cars will be driven by computers.
What are the reasons behind this?
Is it a positive or negative development?

In the coming years, experts believe that **vehicles will be driven autonomously** by computers. The main reason for this is **the development of artificial intelligence** that specialises in manoeuvring cars. This should be **seen as a positive development** because it will **prevent accidents** and save lives.

In the past few years, there has been an explosion in the **advancement of autonomous vehicles** due to A.I. Advanced computer learning means that cars and other vehicles can move from point A to point B **without the need for human interference**. **Due to the nature of** these self-learning computers, the more they drive, the better they become and this will soon mean that it will be quite normal for people to be driven by computers. For example, Google, Tesla, and Apple all have autonomous driving projects, with Tesla announcing that all of its vehicles will be **self-driving** within 5 years.

This should be welcomed because, **despite some initial safety concerns**, it will ultimately save lives. This is because most **collisions** **are due to human error** and as machine learning gets better and better **it will completely eliminate human involvement**. This will mean that incidents such as drink driving, falling asleep at the wheel and speeding **become a thing of the past**. For instance, Elon Musk of Tesla Motors announced that its 'Auto Pilot' system has logged over 10 million miles with only one accident. Similar distances with people driving would have resulted in far more road traffic accidents.

In conclusion, **the emergence of computer-controlled transportation** **will inevitably become the new standard in** driving as computers learn more and should be viewed positively as it will **improve safety standards**.

https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/2017/06/26/ielts-task-2-sample-answer-self-driving-cars/

A.I Man-made versus machine-made

Some products can be made quickly by a machine. Other items take a long time to be made by hand. As a buyer, which do you prefer and why? Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Ever since the industrial revolution, mass produced goods **have flooded the consumer market**. Although such goods have proved to be highly popular, it is clear that handmade goods **are more desirable for modern, informed consumers.**

To begin with, handmade goods can be made with **far more care and attention to detail** than mass produced goods. This is because **machines lack a sensitivity that experienced craftsman evidently possess**. For example, a study by the International Consumerist Society found that handmade furniture, musical instruments and jewellery were consistently rated as being more attractive (by consumers) **than their** mass made **counterparts**. Therefore it is clear that buyers prefer handmade goods **for reasons that relate to quality** of workmanship.

Secondly, handmade production companies have far more ethical attitudes towards the environment. This is because factories and chemical processes heavily underpin mass industrial production. For example the British Green Party found that the levels of toxicity and environmental damage outside handmade production centres were paltry compared to the levels found outside factories used for mass production. **Consequently**, since **modern consumers are more environmentally conscious** than ever before, these findings have clearly contributed to their preference for handmade goods.

In conclusion, **there are compelling reasons for why** modern consumers favour handmade goods. In the future, as environmental issues worsen, **this preference will no doubt grow more pronounced.**

Apps - Learning a language app

People are using a lot of online language translation apps. Do the benefits of this outweigh the disadvantages?

The importance and popularity of **web-based language translation applications** has grown over the past few years due to globalization. **People from vastly different geographical zones**, **educational backgrounds and cultural beliefs** **are more inclined to** use such mobile applications to learn and understand a foreign language. I strongly agree that the positives of this development outweigh the negatives, and, in this essay, I will discuss this using examples of current apps and The Times newspaper.

On the one hand, there is ample evidence that **constant access to mobile phones** has been **immeasurably beneficial** to both our social life and business careers. Nowadays, citizens are migrating to different countries in order to build a new future and dealing with overseas companies for business purposes, **so learning a second language has become their necessity**. Such mobile applications **are facilitating them by providing** **a handy solution to their language barriers**. For example, Play store and Apple app store advertise multiple paid and free to use apps such as Duolingo, Dictionary, Grammarly and Ginger which instantly translate one language into another **allowing crucial communication**, be it social or commercial, **to occur seamlessly**. Therefore, it is apparent that **many key aspects of people's lives are being made easy through these handy and ready to use solutions**.

On the other hand, whether language conversion apps benefit the public or cause potential losses to a key section of the **education establishment** is also a controversial topic for discussion. A recent study published in The Times newspaper has shown that there has been a significant reduction in demand for bilingual teachers or **native language tutors** as more people have started using such apps instead of **spending money on the specialist tuition** required to **learn a new tongue**. For instance, free apps simply require basic registration details and email verification to register then begin, compared to the many hours or even years needed to master an additional language to a proficient level of fluency. As a result, **despite the indisputable benefits of** **learning face to face**, **talented and experienced professors**, translators and interpreters are **having to fight to justify their relevance in this new world**.

To conclude, I believe that if the situation favours the relatively accurate, easily accessible use of online translation applications, **which offer instant and quick solutions** they can be hugely beneficial for the community at large and in the future their **flexibility and sophistication** will continue to be improved.

https://www.ieltspodcast.com/band9-language-translation-apps/

<center>Artificial Intelligence and Computers</center>

Some scientists believe that in the future computers will be more intelligent than human beings. While some see this as a positive development others worry about the negative consequences.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Many today are worried about the potential drawbacks of artificial intelligence. In my opinion, these concerns are legitimate but on the whole A.I. will allow for new heights to human endeavour.

The chief associated worries concern its misuse by humans initially and machines later. The former is already coming to pass as automation has phased out many traditional jobs. As artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, the positions in jeopardy will transition from low-skilled factory staff to data analysts and other white-collar workers. The fear is that companies will be motivated solely by their bottom line, lay off many employees and trigger mass social unrest. Some also believe A.I. portends darker scenarios akin to the apocalyptic dystopias of films like The Matrix and Terminator. This is a possibility though it is impossible to estimate its likelihood.

The speculations above should be taken seriously but they pale in comparison to the technologies A.I. can complement. Companies ranging from Google to Amazon to Tesla are investing heavily in this industry because of its enormous potential. For example, self-driving cars are fast becoming a reality and will reduce the number of vehicular accidents massively. Policymakers in government will be able to take advantage of sophisticated algorithms to project economic policy and positively enhance the lives of billions. In the consumer sphere, smartphones will become increasingly helpful, freeing up individuals to focus their time on work, family, and leisure. This is only a partial list and the most intriguing and impactful applications have yet to be unearthed.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence poses risks to the labour market and the future of humanity, but the opportunities for new projects should take priority. It is important to find a balance and methods of mitigating the dangers.

Computer Games

Computer games are very popular for all ages and nationalities. Parents think this has little educational value and it will be harmful for children.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Computer games have become increasingly popular in an age of mobile devices and advancing graphical interfaces. While some claim there is educational value in these games, I would side with those decrying the propagation of a passive lifestyle.

Supporters of gaming **can point to** its alleged benefits for cognitive functioning. It is difficult to do good research in this area, but many recent studies have found optimistic results not only related to hand-eye coordination but also mental development. **This is also supported by** common sense because as games have become more advanced, players must now follow intricate stories lines, figure out difficult puzzles and outsmart progressively intelligent artificial intelligence. Depending on the age of the gamer and the game in question it is very likely there are legitimate cognitive gains that can be attributed to the extensive playing of games.

Nonetheless, the marginal advances listed above pale in comparison to the effects of a passive lifestyle on both physical and mental health. Mobile devices and the internet generally, but videogames in particular, are the leading causes of the more sedentary lifestyles that most children and teens now lead, often extending into adulthood. This leaves them at risk of developing bad habits that could later translate into more serious health conditions. Added to this is the mental aspect. Playing games is, next to watching televisions shows, one of the least active forms of entertainment. It would be more beneficial for people of all ages to play a team sport, read a book, spend more time with family, or take up a productive and creative hobby.

In short, computer games may offer a limited range of intellectual benefits but they also come at great physical and mental cost. It is therefore up to parents and individuals themselves to opt for more constructive pastimes.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-essay-computer-games/

Education and technology (computers)

Students and Computers in Education 1

Computers are being used more and more in education.
Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and give your own opinion.

It is argued that **technology is playing an ever increasing role in** schools and universities. This essay will firstly, discuss student freedom as one of the main advantages of this and secondly, outline **decreasing levels of face to face contact** as one of the main disadvantages.

One of the principle advantages of an increase in **the use of electronic devices** in education is **the autonomy it provides students**. Students have the freedom to focus on whatever topic or subject they want and study it in depth through the internet. **A prime example of this is** the number of online university courses available to students, **covering a myriad of subjects**, that up until recently were unavailable to most learners. This has resulted in more people studying third level degrees than ever before, **at a pace and schedule that suits them.**

The main disadvantage associated with the increasing use of technology in education is the **decrease in face to face interaction** between students. Students spend more time looking at computer screens by themselves than interacting with each other. **For instance**, **the recent explosion in smartphone use has been at the expense of genuine human interaction.** This results in soft skills, such as verbal communication and empathy, being affected.

In conclusion, **the benefits** technology brings to education, such as student autonomy, **must be weighed against the drawbacks**, such as negative effects on human interaction. Overall, the educational benefits outweigh the disadvantages because human beings will always want human contact and most people will not **solely use** IT for education.

Genetic Engineering

Genetic engineering is an important issue in society today. Some people think that it will improve people's lives in many ways. Others feel that it may be a threat to life on earth. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is true that **genetic engineering is a key area of modern scientific research**, **with broad implications for all human societies**. While I accept that **this field of technology** may have its dangers, I believe that the benefits of genetic engineering outweigh the drawbacks.

The negative implications of genetic engineering are often discussed in terms of two key areas, which are food production and the cloning of humans. Genetically modified crops are already being grown, and people are concerned that they may **damage whole ecosystems** as foods become resistant to diseases and natural predators. But perhaps even more worrying is the possibility that **humans could be modified or cloned**. Some people imagine a world in which cloned humans are used to fight wars or to **provide body part replacements**. Although perhaps not a threat to life on earth, the **implications of such practices would be unprecedented**.

A more optimistic prediction, and **one that I favour**, is that **humans will find ways to mitigate the risks** and **use genetic technologies in a responsible way**. **From the food production perspective**, **genetic engineering could be the solution to famine** in developing countries, if, for instance, crops can be grown more reliably in harsh conditions. **From a medical perspective**, scientists may use genetic engineering **to produce vaccines**, to cure diseases, or to **correct a genetic defect** before a child is born. **If properly regulated**, even cloning can be done in a way that improves lives. For example, the cloning of individual organs, such as a heart or kidney, could be permitted for transplant purposes.

In conclusion, I am convinced that genetic engineering will have a positive impact on our lives, and that **people's fears will be unwarranted**.

(283 words)

https://ielts-simon.com/ielts-help-and-english-pr/ielts-writing-task-2/

Internet & Phone Dependence

More and more people today are becoming overly dependent on the internet and phones.

Is this a positive or negative development?

The advent of smartphones has led to widespread internet addiction. Although this shift has its conveniences, it signals a decline in healthy activity.

Those who contend that the overall value of phones and the internet is a net positive can easily point to its versatility. The vast majority of people today would either reluctantly or enthusiastically admit they cannot live without their phones. If you are on a road trip or meeting a friend at a new cafe, you will need Google maps to find your way. The best method of booking a restaurant or researching online and offline businesses is through Facebook. All that only touches the surface of what the internet allows for ranging from sending emails, trading stocks online, posting on social media, to binge watching videos on streaming sites.

Despite the pile of advantages listed above, phones and the internet take up more time than they merit. The reason for this is that people get stuck in feedback loops, exchanging their time for momentary bursts of dopamine, no different from any other drug addict. Before the internet an individual might waste time watching television but still engage in a greater proportion of healthy habits like hanging out with friends, reading books, making art, exercising or taking up another worthwhile hobby. The healthy rush from those activities is chemically identical to scrolling through an algorithm mindlessly. The only distinction is that some distractions have more value in terms of physical and mental health than others.

In conclusion, the ubiquity of an internet living in your pocket has led to a decrease in engagement with healthy activities. In order to remedy this, people must take it on themselves to break their dependence as no government will ever regulate this drug properly.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-writing-task-2-general-training-internet-phone-dependence/

Life with and without technology 1

Life was better when technology was simpler.
To what extent do you agree and disagree?   Disagrees only

It is argued that our lives were more fulfilling when technology was less advanced. This essay **disagrees with this statement** and believes that computers and the internet have made life better. The essay will first discuss how smartphones save us time and then talk about how the internet has improved education, followed by a reasoned conclusion.

New phones, such as the iPhone, have **made our daily lives much less laborious** and give us more free time. Jobs that required lots of energy and time can now be done **at the touch of a button**. For example, if we wanted to communicate with one another in the past, we had to write a letter, take it to the post office and then wait for it to be delivered, whereas these days we can simply tap the email icon on our **touch screen** and send a message in seconds.

The internet has also enriched our lives by providing us with more information than we could ever need, thus making us more independent and effective learners. In the past students had to rely on a teacher or physical books for their education and these were often either unavailable or in a format that most people did not want, but now we can pick and choose what we want to learn. For example, there are now thousands of **free online courses available on YouTube** that anyone can watch and learn from anywhere in the world.

In conclusion, **life has been improved by technological advancements**, particularly **labour saving devices like phones** and **learning opportunities provided by the internet**.

Life with and without technology 2

Some believe technology has made our lives too complex and the solution is to lead a simpler life without technology.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many are of the opinion that technology **has done more harm than good** and we ought to simplify it in order **to lead more fulfilling lives**. I agree that technology has its drawbacks but I think **turning away from technology is impractical**.

The main reason that technology has **complicated life for people** today is that it has **made people perpetually available**. In the past, a worker might work a 9 to 5 then come home to spend time with their family, have dinner and enjoy their private life. That simplicity **is** largely **no longer the case**. Once work ends, you can still **get email notifications** and phone calls from managers or co-workers. **The end result is that** you can never be fully present in the moment because **work always threatens to pull you back**.

Although life has become more complicated and **this is a negative development**, **shutting yourself off from technology** would only **serve to isolate people from the world**. If you want to stay in touch with friends and know about events in your area, it is essential to have a phone. You can use Facebook Messenger to cheaply chat with individuals or make group plans. **Email is an indispensable element of nearly every job**. Without it, you are filtering out quality jobs and predetermining manual work as your vocation.

In conclusion, although technology has hurt people, **turning away from it is not feasible** today without **making drastic sacrifices**. Instead, people ought to seek ways to compartmentalise technology in order to live happier, more satisfying lives.

Life with and without technology 3

Some believe technology has made our lives too complex and the solution is to lead a simpler life without technology.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many are of the opinion that technology has done more harm than good and we ought to simplify in order to lead more fulfilling lives. I agree that technology has its drawbacks but I think turning away from technology is impractical.

The main reason that technology has complicated life for people today is that it has made people perpetually available. In the past, a worker might work a 9 to 5 then come home to spend time with their family, have dinner and enjoy their private life. That simplicity is largely no longer the case. Once work ends, you can still get email notifications and phone calls from managers or co-workers. The end result is that you can never be fully present in the moment because work always threatens to pull you back.

Although life has become more complicated and this is a negative development, shutting yourself off from technology would only serve to isolate people from the world. If you want to stay in touch with friends and know about events in your area, it is essential to have a phone. You can use Facebook Messenger to cheaply chat with individuals or make group plans. Email is an indispensable element of nearly every job. Without it, you are filtering out quality jobs and predetermining manual work as your vocation.

In conclusion, although technology has hurt people, turning away from it is not feasible today without making drastic sacrifices. Instead, people ought to seek ways to compartmentalise technology in order to live happier, more satisfying lives.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-writing-task-2-sample-answer-essay-technology/

Modern Electronics

Some old people today struggle with the use of modern technologies such as smartphones and computers.
What is the cause of this?
What are some possible solutions?

Many older people today have difficulty acclimating to new technology. The main cause of this is the novel nature of the computer revolution and the best solutions involve education.

The elderly have trouble catching up with new developments in technology because computers and the internet are fundamentally novel. Computers require a skill set that is completely foreign to individuals who did not grow up in the last 30 years. To use a computer, one must be able to type, set up online accounts, remember passwords, troubleshoot IT problems and navigate both the internet and various internet-based apps. For those born into the internet era, this is all second nature but for others the learning curve is often too steep. The simple process of turning on a computer and locating programs using an unfamiliar interface can be overwhelming and serves as the principle, initial barrier.

The best solutions for this relate to education. Older people who are still working require special training programs and patience from their employers and themselves. Competence is likely given detailed instructions and enough time to practice. Moreover, many retired older people want to spend more time with their children, grandchildren and old friends but it can be difficult to travel, particularly if they live far apart. Old people would be extremely motivated to make video calls and stay in touch with loved ones with applications like Skype, Facetime and Facebook Messenger. Through simple instructions from family members, it is possible video-conferencing could become a routine task.

In conclusion, old people today often cannot understand technology because it is a seismic shift in perspective and the solutions involve patient training at work and home. In this way, the benefits of technology can be extended to a generation that missed out on them in their youth.

Mobile Phones and Social Interaction

Some people believe that smartphones are destroying social interaction today.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many today are of the belief that smartphones are injurious to social interaction. In my opinion, while smartphones can isolate individuals, their creative potential for communication overshadows this downside.

Those who argue against smartphones are typically wary of isolation. In the era before smartphones, it was more common for people to meet up at large social gatherings or see each other in person. This still happens today but it is less common because smartphones allow individuals to communicate and stay connected with their friends in the privacy of their own homes. It is entirely possible for a person today to stay home and completely eschew in person social interaction. Cases of these shut-ins have increased due to smartphones and this is also reflected in the number of services like Netflix and YouTube that cater to isolated consumers.

However, proponents of smartphones can rightly point out their functionality. This is evidenced daily in messaging apps like Facebook Messenger and WeChat. It is easy to set up group chats to message, share links, gifs and video for co-workers, family, old classmates, and various subsets of friends. This type of instant, infinitely flexible communication was impossible in the past and the ability to share images and video allows people to be more creative and banter in new ways. Far from destroying social interaction, smartphones have expanded its scope, accessibility, and convenience.

In conclusion, smartphones are not destroying social interactions; they are helping it, in general. It is important to be mindful of both the drawbacks and the new possibilities for communication opening up due to advances in technology.

<center>Online Meetings</center>

Recent research has shown that business meetings and training are increasingly taking place online.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Sample Answer

Many businesses today choose to hold meetings and do training online, rather than in person. While this has certain drawbacks related to interpersonal relationships, I still feel this is a positive trend because of its positive impact on employees with families. In this essay, I will discuss both sides in detail.

Conducting the majority of business meetings online has a potentially negative effect on the social dynamics of a company. The preference for online communication sacrifices essential elements of human interaction in the name of a more efficient, utilitarian process. When people sit in a room together, for training or a meeting, they are more likely to form strong interpersonal bonds. They will be able to see each other's body language better and there is a good chance they may socialise in person afterwards. For example, employees might go for drinks or even just have a private chat about the meeting or training while still at work. This is much less likely to happen when people are working from home or a remote location and using online tools like Skype to communicate.

Companies that choose to do more training and have more meetings online are making life more convenient for their employees with families. At some point in their lives, most people must face the challenge of working and having a family. If both the mother and father work, then one of them might have to give up their job to stay home or they will have to hire an expensive caretaker to look after their child during the day. If more meetings and training took place online, this could free up time for people in certain jobs, such as IT workers, to work entirely from home and look after their children during the day. They will still have to make time for the training and meetings but at least they won't waste valuable time commuting to the office.

The move towards increased online training and meetings may sacrifice some of the social aspects of work but this is more than made up for by the convenience it allows working families. In many families today, both the mother and father have to work to make ends meet and we should support any efforts to relieve their financial and physical burdens.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-task-2-sample-answer-business/

Robots at Home

Nowadays more tasks at home and work are being performed by robots.

Is this a negative or positive development?

It is becoming increasingly common for homeowners and businesses to use robots to deal with daily tasks. I believe this trend is wholly positive because it saves individuals time and allows businesses to better allocate resources.

Those who use various advances in robotics in the home have more free time. Fully humanoid robots are rare but more and more families now use robotic vacuums such as the Roomba, mobile webcams for security surveillance, lawn care machines and devices that bridge the gap between robotics and artificial intelligence like Amazon Alexa and Google Home to make life easier. These devices save a lot of time for their users that can be better invested in hobbies, exercise, family, entertainment, and spending time with your significant other.

In the past, a sizeable percentage of operating budgets went to labour but as this number begins to dwindle we will see a concomitant rise in investiture in areas like research and development. Large companies such as Amazon, Google, Apple and automobile manufacturers can now invest in developing artificial intelligence, improving existing products, making safer cars, and so on. Over time, these benefits will add up to hasten both the pace of technological development and the speed with which new advances reach consumers. Robots will replace jobs reliant on manual labour and divert those wasted dollars to more important, creative areas that elevate human endeavours.

The large scale adoption of robotics bodes well for the future as it will streamline both home and work. There are looming risks related to massive unemployment but these can be mitigated with governmental regulation and by encouraging ethical corporate practices.

Skills learnt from technology

Some people say that young people learn useful skills by playing electronic and computer games. Others say that young people who play electronic and computer games are wasting their time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Given that computers and information technology **are a crucial part of the modern world**, it makes sense that **children can acquire some valuable skills** from playing electronic games. However, simply using technology to play games is not necessarily a productive use of time.

One of the main benefits for young people playing computer games is that **it can enhance their hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness**. In a video game, the player often has to move the character around to avoid enemies and obstacles and this develops a child's ability to use their hands, eyes, and also **grow their strategic skills**. Moreover, many **computer games can have an educational component**, which means that a game can be fun but still teach the child something useful. For example, instead of learning arithmetic from a textbook, primary school children can learn to count with a shooting game where they increase their score by "shooting" the correct answer. **This makes education more interactive** and exciting for young learners.

On the other hand, it must be admitted that educational games are not the first choice of children. Normally, they want to play something that is more action-packed or something they can play online with their friends. Explosions and violence are more attractive than playing maths games, and **children will be drawn to them rather than their studies**. Furthermore, computer games require very little physical activity. A lack of exercise among young people is leading to an increase in childhood obesity and related diseases. **Sitting inside all day, also hinders a child's ability to build their social skills** and become confident in the real world.

Overall, playing computer games can help a child to gain some useful life skills and knowledge. Nevertheless, this is not guaranteed. Playing electronic games **in moderation** is fine, but life skills must be learned from all areas of life.

(307 words)

Many people think that mobile phones should be banned in public places such as libraries, shops and public transport.
Do you agree or disagree?

There have been recent calls for the regulation of mobile phones in public areas. In my opinion, though this would have a positive effect on social interactions, a complete ban is unrealistic and impractical.

Those in favour of such sweeping reforms can point to reduced communication in society. Look inside any public space, whether it be a library, a store, a bus, or a park, and most likely the majority of individuals will be staring at their phones. This stands in stark contrast to the days before smartphones when people had to resort to talking to each other, or, at worst, reading a book to curb social anxiety. In the last two decades, mobiles have greatly reduced chance encounters, potential friendships, and conversations with both strangers and friends. The long-term effects of this are still unknown but it is safe to say that future generations will be less sociable and dynamic and more isolated and passive.

Nonetheless, banning phones in public is purely theoretical as they have become indispensable. Most jobs require employees to either be available by phone, for example doctors and police officers, or to use their phones throughout the day, as is common with businessmen and lawyers. This means most people must have their phone on them in public places for work reasons. Moreover, phone addiction has reached a point where nearly everyone in public is either messaging, playing a game, reading the news, or scrolling through social media. These have become important escapes for individuals and serve the practical purpose of minimising boredom during breaks and while waiting. Phones are therefore no longer a luxury but a key ingredient in daily life.

In conclusion, despite the impact of phones on social interaction, I believe a ban would interfere too much with ingrained habits. It is instead the responsibility of individuals to police their own behaviour.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-writing-task-1-sample-answer-essay-banning-mobile-phones-in-public-places-real-past-ielts-exam-test/

Space Researching Other Planets

In the future, people may have to live on other planets. Some think that it is therefore important to spend money researching other planets such as Mars.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is becoming increasingly likely that humanity will have to someday resort to the colonisation of other planets. Though some suggest that we should divert important resources towards research of other planets now, I believe it is more pragmatic to focus on our current planet.

Advocates of increased funding for interplanetary research hold that leaving Earth is inevitable. This conclusion is underpinned by studies showing the potentially irreversible and undoubtedly catastrophic effects of climate change. So far the habitats devastated have belonged to remote polar regions and the fragile ecosystems of already vulnerable animals. Climate scientists believe this degradation will rapidly extend to the lives of ordinary people and result in a global scarcity of natural resources and more intense natural disasters. If these predictions are accurate then we need a backup plan involving the evacuation of Earth to ensure human survival and prosperity for future generations.

However, the best safeguard against the doomsday scenarios laid out above is to salvage the planet we currently inhabit. It would require an immense amount of time, money, and resources to colonise even the nearest neighbor to Earth, Mars. Instead of directing those energies towards a fantastical plan to terraform an alien planet, the easier option is to invest more in protecting Earth's environment. Governments could enact stricter regulations on individuals and private companies to cut carbon emissions, while also funding clean energy initiatives. By collectively signing the numerous international accords, policymakers could strike a balance between economic development and environmental conservation. These solutions are both more realistic in terms of the sacrifices entailed and have a much better chance of actual success.

In conclusion, investing in colonising other planets should not be a priority when there are better solutions to current global problems. Interplanetary dreams should be left to private companies or wealthy individuals who are passionate about humanity's future in space.

https://howtodoielts.com/ielts-writing-task-2-sample-answer-essay-researching-other-planets/

Technology causing social distancing

Many people think modern communication technology is having some negative effects on social relationships. Do you agree or disagree?   (agrees only)

The impacts of **digital communication** on human relationships **have long been a topic of controversy. From my perspective**, **modern means of communication may sabotage one's relationships with other people**.

The most typical example of today's communication technology is the mobile phone. Originally designed to **provide people with instant access to telecommunication**, **it has become indispensable for most people** in modern society. Nowadays, **various features such as built-in cameras and interactive games** have been added to the mobile phone, making it **multifunctional** and thus even more popular. However, I believe **the omnipresence of mobile phones** in particular, or **digital communication tools** in general, **often interferes with the bonding time** that people share and thus **has a negative influence on interpersonal relationships**. If people **use** mobile phones **for work purposes**, business calls may disrupt any real-life conversations they have. **This is the case for millions of working people** who **may have overlooked the importance of** h**aving smooth and uninterrupted conversations** with other people. It is possible that they are unaware **that relationships are at risk of eroding** when people spend less quality time with each other.

In addition, if people use mobile phones to play games, **the constant urge to complete game missions may disengage them from social gatherings**. For example, many teenagers sacrifice real-life socialising time for mobile game playing time. In the long term, this would be likely **to cause friends to drift apart**. Furthermore, people **use mobile phones mainly for virtual social networks**, and notifications and messages from these sites may **prevent them from having intimate conversations with their loved ones.** There are many real examples of **couples on the verge of breaking up because one or both partners** **have grown overly attached to social network applications on mobile phones**, and they find it hard to maintain a sense of intimacy.

In brief, **the constant distraction of modern communication devices** such as mobile phones for all of the aforementioned purposes m**ay cause the breakdown of numerous social relationships** by **dulling real-life interactions** and affecting relationships as a result.

Band 8.5+

Technology making us less social?

Some people believe that technology has made man more social. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Experts throughout both the developing and developed world have debated whether **the advent of sophisticated modern technology** such as mobile phones, laptops and iPad have helped **to enhance and improve people's social lives** or whether the opposite has become the case. **Personally, I strongly advocate the former view**.

On the one hand there is ample, powerful, almost daily evidence that such technology can be detrimental especially to **the younger generation who are more easily affected by its *addictive nature*** and which can result in people **feeling more *isolated from the society***. The central reason behind this is twofold, firstly, the invention of **online social media sites** and apps, such as Twitter and Facebook **have reduced crucial face-to-face interactions dramatically**. Through use of these appealing and attractive mediums, people feel in touch and connected yet lack key social skills and the ability to communicate. Secondly, dependence on such devices is built up frighteningly easily **which may have a damaging effect on mental health** and **encourage a sedentary lifestyle**. For example, recent scientific research by the UK government demonstrated that 90% of people in their 30s spend over 20 hours per week on Messenger and similar applications to chat with their friends instead of meeting up and **spending quality time together** or engaging in physical activity. As a result, it is conclusively clear that these **technology advancements have decreased and diminished our real life interactions**.

On the other hand, although there are significant downsides to technological developments, its multifold advantages cannot be denied. This is largely because the popularity of technology such as cellphones allows people to **connect freely and easily with no geographical barriers**. People are able to share any type of news, information, photos and opinions with their loved ones whenever and wherever they want therefore keeping a feeling of **proximity and closeness.** For example, **an extensive study** by Oxford University **illustrated that** people who work, or study abroad and use applications like Facetime and WhatsApp to chat with their families, **are less likely to experience loneliness** and **feel out of the loop** than those who do not. **Consistent with this line of thinking is that** businessmen **are also undoubtedly able to benefit from these advances** by holding virtual real -time meetings using Skype which may increase the chance of closing business deals without the need to fly.

From the arguments and examples given I firmly believe that overall communication and **mans' sociability has been advanced enormously due to the huge technological progress** of the past twenty years and **despite some potentially serious health implications** which governments should not fail to address, it is predicted that its **popularity will continue to flourish** in the future.

https://www.ieltspodcast.com/band9-technology-social/

Writing and reading affected by technology

Some people think that the increasing use of computers and mobile phones in communication has negative effects on young people's reading and writing skills.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Such technological equipment as **mobile phones and computers have acquired their significance in the modern-day communication of the young**. Personally, I believe that this has both positive and negative effects on their reading and writing skills.

On the one hand, I agree that **excessive reliance on these devices** is responsible for the young generation's **poor performance in** reading and writing. Firstly, **many people have a strong preference for** computer software when **composing text documents due to its convenient functions.** For example, Microsoft Word **provides users with the ability to modify or erase a piece of text** without effort, simultaneously slowing down the writing speed of the users. In addition, young people who spend much time playing with their phones and computers **are likely to have insufficient time for** reading activities. Gradually, **the lack of practice may impair their reading competence in the long term.**

On the other hand, it is also true that the proper use of electronic devices can have a positive effect on reading and writing skills. The Internet **has now been made accessible** through both mobile phones and computers, allowing young readers **to gain knowledge from a wider range of sources.** Online English newspapers, as an example, are useful for English learners to enrich their vocabulary. Using computers **to write blogs** is also a good way to enhance the writing skill. Today, the availability of Internet infrastructure can enable bloggers to update their stories at their convenience. By writing regularly, the writing ability of a person is certain to improve.

In conclusion, it seems to me that **the use of electronic equipment items** can have both advantages and drawbacks for the reading and writing skills of users. It all comes down to the way they are used and hence one should exercise caution.

TRAVEL / TOURISM / TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM # 2

International <u>tourism</u> has brought enormous benefits to many places. At the same time, there is concern about its impact on local inhabitants and the <u>environment.</u>
Do the disadvantages of international <u>tourism</u> outweigh the advantages?

<u>The travel industry has experienced a major boom</u> in the later part of the 20th century and **<u>has been a blessing in disguise</u>**, which has **<u>helped some weaker nations to uplift their failing economies</u>**. While questions have been raised regarding the **<u>negative impacts that accompany the growth in the travel sector</u>**, **<u>these definitely do not outweigh the associated benefits.</u>**

It is true that, **<u>the rising influx of holidaymakers is associated with increased incidences of crimes</u>**, prostitution and **<u>antisocial activities like drugs</u>**, human trafficking and gambling, **<u>which affect the values of the indigenous society</u>**. **<u>The local population are also affected by the growth in property value indices</u>**. Environmentalists are also concerned regarding environmental remodelling, that is associated with increased tourist activities in natural reserves. In this context, it is worth mentioning that, **<u>by enforcing stern law and order and implementing strict legislations,</u>** governments can control most of these negative impacts of tourism.

<u>Despite the stigma connected to international tourism, the economic boost that accompanies a successful travel industry</u> is quite well recognised, and Thailand is the best example. The **<u>entire Thai economy revolves around tourism</u>** and the country had been able **<u>to uplift its socio economic status through its flourishing hospitality sector</u>**. Egypt is another nation that **<u>is heavily dependent on its hospitality sector</u>**. The growth in the number of **<u>incoming tourists</u>** leads to **<u>innumerable prospects in terms of local entrepreneurship & employment generation</u>**. This is also associated with international investments and infrastructure development. The national authorities, in order to ensure safety of the international visitors **<u>provide better law and order enforcement,</u>** improved transportation and healthcare facilities, **<u>which in turn benefit the local population</u>**.

<u>Henceforth, it can be confidently conveyed that</u>, even though **<u>the growth in travel industry has accompanying negative social impacts</u>**, these do not outweigh the contributions made by this sector towards social development.

<u>TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES</u>

Many people today are choosing to travel to other countries.
Why is this happening?
Is this a positive or negative development?

More and more people today are choosing to travel internationally. This positive development is mainly because of **a rise in middle class income coupled with advances in aviation**.

People today can afford to travel as it has become more convenient. The last half century **has seen wages in both developed and developing companies climb with the concomitant expansion of the global middle class**. **Workers have the disposable income to travel that they lacked in the past**. **This has been complemented with safer airplanes** so individuals are not afraid to fly. Airfares have also become cheaper as companies like Boeing produce more efficient planes, **competition intensifies between competing airlines**, and the supply more than meets demand for flights. **These factors combined have spawned a golden age of** international travel.

Looking at the opportunity in perspective, **it is hard to see the advent of international travel as anything less than one of mankind's greatest achievements**. For the entirety of human history, most people lived and died near to where they were born. Anyone who wanted to travel to another country had **to possess enourmous wealth,** time, and courage. Today, the average employee can save up and travel to see the wonders of the Rennaissance in Southern Europe, the vast monuments to history and modernity in China, or **explore any other corner of Earth that has piqued their interest**. **This is an unprecedented opportunity unavailable to past generations**.

In conclusion, international **travel is a byproduct of the modern age** and we should all be grateful for its possibility. **There are clear environmental drawbacks** but t**hose should not blind people to its benefits taken as a whole**.

Transportation

Some people think that governments should invest mainly in making public transportation faster while others think there are more important priorities (cost, the environment). Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

While many are of the opinion that the most important factor in public transport is speed, others value areas such as cost and the environment. In my opinion, although there are a number of key considerations, speed is by far the most important.

Two of the most commonly addressed areas of public transport are cost and the environment. In Vietnam, the quality of the public transport buses is very low and they produce a lot of air pollution. However, they are very cheap and this allows the residents who need them the most, typically students and low-wage earners, to afford them. In an ideal world the government would have cheap buses that produce little exhaust, but cost and environmental concerns will always be in conflict. In developing countries, it makes sense to emphasise the expense of tickets while developed countries have the wealth and responsibility to try to better balance these competing policy influences.

Although these are worthwhile considerations, speed of transport should be the main rationale as it has a trickle down effect on the economy and quality of life of a country. For example, Japan has a famously fast and efficient system of railways both inside cities and connecting provinces within the country. If someone has a family, faster transport allows them to spend more time with their family both before and after work. This can enhance the quality of life of working class people. It also means that they will get to work faster, get more work done during the day and have more time to recuperate for the next day. Over years and decades this has hastened Japan's development into one of the world's leading economies.

In my opinion, cost and the environment are crucial for ordinary people and the future of our planet but speed has a greater effect on people in both the short and long-term. Governments that focus on faster public transport will reap the rewards for decades and be able to reinvest that money in areas like the environment, education, and healthcare.