

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

READING SECTION

Passage 1

The global debate on gun control is a complex and deeply divisive issue, with passionate arguments on both sides. Proponents of stricter gun laws often point to the high rates of gun violence in countries with more permissive regulations, arguing that easy access to firearms, particularly high-powered ones, directly contributes to a higher incidence of homicides, suicides, and mass shootings. They advocate for a range of measures, including universal background checks, bans on assault weapons, and red flag laws, which allow temporary removal of firearms from individuals deemed a danger to themselves or others. These advocates often draw comparisons between different countries, highlighting the significantly lower rates of gun-related deaths in nations with tight gun controls, such as the United Kingdom, Japan, and Australia. For instance, after a mass shooting in 1996, Australia implemented a sweeping ban on semi-automatic rifles and shotguns and a mandatory buyback program, which has been credited with a dramatic reduction in gun violence.

The arguments for stricter gun control are often grounded in public health and safety. Researchers in this field treat gun violence as a preventable epidemic, and they apply epidemiological methods to identify risk factors and effective interventions. They argue that just as regulations have been successful in reducing deaths from car accidents and smoking, so too can smart gun laws save lives. This perspective emphasizes the collective right to safety over the individual right to bear arms, suggesting that personal freedoms must be balanced against the broader societal need to prevent violence and protect citizens. The high cost of gun violence, including medical expenses, law enforcement resources, and the long-term trauma experienced by survivors and communities, is another key point for those who support more stringent regulations. They argue that the economic burden of gun violence is a compelling reason to invest in preventative measures.

On the other side of the debate, opponents of stricter gun control emphasize the right to self-defense and the importance of individual liberty. They often cite the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms, as a cornerstone of their argument. They contend that responsible, law-abiding citizens should not be penalized for the criminal actions of a few. In their view, owning a firearm is a fundamental right that allows individuals to protect themselves and their families from criminals. They argue that criminals will always find ways to obtain weapons, regardless of the laws in place, and that disarming law-abiding citizens would only make them more vulnerable to attack. This perspective often highlights the defensive use of guns, where individuals have successfully used firearms to thwart crimes and protect themselves from harm.

Furthermore, opponents of stricter gun control often question the effectiveness of such laws, pointing to instances where they have failed to prevent mass shootings or have been circumvented by criminals. They may also argue that a focus on gun control distracts from other root causes of violence, such as poverty, mental illness, and a breakdown of social cohesion. They advocate for alternative solutions, such as enforcing existing laws more rigorously, increasing access to mental healthcare, and promoting responsible gun ownership through training and education. Some also argue that the presence of armed citizens can act as a deterrent to criminals, making them less likely to target places where they know people may be armed. This 'good guy with a gun' theory suggests that an armed populace is a safer populace. The debate, therefore, is not just about guns themselves, but about fundamentally different views on the role of government, the nature of freedom, and the best way to ensure a safe and just society.

Questions 1-13

Questions 1-6: True/False/Not Given

1. Australia's 1996 gun laws completely eliminated gun violence in the country.
2. The public health perspective on gun control views it as a preventable issue.
3. The Second Amendment of the US Constitution is a major argument for gun control opponents.
4. Opponents of gun control believe that all gun owners are responsible citizens.
5. Both sides of the gun control debate agree on the importance of mental healthcare.

6. The 'good guy with a gun' theory is supported by all gun control opponents.

Questions 7-10: Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a measure advocated by proponents of stricter gun control? A. Universal background checks B. Bans on all types of firearms C. Red flag laws D. Bans on assault weapons
2. The public health approach to gun violence is compared to the regulation of: A. Alcohol and drugs B. Car accidents and smoking C. Environmental pollution D. Food safety
3. Opponents of stricter gun control believe that such laws would: A. Reduce the number of criminals B. Make law-abiding citizens more vulnerable C. Be easy to enforce D. Eliminate the black market for guns
4. What is the main argument of those who support the 'good guy with a gun' theory? A. More guns lead to more crime. B. An armed citizenry can deter criminals. C. Only law enforcement should have guns. D. Gun ownership should be limited to the military.

Questions 11-13: Complete the summary

The debate over gun control is multifaceted, with proponents of stricter laws emphasizing public safety and drawing parallels with other public health successes. They point to countries like Australia, where a **11.** _____ on certain firearms and a buyback program reportedly led to a significant drop in gun violence. On the other hand, opponents of stricter regulations champion the right to **12.** _____, often referencing the Second Amendment. They argue that such laws disarm law-abiding citizens and that the focus should be on other societal issues and **13.** _____ gun ownership.

Passage 2

A The relationship between mental health and gun violence is a contentious and often misunderstood aspect of the gun control debate. Following high-profile mass shootings, there is often a renewed focus on the mental state of the perpetrators, with many commentators and politicians quickly attributing the violence to mental illness. While it is true that some individuals who commit mass shootings have a history of mental health problems, research suggests that the link is not as straightforward as is

often portrayed. The vast majority of people with mental health conditions are not violent, and in fact, are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators. Attributing gun violence primarily to mental illness can be stigmatizing and misleading, diverting attention from other significant factors.

B Despite the weak correlation between mental illness and violence in general, there are specific circumstances where the risk is elevated. For example, individuals with severe, untreated mental illnesses, particularly those involving psychosis, may have a slightly higher risk of committing violence. However, this risk is still small, and it is often compounded by other factors such as substance abuse, a history of trauma, and access to lethal means. It is the combination of these factors, rather than mental illness alone, that can create a dangerous situation. Therefore, a nuanced approach is needed, one that avoids broad generalizations and focuses on identifying and supporting individuals who are at a high risk of harming themselves or others.

C One of the key challenges in addressing the intersection of mental health and gun violence is the legal and ethical complexity of restricting firearm access for individuals with mental health conditions. In the United States, federal law prohibits the sale of firearms to anyone who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or “committed to a mental institution.” However, these terms are often poorly defined and inconsistently applied. Furthermore, there are concerns that overly broad restrictions could discourage individuals from seeking mental healthcare for fear of losing their Second Amendment rights. This creates a difficult balancing act between protecting public safety and ensuring that people with mental health problems are not unfairly discriminated against.

D Many mental health experts argue that a more effective approach than simply restricting firearm access is to improve the mental healthcare system as a whole. This includes increasing access to affordable and high-quality mental healthcare, promoting early intervention and prevention, and integrating mental health services with primary care. By ensuring that people with mental health problems receive the treatment and support they need, it is possible to reduce the risk of violence and other negative outcomes. This approach focuses on a public health model of prevention, rather than a purely punitive one.

E Another important aspect of the discussion is the role of suicide in gun violence statistics. In the United States, suicides account for the majority of gun-related deaths. The presence of a gun in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide, as firearms are a highly lethal method. Many of these suicides are impulsive acts, and

restricting access to lethal means during a period of crisis can be a life-saving intervention. This is where policies like red flag laws, which allow for the temporary removal of firearms from individuals in crisis, can be particularly effective. These laws are designed to be a temporary and targeted intervention, providing a cooling-off period and an opportunity for the individual to receive help.

F Ultimately, a comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence requires addressing a wide range of factors, including but not limited to mental health. While it is important to ensure that individuals in crisis do not have access to firearms, it is equally important to avoid stigmatizing people with mental illness and to invest in a robust and accessible mental healthcare system. A focus on evidence-based solutions, rather than political rhetoric, is essential to making meaningful progress in preventing gun violence and creating safer communities for everyone.

Questions 14-26

Questions 14-19: Matching headings

Match the headings below with the paragraphs A-F.

i. The legal tightrope of firearm restrictions ii. A call for a broader perspective iii. The oversimplified link between mental health and gun violence iv. The significant role of suicide in gun deaths v. The limitations of mental health-based restrictions vi. The need for a better mental healthcare system vii. The compounding factors of violence viii. The effectiveness of red flag laws

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C
4. Paragraph D
5. Paragraph E
6. Paragraph F

Questions 20-23: Multiple Choice

1. The author argues that the link between mental illness and gun violence is: A. Strong and direct B. Often exaggerated C. The primary cause of mass shootings D. Irrelevant to the gun control debate

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a factor that can compound the risk of violence in individuals with mental illness? A. Substance abuse B. Access to lethal means C. A history of trauma D. A high level of education
3. What is a major concern regarding broad restrictions on firearm access for people with mental health conditions? A. They are too expensive to implement. B. They may discourage people from seeking help. C. They are a violation of the First Amendment. D. They are not supported by law enforcement.
4. Red flag laws are designed to be: A. A permanent ban on gun ownership B. A punishment for people with mental illness C. A temporary and targeted intervention D. A replacement for the mental healthcare system

Questions 24-26: Sentence completion

1. The author states that the vast majority of people with mental health conditions are more likely to be _____ of violence.
2. Federal law in the US prohibits the sale of firearms to anyone who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or “committed to a _____.”
3. A comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence requires addressing a wide range of factors, not just _____.

Passage 3

The technological advancements in firearms have significantly outpaced the legal frameworks designed to regulate them, creating a challenging environment for gun control efforts. The advent of 3D-printed guns, for example, presents a novel and complex problem for law enforcement and regulators. These firearms, which can be produced at home with a 3D printer and readily available digital blueprints, are often untraceable and can be made from plastic, making them difficult to detect with traditional metal detectors. The proliferation of these so-called ‘ghost guns’ undermines existing gun laws, such as those requiring background checks and serial numbers, as they can be manufactured and acquired without any official record. The debate around 3D-printed guns touches on fundamental questions about freedom of speech, as the digital files used to create them are considered by some to be a form of code and therefore protected speech.

Another area of technological concern is the increasing availability of firearm modifications that can dramatically alter a weapon’s functionality. Bump stocks, for

instance, are devices that can be attached to semi-automatic rifles to simulate fully automatic fire, allowing for a much higher rate of fire. The use of a bump stock in the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history, brought this issue to the forefront of the gun control debate. While bump stocks have since been banned in the United States, the ease with which such modifications can be designed and distributed online highlights the difficulty of keeping pace with technological innovation. The development of new types of ammunition, such as armor-piercing bullets, also poses a significant threat to law enforcement and public safety.

The rise of online gun sales has also created new challenges for regulators. While licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct background checks for all sales, private sales between individuals are often exempt from this requirement in many jurisdictions. The internet has made it easier than ever for private sellers and buyers to connect, creating a largely unregulated marketplace for firearms. This 'gun show loophole' on a digital scale makes it difficult to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of prohibited individuals, such as convicted felons and those with a history of domestic violence. Efforts to close this loophole have been met with strong opposition from gun rights advocates, who argue that it would place an undue burden on law-abiding citizens.

In response to these technological challenges, some have proposed the development of 'smart guns,' which are firearms that can only be fired by an authorized user. These guns use technologies such as fingerprint recognition or RFID chips to prevent them from being used by anyone other than the owner. Proponents of smart guns argue that they could significantly reduce accidental shootings, suicides, and the use of stolen guns in crimes. However, the development and adoption of smart guns have been slow, due in part to concerns about their reliability and the potential for them to be hacked or disabled. Gun rights groups have also expressed skepticism, fearing that smart gun technology could lead to a government mandate that would infringe on their right to own traditional firearms.

The ongoing evolution of firearm technology ensures that the gun control debate will continue to be a dynamic and challenging one. As new technologies emerge, so too will new questions about how to balance the right to bear arms with the need to ensure public safety. Finding a solution will require a forward-looking approach that anticipates future technological developments and a willingness to adapt existing laws to a rapidly changing landscape.

Questions 27-40

Questions 27-32: Yes/No/Not Given

1. 3D-printed guns are always made of plastic.
2. The digital files for 3D-printed guns are considered a form of protected speech by everyone.
3. The 2017 Las Vegas shooting was the first time bump stocks were used in a mass shooting.
4. Private online gun sales are always illegal.
5. Smart guns are designed to be used only by their owner.
6. Gun rights groups have fully embraced smart gun technology.

Questions 33-36: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main problem with 'ghost guns'? A. They are more powerful than traditional guns. B. They are untraceable and bypass existing laws. C. They are more expensive to produce. D. They are only used by criminals.
2. Bump stocks are an example of: A. A type of firearm B. A firearm modification C. A type of ammunition D. A smart gun technology
3. The 'gun show loophole' on a digital scale refers to: A. The sale of illegal firearms on the dark web B. The unregulated sale of firearms between private individuals online C. The use of 3D printers to create guns D. The sale of firearms without a background check at gun shows
4. What is a major concern about smart guns? A. They are too expensive for the average person. B. They are not effective at preventing accidents. C. They could be unreliable or hacked. D. They are not supported by law enforcement.

Questions 37-40: Complete the notes

Technological Challenges in Gun Control

- **3D-Printed Guns ('Ghost Guns'):**
 - Can be made at home, often from **37.** _____.
 - Difficult to trace due to the lack of a **38.** _____.
- **Firearm Modifications:**

- Devices like bump stocks can simulate **39.** _____ fire.
- New types of ammunition, such as armor-piercing bullets, pose a threat.
- **Online Gun Sales:**
 - The internet facilitates a largely unregulated marketplace for private sales.
- **‘Smart Guns’:**
 - Use technology like **40.** _____ to restrict use to the owner.
 - Adoption has been slow due to concerns about reliability and opposition from gun rights groups.

LISTENING SECTION

SECTION 1 Questions 1-10

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

Community Safety Meeting Report

Date of meeting: October 26th

Topic: Gun Control and Community Safety

Meeting Attendees:

- Sarah (Resident)
- Officer **1.** _____ (Community Police Officer)

Sarah's Concerns:

- Recent increase in **2.** _____ in the neighborhood.
- Wants to know about the process for getting a **3.** _____.
- Concerned about the safety of her children, especially at the **4.** _____.

Officer Miller's Information:

- The police department is offering a **5.** _____ program for unwanted firearms.

- To get a gun license, a person needs to pass a background check and a **6.** _____ course.
- The department is increasing patrols, especially during **7.** _____ hours.
- A new neighborhood watch program is being launched. The first meeting is on **8.** _____.
- The meeting will be held at the **9.** _____.
- Residents can sign up for the program on the police department's **10.** _____.

SECTION 2 Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15: Multiple Choice

1. The speaker is the founder of an organization called: A. Youth for Gun Safety B. Students Against Gun Violence C. Teens for Responsible Gun Laws D. Young Leaders for Gun Control
2. The organization was founded after: A. A personal experience with gun violence B. A school shooting in the speaker's community C. A national tragedy involving gun violence D. A request from the local government
3. The main goal of the organization is to: A. Ban all guns B. Promote gun safety education C. Advocate for stricter gun laws D. Provide support for victims of gun violence
4. The speaker believes that the most effective way to create change is through: A. Protests and demonstrations B. Lobbying politicians C. Social media campaigns D. A combination of all of the above
5. The organization is currently focused on a campaign for: A. Universal background checks B. A ban on assault weapons C. Red flag laws D. Safe storage of firearms

Questions 16-20: Matching

Match the activities (16-20) with the organization's initiatives (A-F).

Activities

1. School presentations
2. Online petitions

3. Meetings with lawmakers
4. Community events
5. Social media challenges

Initiatives A. Advocacy B. Education C. Community Outreach D. Fundraising E. Digital Engagement F. Victim Support

SECTION 3 Questions 21-30

Questions 21-25: Multiple Choice

1. The main topic of the discussion is: A. The history of gun control in Australia B. The effectiveness of the 1996 National Firearms Agreement in Australia C. A comparison of gun laws in Australia and the United States D. The role of the media in shaping public opinion on gun control
2. What was the catalyst for the National Firearms Agreement? A. A gradual increase in gun violence B. The Port Arthur massacre C. A change in government D. Public protests
3. What was a key feature of the National Firearms Agreement? A. A ban on all firearms B. A mandatory buyback of certain firearms C. A requirement for all gun owners to join a shooting club D. A national gun registry
4. According to Professor Davies, the most significant impact of the law was: A. A reduction in the overall number of firearms B. A decrease in gun-related homicides and suicides C. An increase in the price of illegal firearms D. A change in public attitudes towards guns
5. What is a criticism of the National Firearms Agreement that the students discuss? A. It was too expensive. B. It did not go far enough. C. It has been weakened over time. D. It has had no effect on gun violence.

Questions 26-30: Multiple Choice

1. The students are discussing a recent study that found: A. The rate of gun violence in Australia is increasing. B. The number of firearms in Australia has returned to pre-1996 levels. C. The ban on semi-automatic rifles has been ineffective. D. There is no clear evidence that the buyback program worked.

2. Maria argues that the study is flawed because: A. It was funded by the gun lobby. B. It uses a very narrow definition of gun violence. C. It fails to account for other factors that may have influenced the crime rate. D. It was conducted over too short a period of time.
3. David suggests that the success of the Australian model is due to: A. The specific laws that were passed. B. The political will to implement them. C. The cultural context of Australia. D. All of the above.
4. The students agree that the Australian experience shows that: A. Gun control is a simple issue to solve. B. Strict gun laws can be effective in reducing gun violence. C. The American model of gun control is superior. D. Gun control has no impact on crime rates.
5. For their presentation, the students decide to focus on: A. The history of the National Firearms Agreement B. A comparative analysis of gun laws in different countries C. The ongoing challenges to gun control in Australia D. The role of public opinion in shaping gun policy

SECTION 4 Questions 31-40

*Complete the notes below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

Lecture: The Economics of Gun Violence

Introduction

- Gun violence has significant economic consequences, often overlooked in the debate.
- These costs can be divided into two categories: direct and **31.** _____ costs.

Direct Costs

- **Healthcare:**
 - Immediate medical treatment for victims (e.g., emergency services, surgery).
 - Long-term care, including **32.** _____ and mental health support.
- **Criminal Justice System:**
 - Police investigations, court proceedings, and **33.** _____.
 - These costs are a major drain on public resources.

Indirect Costs

- **Lost Productivity:**
 - Victims may be unable to work, leading to lost income and reduced **34.** _____.
 - The impact on families and employers is also significant.
- **Reduced Quality of Life:**
 - Fear of violence can lead to changes in behavior, such as avoiding certain areas.
 - This can have a negative impact on **35.** _____ and social cohesion.
- **Impact on Businesses:**
 - Businesses may suffer from reduced sales and difficulty attracting **36.** _____.
 - Property values in high-crime areas may also **37.** _____.

The Cost of Prevention

- Investing in prevention programs can be cost-effective.
- Examples include: violence intervention programs, **38.** _____ initiatives, and improved access to mental healthcare.
- The cost of these programs is often far less than the cost of the **39.** _____ of gun violence.

Conclusion

- The economic argument for gun control is a powerful one.
- By reducing gun violence, we can not only save lives but also create a more **40.** _____ and prosperous society.

WRITING SECTION

Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the number of gun-related deaths in a fictional country between 2005 and 2025. The chart also shows the projected number of gun-related deaths until 2035.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

(A line graph would be inserted here showing a fluctuating but generally increasing trend in gun-related deaths from 2005 to 2025, with a steeper projected increase from 2025 to 2035. The y-axis would be 'Number of Deaths' and the x-axis would be 'Year'. The line would be divided into 'Homicides', 'Suicides', and 'Accidents'.)

Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that the only way to reduce gun violence is to ban firearms completely. Others argue that this would violate the rights of law-abiding citizens and that other measures are more effective.

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.

SPEAKING SECTION

Part 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

- Let's talk about your hometown or village. What kind of place is it?
- What's the most interesting part of your town/village?
- What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?
- Is it a good place to live? (Why? / Why not?)

Now, let's talk about the topic of safety.

- How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?
- Do you think your country is a safe place to live?
- What do you think are the biggest safety concerns in your country?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt unsafe?
- What can people do to make their communities safer?

Part 2: Cue Card (2-3 minutes)

Describe a time when you heard about a serious crime.

You should say:

- what the crime was
- when and where you heard about it
- who was involved
- and explain how you felt when you heard about it.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Part 3: Discussion (4-5 minutes)

- Why do you think crime rates are increasing in many countries?
- What is the relationship between crime and poverty?
- Do you think that the media's portrayal of crime is accurate?
- Some people say that the best way to reduce crime is to have more police on the streets. Do you agree?
- What are the most effective ways to prevent young people from getting involved in crime?

GRAMMAR SECTION

Questions 1-5: Error correction

Identify the error in each sentence and correct it.

1. The number of gun-related deaths have been increasing in recent years.
2. He was accused for stealing the firearm from the store.
3. If I would have known about the protest, I would have joined.
4. The new law, that was passed last year, is very controversial.
5. She is one of the activist who are fighting for stricter gun control.

Questions 6-10: Sentence transformation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. The government should ban assault weapons. (BE) Assault weapons _____ by the government.
2. She was so scared that she couldn't speak. (TOO) She was _____ speak.
3. He regrets not studying harder for the exam. (WISHES) He _____ harder for the exam.
4. It is the first time I have seen such a violent film. (NEVER) I _____ such a violent film before.
5. The police are investigating the crime. (LOOKING) The crime _____ by the police.

Questions 11-15: Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb, an article, or a preposition.

1. He has been a member of the shooting club _____ five years.
2. The debate on gun control _____ (continue) for decades.
3. She is _____ expert on firearm legislation.
4. The book was written _____ a former police officer.
5. If I _____ (be) you, I would report it to the police.

Questions 16-20: Word formation

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

1. The _____ of the new law was met with protests. (INTRODUCE)

2. He is a well-known _____ of gun rights. (OPPOSE)
 3. The government is considering _____ measures to reduce gun violence. (ADDITION)
 4. The _____ of the weapon was not registered. (OWN)
 5. The issue of gun control is a _____ one. (DIVIDE)
-

LISTENING SCRIPTS

SECTION 1

Sarah: Hi, Officer Miller. Thanks for meeting with me.

Officer Miller: No problem, Sarah. What can I help you with?

Sarah: Well, I'm getting really concerned about the safety of our neighborhood. There seems to have been an increase in burglaries recently.

Officer Miller: I understand your concern. We have seen a slight uptick in property crime in the area.

Sarah: And with everything in the news about gun violence, I'm just worried. I have two young children, and I want to make sure they're safe. I was even wondering about the process for getting a gun license myself.

Officer Miller: It's a common concern. To get a gun license, you need to pass a background check and complete a safety course. We want to ensure that all gun owners are responsible and well-trained.

Sarah: That makes sense. I'm just so worried about my kids, especially when they're playing at the local park.

Officer Miller: I can assure you that we are taking this very seriously. We're increasing our patrols, especially during the evening hours. And we're also launching a new neighborhood watch program. The first meeting is on November 5th.

Sarah: Oh, that's great! Where will the meeting be held?

Officer Miller: It will be at the community center. We'll be discussing how the program will work and how residents can get involved. You can sign up for the program on the

police department's website.

Sarah: That's fantastic. Thank you so much, Officer Miller. I feel a lot better.

Officer Miller: You're welcome, Sarah. And please, don't hesitate to call us if you see anything suspicious. We're also running a gun buyback program at the moment, for anyone who has unwanted firearms.

SECTION 2

Hello everyone. My name is Maya, and I'm the founder of Students Against Gun Violence. I started this organization a few years ago after a shooting in a community near mine. It was a tragedy that shook me to the core, and I knew I had to do something. I couldn't just sit back and watch as more lives were lost to senseless gun violence.

Our main goal at Students Against Gun Violence is to advocate for stricter gun laws. We believe that it's time for our politicians to take meaningful action to protect our communities. We're not trying to ban all guns, but we are fighting for common-sense solutions that will save lives. We're a youth-led organization, and we believe that our voices are powerful. We've found that the most effective way to create change is through a combination of strategies. We organize protests and demonstrations to raise public awareness. We run social media campaigns to engage with a wider audience. And we lobby our politicians, meeting with them to share our stories and demand action.

Right now, we're focused on a campaign for universal background checks. It's a simple idea that has the potential to save countless lives. We're also working on promoting safe storage of firearms to prevent accidental shootings and suicides. We organize school presentations to educate young people about the dangers of gun violence. We have online petitions that you can sign to show your support. We hold community events to bring people together and build a movement for change. And we use social media challenges to spread our message far and wide. We believe that by working together, we can create a future free from gun violence.

SECTION 3

Professor: So, for our discussion today, I'd like to focus on the 1996 National Firearms Agreement in Australia. It's a really interesting case study in gun control. What was the catalyst for this agreement?

Maria: It was the Port Arthur massacre, wasn't it? A horrific mass shooting that killed 35 people.

Professor: Exactly. The public outcry was immense, and the government was under a lot of pressure to act. So, what were the key features of the agreement?

David: The main thing was the ban on certain types of firearms, like semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. And there was a mandatory buyback program for those weapons.

Professor: Yes, the buyback was a crucial part of the plan. And what was the impact of the law, according to the research? Professor Davies, you've studied this extensively.

Professor Davies: The most significant impact was a dramatic decrease in gun-related homicides and suicides. The evidence is quite clear on that. It's a powerful example of how effective strict gun laws can be.

Maria: But I've read some criticisms of the agreement. Some people argue that it has been weakened over time, with some states and territories relaxing their laws.

Professor Davies: That's a valid point. There has been some erosion of the original agreement, and that's a cause for concern. There was also a recent study that claimed the number of firearms in Australia has returned to pre-1996 levels.

David: I saw that study. But Maria, didn't you say it was flawed?

Maria: I did. I think it fails to account for other factors that may have influenced the crime rate, like changes in the economy or policing strategies. It's a complex issue, and you can't just look at the number of guns in isolation.

David: I agree. And I think the success of the Australian model is not just about the specific laws, but also the political will to implement them and the cultural context of the country. It's a combination of all of those things.

Professor: That's a great point, David. So, what can we conclude from the Australian experience?

Maria: I think it shows that strict gun laws can be effective in reducing gun violence. It's not a simple issue, but it's not an impossible one either.

Professor: Well said. For your presentation next week, I'd like you to focus on the ongoing challenges to gun control in Australia. It's a topic that's still very much in the news.

SECTION 4

Good morning, everyone. Today, I want to talk about a topic that is often overlooked in the gun control debate: the economics of gun violence. We often focus on the emotional and social costs of gun violence, but the economic consequences are also staggering. These costs can be broadly divided into two categories: direct and indirect costs.

Direct costs are the most obvious. They include the immediate medical treatment for victims, such as emergency services, surgery, and hospital stays. But they also include the long-term care that many survivors require, such as physical therapy and mental health support. Then there are the costs to the criminal justice system: police investigations, court proceedings, and incarceration. These costs represent a major drain on public resources, money that could be spent on education, infrastructure, or other public services.

But the indirect costs of gun violence are even greater. These include lost productivity from victims who are unable to work, which not only affects their own income but also has a ripple effect on their families and employers. There's also the reduced quality of life in communities with high rates of gun violence. The fear of violence can lead to changes in behavior, such as people avoiding certain areas or not letting their children play outside. This can have a negative impact on community and social cohesion. Businesses also suffer, with reduced sales and difficulty attracting employees. Property values in high-crime areas may also decline.

So, what can be done? Investing in prevention programs can be a highly cost-effective solution. These programs can include violence intervention initiatives, youth mentoring programs, and improved access to mental healthcare. The cost of these programs is often far less than the cost of the aftermath of gun violence. In conclusion, the economic argument for gun control is a powerful one. By reducing gun violence, we can not only save lives but also create a more prosperous and thriving society for everyone. It's an investment in our collective future.

ANSWER KEY

READING

1. False

2. True
3. True
4. Not Given
5. Not Given
6. False
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B
11. sweeping ban
12. self-defense
13. responsible gun
14. iii
15. vii
16. i
17. vi
18. iv
19. ii
20. B
21. D
22. B
23. C
24. victims
25. mental institution
26. mental health
27. False
28. False
29. Not Given
30. False

31. True
32. False
33. B
34. B
35. B
36. C
37. plastic
38. serial number
39. fully automatic
40. fingerprint recognition

LISTENING

1. Miller
2. burglaries
3. gun license
4. local park
5. buyback
6. safety
7. evening
8. November 5th
9. community center
10. website
11. B
12. B
13. C
14. D
15. A
16. B
17. E

- 18. A
- 19. C
- 20. E
- 21. B
- 22. B
- 23. B
- 24. B
- 25. C
- 26. B
- 27. C
- 28. D
- 29. B
- 30. C
- 31. indirect
- 32. physical therapy
- 33. incarceration
- 34. economic output
- 35. community
- 36. employees
- 37. decline
- 38. youth mentoring
- 39. aftermath
- 40. prosperous

GRAMMAR

- 1. has been
- 2. accused of
- 3. had known
- 4. which

5. activists
 6. should be banned
 7. too scared to
 8. wishes he had studied
 9. have never seen
 10. is being looked into
 11. for
 12. has continued
 13. an
 14. by
 15. were
 16. introduction
 17. opponent
 18. additional
 19. owner
 20. divisive
-

TUTOR GUIDE

Writing Task 1: Model Answer

The line graph illustrates the number of gun-related deaths in a fictional country from 2005 to 2025, with a projection until 2035. The deaths are categorized into homicides, suicides, and accidents.

Overall, the total number of gun-related deaths shows a significant upward trend throughout the period. While there were some fluctuations, the general trajectory is a consistent increase, which is projected to become even steeper after 2025.

In 2005, the total number of gun-related deaths stood at approximately 10,000. Suicides were the most common cause of death, accounting for around 6,000, followed by homicides at 3,000 and accidents at 1,000. Over the next two decades, all

three categories saw a rise. By 2025, the total number of deaths had climbed to 18,000, with suicides reaching 10,000, homicides 6,000, and accidents 2,000.

The projection for the decade to 2035 indicates a dramatic escalation in gun-related fatalities. The total number of deaths is expected to surge to 30,000. Suicides are predicted to remain the leading cause, reaching 16,000, while homicides are projected to increase to 11,000 and accidents to 3,000. This suggests that the problem of gun violence in this country is expected to worsen considerably in the coming years.

Writing Task 2: Model Essay (Band 9)

The debate over how to tackle gun violence is one of the most contentious issues of our time, with two main opposing viewpoints. Some advocate for a complete ban on firearms as the only effective solution, while others contend that this would infringe upon individual rights and that alternative measures are more appropriate. This essay will discuss both perspectives before offering a concluding opinion.

On one side of the argument, proponents of a total firearm ban argue that it is the most direct and effective way to reduce gun-related deaths and injuries. They point to the high rates of gun violence in countries with permissive gun laws and the relative safety of nations with strict regulations. A complete ban, they argue, would remove the primary tool of gun violence from circulation, making it significantly more difficult for individuals to commit mass shootings, homicides, or suicides. The public health and safety benefits of such a policy, in their view, far outweigh any individual right to own a weapon. They contend that in a civilized society, the collective right to safety should take precedence over the individual desire to possess a firearm.

On the other hand, opponents of a firearm ban emphasize the right to self-defense and individual liberty. They argue that law-abiding citizens have a fundamental right to own firearms to protect themselves and their families from criminals. A ban on guns, they believe, would disarm the innocent, leaving them vulnerable to armed assailants who would obtain weapons illegally regardless of the law. Furthermore, they argue that a focus on banning guns distracts from the root causes of violence, such as poverty, mental illness, and social breakdown. They advocate for a multi-faceted approach that includes stricter enforcement of existing laws, improved mental healthcare, and responsible gun ownership education. From this perspective, punishing the entire population for the actions of a criminal minority is both unjust and ineffective.

In my opinion, while a complete ban on firearms may seem like a simple solution, it is both impractical and an overreach of government power. A more balanced and effective approach is to implement a range of common-sense gun control measures. These should include universal background checks for all firearm purchases, a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and red flag laws that allow for the temporary removal of guns from individuals in crisis. By combining these targeted regulations with investments in mental healthcare and community-based violence prevention programs, we can strike a reasonable balance between protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens and ensuring the safety of the public. This comprehensive strategy, rather than a blanket ban, offers the most promising path to reducing gun violence.

Speaking Part 2: Sample Response

I'd like to talk about a time I heard about a serious crime, which was a bank robbery that happened in my city a few years ago. I remember it vividly because it was all over the news, and it happened in a part of the city that I was quite familiar with.

I first heard about it on the evening news. The news report showed dramatic footage from a security camera inside the bank. It was quite shocking to see. The robbery was carried out by a group of four masked men who were armed with handguns. They stormed into the bank on a busy weekday afternoon and ordered everyone to get on the floor. They threatened the bank tellers and forced them to hand over a large amount of cash.

The whole incident was over in a matter of minutes, and the robbers managed to escape before the police arrived. Fortunately, no one was physically harmed, but the people in the bank were obviously terrified. The police launched a major investigation, and the news was filled with updates on the case for weeks.

When I heard about the robbery, I felt a mixture of shock and fear. It was unsettling to think that something so violent could happen in my own city, in a place that I had been to before. It made me feel a lot less safe and more aware of the potential for crime. I also felt a great deal of sympathy for the people who were in the bank during the robbery. It must have been a truly traumatic experience for them. The incident really brought home the reality of crime and its impact on ordinary people.

Key Vocabulary List

1. **Proponent (n.):** A person who advocates for a theory, proposal, or project.

2. **Permissive (adj.):** Allowing or characterized by great or excessive freedom of behavior.
3. **Stringent (adj.):** (Of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting.
4. **Divisive (adj.):** Tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people.
5. **Contentious (adj.):** Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.
6. **Perpetrator (n.):** A person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act.
7. **Stigmatize (v.):** To describe or regard as worthy of disgrace or great disapproval.
8. **Nuanced (adj.):** Characterized by subtle shades of meaning or expression.
9. **Adjudicate (v.):** To make a formal judgment or decision about a problem or disputed matter.
10. **Proliferation (n.):** Rapid increase in the number or amount of something.
11. **Undermine (v.):** To lessen the effectiveness, power, or ability of, especially gradually or insidiously.
12. **Loophole (n.):** An ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules.
13. **Catalyst (n.):** An event or person that causes great change.
14. **Escalation (n.):** A rapid increase; a rise.
15. **Infringe (v.):** To actively break the terms of a law, agreement, etc.
16. **Assailant (n.):** A person who physically attacks another.
17. **Multi-faceted (adj.):** Having many different aspects or features.
18. **Incarceration (n.):** The state of being confined in prison; imprisonment.
19. **Aftermath (n.):** The consequences or after-effects of a significant unpleasant event.
20. **Prosperous (adj.):** Successful in material terms; flourishing financially.