**Problem – Solution Essay**

**1. Xác định và phân tích câu hỏi**

Dưới đây là một số ví dụ về các câu hỏi của dạng bài Problem & Solution

**Ex1:** Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems. Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

**Ex2:** Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games. What are the negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

**Ex3:** The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?  
 Để phân tích đề bài, ta phải nắm được các yếu tố sau:

**- Keywords:** thể hiện chủ đề lớn của bài viết

**- Micro Keywords**: khoanh vùng chủ đề của bài viết

**- Instruction words**: thể hiện yêu cầu của đề bài

**Example:**

**Đề bài:** Global warming is one of the biggest threats human face in the 21st century and sea levels are continuing at the alarming rates. What problems are associated with this and what are some possible solutions?

**- Keyword**: global warming

**- Micro Keywords:** human, sea level rise

**- Instruction words:** problems, solutions

**2. Khai triển ý**

Khi đã nắm được yêu cầu của đề bài, chúng ta cần lập dàn ý để viết bài. Để có ý thật tốt đưa vào bài viết, các bạn cần phải trả lời những câu hỏi sau:

- What the problems are? - Vấn đề là gì?

- How you will explain them? - Giải thích cụ thể về vấn đề?

- What the effects are? - Tác động của vấn đề là gì?

Hãy tưởng tượng rằng chúng ta đang ngồi nói chuyện với bạn bè về chủ để này và chắc hẳn các bạn sẽ lập tức có 2,3 vấn đề của chủ đề này. Như vậy khi vào trong phòng thi, các bạn sẽ không bị áp lực và có thể triển khai ý một cách nhanh nhất.

**Example:**

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

**- Problem 1:** Children can access potentially dangerous site

**- Explanation 1:** Pornography sites

**- Effect 1:** Affects thought & development - negative for children & society

**- Problem 2:** Growth of online fraud and hacking

**- Explanation 2:** Evident from the constant new stories

**- Effect 2:** Criminals get sensitive information

**3. Cấu trúc làm bài**

Cũng như các dạng bài khác trong Writing Task 2, dạng bài Problem & Solutions bao gồm 4 đoạn như sau:

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Problems

Paragraph 3: Solutions

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

**Paragraph 1: Introduction – Mở bài**

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the question

- Sentence 2: Outline sentence

Các bạn nên nhớ trong dạng bài *Problems & Solutions* chúng ta không cần phải đưa *Thesis Statement* bởi vì câu hỏi của dạng bài này không yêu cầu chúng ta phải đưa ý kiến của bản thân mình. Tuy nhiên nếu như gặp đề bài yêu cầu đưa ý kiến thì các bạn cũng nên cho *Thesis Statement* nhé.

**Example:**

**Question:** *Global warming is one of the biggest threats humans face in the 21st Century and sea levels are continuing to rise at alarming rates.*

**Paraphrased:** *Climate change is among the principal dangers facing people this century and ocean levels are increasing dramatically.*

**Outline:** *This essay will first suggest that the biggest problem caused by this phenomenon is the flooding of homes and then submit building flood protection as the most viable solution.*

**Paragraph 2: Problems- Vấn đề**

* Sentence 3: State problem
* Sentence 4: Explain what problem is
* Sentence 5: What is the result of this problem
* Sentence 6: Example

**Example:**

**State problem:** *The foremost problem caused by climbing sea levels is the flooding of peoples’ residences.*

**Explain:** *Millions of people all over the world live in coastal areas and if the sea rises by even a few feet, they will be inundated with water and lose their property.*

**Result:** *Shelter is one of the most basic of human needs and widespread flooding would cause millions of people to become homeless, not to mention losing all of their possessions.*

**Example*:*** *The devastation brought about by widespread flooding was clear for all to see during the 2011 Tsunami in Japan, in which millions of people were displaced*.

**Paragraph 3: Solutions – Giải pháp**

* Sentence 7: State solution
* Sentence 8: Explain how the solution will solve the problem
* Sentence 9: Example

**Example:**

**State solution:** *A possible solution to this problem would be to build flood barriers.*

**Explain solution:** *Flood defences, such as dikes, dams, and floodgates, could be built along coasts and waterways, thereby stopping the water reaching populated areas.*

**Example:** *The Netherlands is one of the most populated areas in the world and also one of the most vulnerable to flooding and they have successfully employed various flood defence systems.*

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion- Kết luận**

* Sentence 10: Summary of main points in paragraphs 2 and 3
* Sentence 11: Prediction or recommendation

Trong đoạn thân bài, chúng ta không cần đưa thêm ý nào mới nữa mà chỉ cần tóm lược lại những gì đã trình bày trong phần thân bài.

Ngoài ra các bạn cũng có thể đưa thêm dự đoán (prediction) hoặc lời khuyên để kết thúc bài viết của mình.

**Example:**

**Conclusion**: *To conclude, stemming the rising tides caused by increasing global temperatures is one of the foremost challenges we face and it will ultimately lead to many of the worlds’ cities being left underwater, but a possible solution could be to utilise the flood prevention techniques already used by countries like Holland.*

**Prediction**: *It is predicted that more and more countries will be forced to take such measures to avoid a watery catastrophe.*

**Sample:**

**Đề bài:** The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

**Sample:**

***Task: “There is a general increase in anti-social behaviours and a lack of respect for others. What are the problems and solutions?”***

The widespread presence of anti-social behaviour and disrespectful attitudes towards others has long been a prevalent issue in society today. This often derives from the indifference of parents towards their children’s moral development, and sometimes from social problems such as violence and discrimination which exist in many parts of the world. This situation should be addressed by strong remedies, including better parental education and stricter law enforcement against violent and discriminatory activities in society.

Reasons for this alarming situation vary. In some places, people may hold an anti-social attitude or disrespect others because they live in an environment where violence and discrimination are the norm. Children of sexist parents in rural families in Vietnam, for example, show a worrying tendency of disrespecting women. In some other cases, it is the lack of parental guidance that is to blame. As modern parents are becoming increasingly busy with their jobs, they may have the proclivity to be indifferent to their children’s moral education. When there is no one to help young children distinguish between right and wrong, ill-mannered attitudes may emerge and develop among them without being controlled.

Several strong measures could be adopted by the government and families to mitigate the problem. On the national level, the government should take definite actions against violence and discrimination. This could be done by ensuring strict enforcement of the laws on violent and discriminatory acts to deter them from happening. In addition, on the nuclear family level, parents need to reaffirm their role in morally guiding their children. If they notice any signs of antisocial or insolent behaviour in children, the children should be reprimanded accordingly. Parents, at the same time, could also educate their children about social manners by instilling a moral code in them. These actions, albeit small, could have a strong influence on children when they grow up.

In conclusion, it is clear that violence, discrimination and the indifference of parents to children’s education are the major catalysts for the increase in anti-social behaviour and disrespect towards others. Strong measures such as stringent law enforcement on violent and discriminatory acts should be taken to alleviate this distressing situation.