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HƯỚNG DẪN HỌC SÁCH IELTS VOCABULARY BOOSTER BY NGOCBACH

Hi các bạn,

Mình là Ngọc Bách

Tài liệu dưới đây tổng hợp các bài mẫu với các từ vựng (band 7.0~9.0) được giải thích chi tiết theo từng ngữ cảnh. Tất cả các bài mẫu này đều lấy từ các đề thi thật 2019 và hoàn toàn có khả năng ra lại trong thời gian tới (đề thi ngày 07/11/2019 hôm trước lấy lại từ 1 đề trong tập này)

Cách học rất đơn giản.

1. Các bạn xem phần bài mẫu ở cột bên trái. Với những cụm từ tốt các bạn xem nghĩa ở cột bên phải và nhìn kỹ ngữ cảnh xem mình sử dụng các từ vựng này trong bài như thế nào

2. Áp dụng trong chính bài Writing và bài Speaking của các bạn

Lưu ý: Các bạn có thể bắt đầu học với bất cứ chủ đề nào bạn yêu thích. Sách này không có thứ tự

Đây là một dự án hoàn toàn miễn phí. Dự kiến tập số 2 với nhiều bài mẫu và nhiều tự vựng được giải thích chi tiết hơn sẽ update vào 1,2 tuần nữa

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Chúc các bạn học tốt !

-Ngọc Bách-

A. THE ART

1. (14/02/2019) Some people claim that museums and art galleries are not needed today, because everyone can see historical objects or art works by computer. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that technology gives most people a chance to see historical objects and works of art on a computer screen. I partly agree with the view, therefore, that museums and art galleries are no longer necessary. It is very expensive to maintain a museum or art gallery, and governments often have to provide funding for these institutions. If national or local authorities have to allocate resources to keep these cultural facilities open, then less money is available to spend on health, education and social services. Faced with such a choice, some countries opt for a mixed funding model for the arts in order to reduce costs. Therefore, I believe that it is an unaffordable luxury to retain these wonderful public collections. Their artefacts and paintings can all be accessed freely and almost instantly at the touch of a key on a computer keyboard.	**to provide funding for:** to give money to enable something to be done **national or local authorities:** government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area **to allocate resources to:** to make money and materials available to do something **social services:** a system that is organized by the government to help people who have financial or family problems; the department or the people who provide this help **a mixed funding model for the arts**: a model in which some money to support

While I agree that museums and art galleries are not essential in this computer age, I would be sad to see their disappearance. **Firstly**, the buildings which house their collections are themselves part of our tangible cultural heritage. **For example,** the National Gallery in London is a striking and impressive historic building. **Secondly**, the feeling of awe on seeing the size of the great dinosaur skeletons in the Natural History Museum in New York would be impossible to experience by simply looking at an image on a laptop or cell phone. It would be an immense loss if such places were to close their doors to the public. **In conclusion**, although these cultural facilities have unique aesthetic qualities, now that people can access their treasures thanks to the digital revolution, the expense of keeping them open cannot be justified. 284 words	the arts is given by the government and some money is provided by private individuals or commercial organizations. **tangible cultural heritage**: refers to physical artifacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society **The aesthetic qualities of something**: The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something. **the digital revolution:** the advancement of technology to the digital technology available today

B. BUSINESS AND MONEY

1. (24/03/2019): Some people think that hard work and determination bring success. Others think other factors such as money and good appearance are more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

It is true that some people believe that the key factors for success in life are hard work and determination, although others place more importance on money and smart appearance. **While** all these are necessary, I would argue that money is the single most essential factor for those who wish to achieve success. **On the one hand,** the determination to work hard is essential for anyone who wants to earn a living and raise a family. **Firstly,** this is true **in terms of** employment, because most jobs impose a heavy workload on employees. Even jobs **such as** serving customers in stores, supermarkets or coffee shops, offering a minimum wage, no job prospects and no promotion opportunities demand hard work and dedication. **Secondly, from a perspective of** life outside work, simply supporting a family involves commitment and a lot of effort to maintain a close-knit family. Such parental involvement is the basis of	**to earn a living:** to earn money **a heavy workload:** having many tasks to perform **minimum wage:** the lowest wage that an employer is allowed to pay by law **job prospects:** the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work **promotion opportunities:** chances to move to a more important position in a company or organization **to support a family:** to have enough money to be able to look after a family

preparing children to enter adult life, and to pursue a successful career. **On the other hand,** money and appearances are the things most valued in the modern world. People are increasingly judged by their wealth or their smart and fashionable clothes. Without money, it is impossible to think about running your own business or developing contacts with rich and influential people who can help you to get ahead in life. Most aspiring entrepreneurs, film or sports stars, **for example**, do not achieve their dreams, and are considered by society as failures. If you have money, then designer clothes and celebrity status advertise your success to others. **In conclusion,** it is a sad reality that of all the factors most likely to bring success, money is, in my opinion, the most important. 283 words	**commitment:** the willingness to work hard and give your time and energy to a job or activity **a close-knit family:** a family having strong relationships with each other, helping with problems and enjoying a lot of time together **parental involvement:** the act or process of parents when taking part in their children's activities. **to enter adult life:** the stage when adolescents are almost old enough to be legally independent of their parents. **to pursue a successful career:** to have a series of jobs in a particular area of work, with more responsibility as time passes **judged:** to form an opinion about something or somebody **to run your own business:** to have a business which you own **influential:** having a lot of influence on something or somebody **get ahead in life:** to succeed in life **aspiring:** wanting to be successful

C. COMMUNICATION AND PERSONALITY

1. (15/01/2019): Nowadays, many people cannot read or write. What problems does this cause? What measures can governments take to solve these problems?

It is true that even today, illiteracy is widespread. **While** this presents serious difficulties for individuals and society, there are steps that governments should take to deal with the problem. When people can neither read nor write, they are disadvantaged in important ways. **In terms of** the individual consequences of illiteracy, dealing with bureaucracy is a nightmare. Reading and writing – or even adding a signature to – an official document is often necessary, **for example** when people have to apply for social welfare benefits. From the perspective of society in general, it is difficult to integrate economic migrants into society who are perhaps illiterate in their home countries, or are unable to read and write in the language of the host country. This makes the task of constructing a	**illiteracy:** the fact of not knowing how to read or write **disadvantaged:** not having things, such as education or enough money, that people need in order to have a good life **bureaucracy:** the system of complicated official rules or ways of doing things organised by a government **welfare:** practical or financial help provided by the government to help people in need **to integrate into society**: to become accepted as a member of a social group, especially when a person comes from a different culture

multicultural society difficult if minority groups are forced to do sweated labour, simply because they are illiterate and excluded from better-paid jobs. There are, however, policies which national and local authorities can adopt to improve matters. **Firstly,** resources should be allocated to provide basic literacy classes in local colleges or social and community centres to help people to learn to read and write. **Secondly,** government departments must employ staff who have specific responsibility for helping illiterate people to cope with the confusing mass of official paperwork. In this way, they will not be discriminated against, **for instance** by losing welfare rights to which they are entitled. **Finally**, governments even in developing countries must ensure that everyone has the right to a basic education which enables them to read and write. **In conclusion, although** illiteracy is a serious problem, there are steps which governments should take to help those who can neither read nor write.	**a multicultural society:** a society which includes people of different origins, traditions and languages **minority groups:** small groups within a community that are different because of their origin, religion, language or traditions **sweated labour:** hard work that is done for low wages in poor conditions; the people who do this work **to allocate resources to**: to make money and materials available to do something **to adopt policies:** to start or use policies **national and local authorities:** government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area **social and community centres:** places where people who live in the same area can meet for events or to do different activities

282 words	**to cope with:** to deal successfully with something difficult **paperwork:** the written work that is part of a job, such as filling in forms or writing reports or letters **to discriminate:** to treat one person or group worse/better than another in an unfair way

D. CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

1. (07/03/2019): Research suggests that the majority of criminals who are sent to prison commit crimes when set free. What are the reasons? What can be done to solve the problem?

It is true that a large proportion of criminals are known to re-offend after they have been released from prison. There are some important reasons for this return to a life of crime, but there are solutions which could mitigate the problem. I believe that there are two principal reasons why many criminals who have served their sentences, commit further crimes when they are released back into society. **Firstly,** prison is popularly regarded as an institution whose purpose is to punish wrongdoers. There is a public outcry against being soft on crime, and many argue that only the full	**to re-offend:** to commit a crime or crimes for a second time, or for more times **to mitigate**: to make something less harmful or less serious **to serve a prison sentence:** to remain in prison as a punishment **to release back into society**: to give freedom to prisoners who have finished their sentences.

weight of the law will act as a deterrent, even though this is obviously not working. As a result, few resources are allocated to prison programmes which will help ex- offenders to make a fresh start in society. **Secondly,** prisons are overcrowded and often violent places, in which the most hardened criminals influence and intimidate other inmates, and form networks to plan future crimes, **such as** a criminal prison gang called the PCC do in Brazil. Steps should be taken to solve these problems. **One solution** is reintegrating offenders back into the community. Programmes which provide vocational training or academic study opportunities must be implemented in order to give prisoners a chance of rehabilitation and to find work. Some universities in the UK and the USA, **for example,** offer degree programmes to enable offenders to gain qualifications. **Another solution** is to segregate the most dangerous convicts, in order to prevent intimidation and bullying in prisons, from which offenders are released as even more expert criminals. In conclusion, while important reasons for the rate of re-offending can be identified, some steps must be taken to implement workable solutions. 286 words	**to punish wrongdoers:**to punish people who do something illegal **to be soft on crime:** not to impose strict punishments on offenders **the full weight of the law:** all the strictest punishments available according to the laws of a country. **to act as a deterrent:** a measure which makes somebody less likely to do something **to make a fresh start:** to try something new after making mistakes in one's life **hardened:** having developed a way of dealing with bad experiences, so that they no longer upset you **to intimidate:** to frighten or threaten somebody, so that they will do what you want **inmate:** one of the people living in a prison **to reintegrate back into the community:** to restore someone into society through education or therapy

	a chance of rehabilitation: a chance of helping someone to have a normal life after serving a prison sentence **an outcry against**: a reaction of anger or strong protest shown by people in public **to segregate somebody:** to separate people for some reason and treat them in a different way **to allocate resources to:** to make money and materials available to do something **convict:** a person who is guilty of a crime and who has been sent to prison

E. EDUCATION

1. (13/08/2019): Students should pay the full cost for their own study, because university education benefits individuals rather than society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that students should not receive help with the costs of their university education. **While** graduates may benefit individually later in life from the opportunity to pursue a successful career, I would argue that the government should provide funding for students.	**to pursue a successful career:** to have a series of jobs in a particular area of work, with more responsibility as time passes **to provide funding for:** to give money to enable something to be done **headhunting**: connected with the activity of finding people who are

In many cases, it is true that students benefit from their university education **in terms of** future salaries. Headhunting corporations compete with each other to offer attractive employment to graduates. Graduates can expect to have better job prospects than non-graduates, enjoying higher pay and good promotion opportunities. They will, therefore, be more likely to live in prosperous neighbourhoods, with an enviable lifestyle. **For example**, in the USA college graduates may earn two or three times as much as an unskilled worker. **However,** I consider that there are two important reasons why students should not pay the full cost of their university education. **Firstly,** they acquire skills which are useful, and sometimes essential, to society as a whole. Doctors, scientists and engineers are obvious examples, but other professions should not be forgotten, **such as** teachers, artists or philosophers. **Secondly,** if students have to pay for their education, they may be forced to pay off a huge student loan when they graduate, or they may have to work their way through college. In the latter case, their studies will suffer, and some may fall behind with their studies or even drop out of college.	suitable for top jobs and persuading them to join a company **job prospects:** the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work **promotion opportunities:** chances to move to a more important position in a company or organization **prosperous**: rich and successful **enviable:** something that is enviable is something that is good and that other people want to have too **to acquire experience/knowledge/skill:** to gain experience/knowledge/skill by your own efforts or behavior **to pay off a student loan:** to repay money borrowed in order to study at college or university **to work your way through university:** to have a job when you are at college/university in order to help to pay for your studies

In conclusion, I disagree that students should pay the full cost of their university education. **Although** in some cases they benefit individually from having a degree, they also contribute to the prosperity and well-being of society and, therefore, deserve some financial support while studying. 279 words	**to fall behind with your studies:** to improve more slowly in studying than other people so that you fail to learn the course material at the necessary speed **to drop out of college:** to leave college or university without finishing your studies

F. THE ENVIRONMENT

1. (24/02/2019): Some people believe that all wild animals should be protected. Others say that only a few wild animals should be protected. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is true that people hold different opinions about the extent to which wild animals should be protected. **While** it is difficult to justify the protection of every wild animal, I believe that some wild animals ought to be protected. **On the one hand**, some people put forward the moral argument that humans have no right to kill any animal in the wild. They argue that it is a violation of animal rights. They believe that it is necessary for everyone to treat animals humanely, and they correctly condemn the many forms of animal exploitation,	**in the wild**: in a natural environment not controlled by people **a violation of animal rights**: an action that harms or acts against animal rights **to treat animals humanely**: to be kind to animals and treat them in such a way that they do not suffer **to condemn**: to express very strong disapproval of something, especially for moral reasons

animal suffering and even animal slaughter in the world today. **For example**, animal lovers will argue the need to eliminate poaching of elephants in Africa or India and to establish more wildlife reserves. **In terms of** the oceans, there is an international campaign for an end to the practice of whaling. **On the other hand,** I tend to agree with those who argue that only animals on the brink of extinction should be protected. Their views combine practical and moral arguments. Although they recognise the ethical dilemmas, they believe that the numbers of some species of animals must be regulated. Rats, **for example**, are everywhere and they are a danger to human health, contaminating food and water and carrying diseases. If their numbers were not reduced, the consequences would be serious. Therefore, people should mainly be concerned with protecting rare or endangered species of wild animals. In conclusion, because it is impossible to protect every species of wild animal, I believe that priority should be given to saving those species which are in danger of becoming extinct. 272 words	**animal exploitation**: the use of animals in order to get an advantage from them **animal suffering**: physical or mental pain that an animal is feeling **animal slaughter**: the killing of animals for meat **animal lovers**: people who like animals very much, and feel love for them **to eliminate poaching**: to stop all illegal hunting of wild animals **wildlife reserves**: protected areas for wild animals **the practice of whaling**: the activity of hunting and killing whales **on the brink of extinction**: an animal or plant which has almost disappeared from the planet **ethical dilemmas**: a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different things, relating to beliefs about what is morally right and wrong

	to contaminate: to make a substance or place dirty **endangered species**: plants or animals that only exist in very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever **priority:** something that you think is more important than other things, and therefore should be dealt with first

G. FAMILY AND CHILDREN

1. (25/04/2019): In many countries today, people in cities either live alone or in small family units, rather than in large family groups. Is this a positive or negative trend?

It is true that in recent years, many urban dwellers have tended to live on their own or in nuclear families. In my opinion, this trend has both positive and negative consequences in equal measure. **On the one hand,** the rise in smaller households is a positive trend primarily for economic reasons. The migration of people from rural to urban areas has resulted in an enormous increase in demand for housing. The housing stock has been inadequate to cope with this demand, and so property developers have taken advantage of this population shift to raise house prices and rents. They have built apartment blocks which provide accommodation for only single	**urban dwellers**: people who live in a city or a town **tend (to/towards something)**: to be likely to do something or to happen in a particular way **a nuclear family**: a family consisting of a father, mother and their children **the migration of people from rural to urban areas**: the movement of people from the countryside to cities **the housing stock**: all the houses available for living in

people or small families. If they do not wish to endure squalid housing conditions, therefore, it is clearly necessary for people to live alone or in small, usually family, groups. **On the other hand,** there are negative aspects of this trend. With the mass exodus of people to cities, ties of kinship are broken as the extended family which lived together in the countryside is broken up. Socially, family gatherings take place only rarely and, financially, living costs can no longer be shared between many family members living under the same roof. **For example,** grandparents or other relatives used to help with household expenses, child-minding and cooking. Individuals rarely felt lonely or isolated, experiencing a sense of alienation as they sometimes do in cities, without such family support. **In conclusion,** I believe that this trend has equally significant positive and negative aspects for both social and financial reasons. 258 words	**to be inadequate to cope with**: not good enough to deal with a problem **a property developer**: a person who buys land or buildings, and then makes improvements in order to sell them for more money **apartment blocks**: large buildings with apartments on each floor. **population shift**: a change in the numbers of people who live in a particular area **to endure squalid living conditions**: very dirty and unpleasant conditions in which to live **a mass exodus**: the movement of a lot of people from a place **ties of kinship**: the fact of being related in a family, with links of friendship and assistance to other family members **an extended family**: a family group with many members, including parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins etc **to break up**: to come to an end and go away in different directions **a family gathering**: a meeting of family members for a particular purpose

	under the same roof: in the same building or house **child-minding:** caring informally (not in schools) for children when parents are busy or working **a sense of alienation**: the feeling that you have no connection with the people around you

H. HEALTH

1. (04/05/2019): Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and little time on sports. What are the reasons for this and is it a positive or negative development?

It is true that many youngsters waste hours and hours on computer games, neglecting sports and physical exercise. I believe that there is at least one important factor to account for this trend, which is in my opinion a totally negative one. I would argue that the marketing industry is chiefly culpable for the fact that a growing number of children are addicted to computer games. Even in developing countries, a lot of youngsters these days are computer-literate, and software companies know	**hours and hours:** for a very long time **to neglect**: to fail to pay enough attention to something **to account for:** to be the explanation or the cause of something **culpable:** responsible and deserving blame for doing something wrong **to be addicted (to something):** to be unable to stop taking harmful drugs, tobacco or alcohol.

how children are easily swayed by the novelty of playing new games. Through their advertising, such companies aim specifically at children as their target audience to promote their products. These soon become obsolete and are replaced by new ones. As a result, children are not taking up sports. Instead, they find their excitement in imaginary virtual worlds of gaming rather than the real, physical world. The main argument against computer games is that they are detrimental to children's health. **Firstly,** a sedentary lifestyle is encouraged by playing computer games, **whereas** youngsters need to take regular exercise. Without sport, children may become prone to obesity. My cousin, **for example**, never plays any sports and he is putting on weight, mainly because of all the hours that he spends playing computer games. **Secondly,** too much time spent on computer games may lead to social isolation and resulting mental health problems. It might be a good idea for computer games to be sold with a warning that they carry health risks, like cigarettes or alcohol. **In conclusion**, advertisers are responsible for the gaming obsession of many youngsters, and I consider that this has serious negative consequences for health.	**to be computer-literate:** able to use computers well **to be swayed by:** to be influenced to buy things **target audience:** consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products **to promote their products:** to make products popular by advertising them **to become obsolete:** to be no longer used because something new has been invented **to take up sport:** to start doing a sport, to start doing exercise **gaming:** playing computer games **to be detrimental to health**: to be harmful to health **a sedentary lifestyle:** involving little exercise or physical activity **to take regular exercise:** to start doing exercise, for example every day/every week… **to be prone to obesity:** to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way] **to put on weight:** to become heavier and fatter

279 words	**social isolation:** being alone and lonely, without much contact with other people **mental health problems:** related to illnesses of one's mind

I. TOURISM

1. (22/06/2019): Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists but not local people. Why is this the case and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

It is true that tourists from many parts of the world pay more visits to museums and historical places than local inhabitants. **Resulting from** a number of reasons, this situation should be solved by attracting the locals in some practical ways. **There are two main reasons why** museums and historical sites are preferred more by tourists than by local residents. One reason is that museums are too familiar to nearby inhabitants. If museums do not change anything, there will be nothing new for the locals to discover. Like eating the same dish every single day, they feel bored with visiting the same places. **Furthermore**, entrance tickets at some historical sites are expensive for the local inhabitants to afford. **For example**, in Dien Bien, a province in northwestern Vietnam, it is rather hard for the residents to **make**	**historical sites:** an official location where pieces of political, military, cultural, or social history have been preserved due to their cultural heritage value. **local residents/ inhabitants/people:** the **inhabitants** of a place are the people who live there. **attractions:** a place which draws visitors by providing something of interest or pleasure. **to discover:** to find information, a place, or an object, especially for the first time **spend money on sth/doing sth:** to use money to pay for things

ends meet, let alone to spend money on visiting some famous historical attractions there. The governments should take some measures/steps to tackle this issue effectively. **Firstly**, museums ought to be invested in more by the authorities to refresh the exhibits. The fresher the museums are, the more local residents are interested in them. **Secondly**, historical relics need to be free for all the local people. Without worrying about additional expenditure, those residents will pay more and more visits to historical sites in order to broaden their knowledge about their home towns. **In conclusion**, there are some evident reasons that bring about this trend. However, something should be done to attract more visits of the locals by the authorities. 260 words	**relic:** an object from the past that has been kept **to take measures/steps:** to take action; do things to accomplish a purpose. **to tackle:** to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation **invest in:** to put money, effort, time, etc. into something to make a profit or get an advantage **exhibit:** an object or collection of objects on public display in an art gallery or museum or at a trade fair. **expenditure:** an amount of money, time, or effort that is spent **to broaden knowledge:** to increase your knowledge

J. GOVERNMENT

1. (23/05/2019): In many cities there is little control on the design and construction of new homes and office buildings, and people can build houses in their own style. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a situation?

It is true that national and local authorities in some cities around the world fail to introduce restrictions on planning. **While** this allows great freedom of choice for property developers and individual homeowners, I believe that the disadvantages outweigh such benefits. **On the one hand,** uncontrolled construction of housing and offices encourages investment in a city. If there are few planning regulations to adhere to, investors are more likely to speculate on increasing the housing stock, often using the most cost-effective designs. With more available housing, there should be fewer people living on the streets. **In terms of** the construction of office buildings, without controls on the provision of high-rise buildings, a huge amount of space can be made available for companies to locate in a particular city. This might potentially increase employment opportunities in the area. **On the other hand,** there are major drawbacks when urban development is unplanned in this way. **Firstly**, urban sprawl is encouraged, and this is an undesirable feature of many modern cities. In some US cities, **for example**, sprawling suburbs have sprung up while at the same time slum areas and sink estates have been allowed to decay in the inner city areas. **Secondly,** when individuals can put up buildings to any design which they want,	**national and local authorities**: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area **to introduce restrictions on**: to limit what people can do or what can happen **a property developer**: a person who buys land or buildings, and then makes improvements in order to sell them for more money **to adhere to:** to limit what people can do or what can happen **to speculate:** to buy a house or other property, hoping to make a profit when you sell it, but with the risk of losing money **the housing stock:** all the houses available for living in **cost-effective:** giving the best possible benefits or profits in comparison with the money that is spent **to be living on the streets**: to be without a place in which to live **high-rise buildings**: tall modern buildings (not as tall as skyscrapers) **urban sprawl:** a large area covered with buildings that spreads from the city into the countryside in an ugly way

the result is that the city simply becomes an eyesore. Buildings may simply not blend in with each other. **For instance,** towering skyscrapers may be constructed next to famous landmarks, completely overshadowing them. **In conclusion,** I would argue that the unplanned growth of cities has produced both ugliness and chaos. Such drawbacks greatly outweigh any benefits. 268 words	**sprawling suburbs**: an area outside of the centre of a city where people live, but which is spreading without control into the surrounding countryside **to spring up:** to appear or develop quickly or suddenly **slum areas:** parts of a city where the houses are poor and the houses are dirty and in bad condition **sink estates**: housing located in a poor area of a city where social conditions are bad **inner city areas:** the parts near the centre of a city, which often have social problems **to be an eyesore**: to be ugly to look at **towering skyscrapers**: very tall modern buildings, usually in a city **a famous landmark**: a building that is very important because of its historical or modern significance **to blend in (with something):** If something blends in, then it is similar to - or matches - its surroundings **to overshadow:** to make something (or somebody) seem less important **chaos:** a state of complete confusion and lack of order

K. SOCIETY

1. (23/03/2019): It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of older people than that of young people in many countries in the future? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is predicted that in many countries the percentage of the elderly population will be higher than the proportion of the young generation. **While** this will create some problems, I believe that it is on balance a positive development. **On the one hand,** the main issue confronting countries with a large elderly population is the cost of providing public health services. As people grow older, they generally need more medical attention. It will, therefore be necessary for governments to impose spending cuts or to raise taxes on incomes or goods in order to provide funding for increased health care. In countries **like** the USA and the UK, many people fear that they may be faced with large health bills in their old age and have decided to take out private health insurance. They argue that the resources of a welfare state will not be adequate to guarantee good health care when they are old. **On the other hand,** I agree with those who argue that the world is changing and fewer young people will be required to work in future. **Firstly,** advances in technology mean fewer young workers are needed. Robotics technology is still in its infancy, but fewer workers are needed now in many occupations. **For example**, labour-saving	**to confront (a problem or difficulty)**: to appear and to need to be dealt with by somebody **public health services**: the agencies funded by the government to protect and promote the health of the population **to impose spending cuts**: to introduce new rules to spend less money on something **to raise taxes on**: to increase the amount of tax on something **to provide funding for**: to give money to enable something to be done **to be faced with:** if you are faced with a particular situation, you have to deal with it

appliances have replaced many workers in the industrial and service sectors. **Secondly,** as populations age, the number of people will decline. The present world population of about 9 billion is depleting the natural resources on which everyone depends. **In conclusion**, although the health costs of caring for an increasingly elderly population will be high initially, an ageing population will avoid both the future problems of an army of young jobless people, and also population pressure which will provoke an ecological crisis. 290 words	**to take out private health insurance**: to make regular payments to an insurance company, who will pay for medical or hospital treatment when you need it **a welfare state**: a taxation system which allows governments to provide for the economic and social well-being of its citizens **adequate:** enough for a particular purpose or need **advances in technology**: the improvement or development in technology **robotics technology**: the design, construction and operation of robots **to be in its infancy**: to be in the early development of something **labour-saving appliances**: machines that reduce the amount of work or effort needed to do something. **to deplete natural resources**: To reduce the amount of natural resources. **jobless**: without a job **an ecological crisis**: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a

	population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival

L. MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

1. (02/02/2019): More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

It is true that a growing number of people want to buy well-known designer labels of many consumer products. **While** there are some obvious reasons for this trend, I believe that it is a totally negative development. The reasons for the increasing consumer concern with brand names are simple to explain. **Firstly**, the marketing departments of giant corporations aim to identify their goods with a glamorous and successful lifestyle, and people are easily swayed by advertisements. Companies often use celebrity endorsement to promote their products, with famous people **like** Cristiano Ronaldo or Victoria Beckham. **Secondly,** the possession of a Mercedes car or a Gucci handbag, for example, advertises one's own	**glamorous:** especially attractive, exciting and different from ordinary things **to be swayed by advertisements**: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising **celebrity endorsement**: a form of brand or advertising campaign that involves a well-known person using their fame to help promote a product or service

wealth and taste to others. The idea behind owning a brand name is to make others jealous. However, I would argue that this is a completely negative development. **In terms of** what ordinary people can afford, consumers are encouraged by corporations to squander their savings on designer goods which the companies promise will improve their lives and make them happy. **From a social perspective,** such messages are very dangerous, encouraging crime, **for example** to steal the latest cell phones from people in the street. The target audience is often young people, who companies seek to attract by promoting brand awareness of their products such as Coca Cola, Nike or Samsung. These are now considered to be essential items to have in our modern global village. **In conclusion**, there are some important reasons to explain why many people find brand name products so attractive.	**to promote their products**: to make products popular by advertising them **to squander savings**: to waste money by not using it to your advantage **target audience**: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products **brand awareness**: the action of bringing the name of a company to the attention of the public

Although famous designer labels are increasingly in demand, I would argue that this form of consumerism gives people a false idea of what is important in our lives. 281 words.	**consumerism:** the act of buying or using goods or services

M. TRANSPORTATION

1. (14/03/2019): In some countries, small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of town stores, and this may result in an increase in the use of cars.

It is true that in many countries, people now routinely use their cars to shop at large supermarkets or superstores outside the town centre. **While** this has a number of advantages, I would argue that the disadvantages of this trend outweigh the benefits. **On the one hand,** there are benefits to be gained by shopping at out-of-town stores. **Firstly,** in big cities **like** London, motorists who shop in city centre stores have to pay a congestion charge to enter the central urban zone. They may also be unable to avoid rush hour traffic jams when city centre traffic grinds to a halt. **Secondly,** if there is a lot of shopping to carry, then a car is very convenient and, **for example,** the food items for all the	**a congestion charge**: an amount of money that people have to pay for driving their cars into the centre of some cities, as a way of stopping the city centre from becoming too full of traffic **rush hour traffic jams**: the time when most people are travelling to or from work/school and so there is too much traffic on the roads.

family can be loaded into the car. Of course, such out-of-town megastores provide ample free parking and encourage car use, in contrast to the stores in the centre of town. **On the other hand**, I believe that there are important drawbacks which outweigh any benefits. **One problem** is that convenient shopping is a feature of urban living and nothing is more depressing than a row of boarded-up shops and derelict buildings where the city centre stores used to be. Without these shops, inner city areas become areas of crime and poverty. **Another disadvantage** is that poorer people do not have cars, and out-of-town stores may be inadequately served by buses. Unless local authorities upgrade and expand public transport provision, the convenience of out-of-town shopping is denied to the poorest members of the community. **In conclusion,** despite the advantages of out-of-town superstores, I consider that the benefits are outweighed by the drawbacks. 278 words.	**to grind to a halt**: to go slower and then stop completely **to load**: to put a large quantity of things into something **ample**: enough or more than enough **a feature of urban living**: a typical quality of city life **boarded-up shops**: shops with their windows and doors covered with wood **derelict buildings**: buildings not used and in bad condition **inner city areas**: the parts near the centre of a city, which often have social problems **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available

N. ENERGY

1. (28/09/2019): Fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas are the main energy source for many countries. However, some nations are using alternative energy such as solar power, or wind power. To what extent do you think this is a positive or negative development?

It is true that some countries have been unable to reduce their dependence of fossil fuels to meet their energy needs. **In contrast,** other nations have been investing heavily in alternative energy sources and I personally consider that this is a very positive development. Reliance on fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas has negative consequences for both human health and the environment. **Firstly,** the extraction and use of fossil fuels carries grave health risks. The burning of these fuels in power stations, or in cars or other forms of transport pollutes the atmosphere, and endangers health. It results, **for example,** in poor air quality in major cities across the world, **such as** Los Angeles, Shanghai or Sao Paulo. Admissions to hospitals rise sharply when air quality becomes critical. **Secondly,** the burning of fossil fuels adds to the greenhouse effect at a time when international efforts to reduce our carbon footprint must succeed in the effort to fight climate change. I believe that investment in renewable energy is essential to avoid an	**to reduce the dependence/reliance on fossil fuels:** to decrease people's consumption of fossil fuels, like oil, coal or gas **alternative energy sources**: refers to any energy source that is an alternative to fossil fuel **to carry health risks**: to have effects which could be bad for one's health **the greenhouse effect**: the natural process by which the sun warms the surface of the Earth. **carbon footprint**: a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a company or person **to fight climate change:** try to prevent changes in climate patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and winds. **renewable energy:** energy is renewable when it source, like the sun or wind,

ecological crisis. Building wind farms and using solar panels to heat homes, factories and offices would neither pollute the air that we breathe nor deplete natural resources. **In terms of** human health**,** the incidence of life-threatening conditions like respiratory disorders, would be reduced. **From an environmental perspective,** this would be an environmentally-friendly energy strategy. It would minimize habitat destruction and tackle the pollution that stems from the activities of the fossil fuel extractive industries. **In conclusion**, I would argue strongly that reducing reliance on fossil fuels and investing in renewable forms of energy will bring enormous positive gains for both human health and our environment. 278 words	cannot be exhausted or can easily be replaced (like wood, as we can plant trees for energy) **an ecological crisis**: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival **wind farms:** an area of land on which there are a lot of windmills or wind turbines for producing electricity **to deplete natural resources**: to reduce the amount of natural resources. **life-threatening conditions**: illnesses which are likely to kill somebody **incidence:** the extent to which something happens or has an effect **environmentally friendly**: behavior or products that do not harm the environment **habitat destruction**: the process that occurs when a natural habitat, like a forest or wetland, is changed so dramatically by humans that plants and animals which live there. **to stem from**: to be caused by

	extractive: relating to the process of removing or obtaining something, especially minerals

O. WORK

1. (10/02/2019): In most successful organisations, some people believe that communication between managers and workers is important, while other people said that other factors are more significant. What is your opinion?

It is true that many people argue that, in any efficient organisation, it is vital that there is good communication between managers and workers. In my opinion, **while** this is one aspect to consider, I consider that other factors are more important. **On the one hand**, in order to conduct a business or organisation effectively, communication among all the workforce is necessary. A breakdown in communications may be one reason why a production process in a factory comes to a stop. The management may not be aware, **for example**, of problems with a machine or the raw material, if they do not regularly consult the workers. In a store, the manager must train the staff to offer good customer service, so that the employees understand how to provide this. In an organisation **such as** a	**to conduct a business**: to operate a business in a particular way **a breakdown in communications**: a misunderstanding which results from people failing to discuss and resolve something **raw material:** a basic material that is used to make a product **to see the big picture**: to understand all the important aspects of a situation **job satisfaction**: the good feeling that you get when you have a job that you enjoy **working environment**: the conditions that you work in **to prosper**: to develop in a successful way, to be successful

hospital, the managers have to see the big picture, and talk constantly to doctors, nurses and support staff to ensure that everyone knows their tasks and has everything they need to carry them out. **On the other hand**, I would argue that job satisfaction is the most important factor in creating a successful working environment. No organisation can prosper if the workers are dissatisfied. An authoritarian style of management which dictates to the workforce is no basis for reaching a consensus. When workers enjoy a decent salary, with sick leave, holiday entitlement and a retirement package, then the organisation will benefit enormously from the loyalty of their staff. Supportive work colleagues cooperate to ensure that things run smoothly, and therefore I believe that worker cooperatives without management are the future. **In conclusion**, in a traditional management structure, communication with the workers is important. **However**, when the workforce organises itself, this results in an effective organisation with satisfied workers. 293 words	**authoritarian:** believing that people should obey authority and rules, even when these are unfair, and even if it means that they lose their personal freedom **to dictate:** to tell somebody what to do, especially in an annoying way **to reach a consensus**: to come to an agreement **sick leave**: permission to stay away from work because of illness or injury **holiday entitlement**: the number of days off work that you are allowed as holidays **retirement package**: the money or other benefits that you receive from a company or organization when you stop working there because of your age **supportive work colleagues**: people that you work with who give you help and encouragement

	workers cooperative: owned and run by the workers involved, with the profits shared by them