Question: Via Burlington English (Free Book that came after registering for IELTS), Test 2: Writing Task 2

Essay Response:

The prospects of space travel have been met with much appreciation and a commensurate amount of criticism. There are multiple benefits and limitations to this possibility, which must be explored in detail before taking a stance on the issue. So, what makes space tourism attractive?

To begin, let us consider the advantages and more alluring aspects of visiting space. Quite often, young people dream of becoming astronauts, but are then deterred by the maths and physics involved. However, travelling to space could allow them to feel what astronauts feel like, and children could be further encouraged and motivated to study science in this way. Additionally, such travel is projected to become safer, so holidaymakers do not have to worry about anything on the trip. With professional astronauts helping them onboard, the experience would be informative and stimulating. In fact, this could help people appreciate the Earth more, gazing down at this ‘blue marble’ from above.

But there are some drawbacks that have to be taken into account: Such travel is likely to be extremely expensive even for more affluent people, and organizing such travel would require a long list of precautions to be taken. Currently, there are not many tourist attractions in space, and considering the costs, the ‘worth’ of such an expedition is debatable. Maintaining health facilities in case of sickness would be an enormous task, and a plethora of health checks would need to be done for anyone to even step on a spaceship. In the event of any damages or errors, ensuring the safety of untrained passengers would be difficult and costly. Thus, would this truly be an option for travellers any time soon? Setting up the necessary infrastructure could take decades – perhaps, centuries.

In conclusion, space tourism has plenty of upsides and downsides, though, at least for now, the negatives seem to outweigh the positives. Ultimately, the efficacy of this form of tourism depends on how quick humans can address the disadvantages.