Some people argue that we should prioritize our own communities and countries over people living in other parts of the country or foreigners. I totally disagree with this opinion and believe we should offer help to all people in the world.

I can understand why certain groups of people consider the statement above as justified. It is generally accepted that our neighborhood and country will have the greatest and the most immediate impact on us and vice versa. For example, when we pay taxes or donate money for local charity institutions, we anticipate an increase in our own living quality based on community belongingness or patriotism. Another reason justifying this statement could be that every country or community should be responsible for their own development. Some think that the more investment or time we spend on helping other people, the less resource there would be for local people.

However, this statement is overlooking two important facts. Firstly, our modern live styles inevitably lead to income inequalities between communities and countries. Eradicating poverty in underdeveloped country requires global collaboration. The United Nation is a great example of how we can offer assistance to all people regardless of their nationality or ethnicity. Another important argument for caring for people far away from us is that, in the increasingly interconnected world, no country can be unaffected by tragic events from other countries. For example, the political chaos in Peru tremendously impacted global copper supply. Caring for all people around the globe is the optimal strategy, even if we only try to improve our own community.

In summary, I believe that caring only for one’s own community or country is short-sighted and erroneous and we should try our best to support everyone in the world instead.

Technological advances have revolutionized how people communicate with each other and have great impact on our relationships in various ways. I think that this trend has considerable negative effect on us.

Firstly, the convenient telecommunication and internet technology enable us to make new friendships with people we would never know decades ago. We can for example browse the personal page of people living in a different continent and compliment their hairstyle by simply sending direct messages. Geological boundaries ceases to be the barrier of human interactions. Additionally, since meeting new people online becomes more effortless than ever, many people tend not to invest much time in maintaining close friendships. As a result, most people may not communicate with the friends they interact with online as frequently as they normally would.

However, having transient and unstable relationships can negatively affect our society. The anonymous nature of online communication also decreases the cost of expressing negative opinions, which may inflict conflicts between communities and lead to discrimination against certain groups of people. Because we no longer invest much time and effort in any single relationship, people may feel lonely and depressed, increasing the risk of developing mental illness. Spending too much time with people online can also alienate us from our family members or relatives, destabilizing the traditional family structure.

Overall, development in technology has shaped our daily interactions and relations in major ways. I firmly believe that actions are to be taken to battle the negative effects of such development.

The optimal social environment for personal success has been long debated. While some people consider an equal society best for personal achievement, I think that a free environment that recognizes individual skills and qualities is better-suited.

On the one hand, I can understand why some people prefer a equal society. Firstly, in such society, all citizens can receive equal support and funding for their personal development. An ideal society without income inequality between social classes means all members can benefit from the collective knowledge and resources to succeed. Secondly, an egalitarian social structure can promote fairness in schools and workplace, preventing the privileged from dominating the important positions. Finally, poverty and unemployment rate will be significantly reduced because of the enforcement of absolute equality.

However, I believe that societies emphasizing individual excellence are more suitable environments for personal fulfillment. The main reason is that such society promises upward, which serves as a driving force for people to improve themselves and pursue more opportunities through for example, acquiring new skillsets. Without proper social reward systems, many young people might feel frustrated due to their inability to change their social status through hard work, and therefore are discouraged from improving themselves. Competition is another key motivator for individual success in a free environment. Moderate levels of peer pressure can improve people’s working efficiency and inspire creative ideas.

In conclusion, although egalitarian social orders could be beneficial for personal success, I believe a more diversified and merit-oriented society can better promote individual achievements.

Some people argue that the families do not need to pay for the public education system if their children study at private schools. Personally, I believe that this view is inappropriate and everyone should pay taxes to improve state education system.

I can understand why some people think families that prefer private schools don’t have to contribute to development of public schools. Firstly, the children studying at private schools do not directly benefit from the government funding for public schools. Free lunch, better teaching equipment, and more experienced teaching staff at public schools will not improve the teaching quality of private schools. Secondly, families whose children attend private schools are already under relatively higher financial burden because tuition fee for private schools are normally much higher than state-funded schools.

However, I believe people should be responsible for development of public education system regardless of which kind of school their children go to. Building and maintaining all public schools across the nation require tremendous amount of funding and collective effort of every taxpayer. Secondly, families who can afford private schools are often of higher economic and social status and less likely to experience financial problems. Therefore, they have greater responsibility to help provide better education for children with less ideal family backgrounds. Finally, excluding families that choose private schools from the taxpayer list for public education system does not promote social solidarity. Following similar logic, people without children or people with graduated children also do not need to contribute and the state education system will be funded solely by families with children currently attending the schools. Such policy is not in line with the principle of social fairness.

In conclusion, although the opinion that families with children in private schools do not need to pay taxes to public schools is justified to some extent, I firmly believe that all families should be responsible for supporting the public education system.

This table compares the amount of time spent per day on different activities by men and women in UK.

It is noticeable that both men and women spent the longest time sleeping. Among other categories, leisure activities contribute to the largest portion of time spent.

Men and women in UK sleep for just over 8 hours on average each day [spent more time sleeping than doing any other activity], which is almost twice the amount they spent on all leisure activities combined. [leisure takes on the second largest proportion of their time] While men spent 5 hours and 25 minutes each day on entertainment, women spent around half an hour less each day. The amount of time people spent on watching TV/DVD or listening to radio/music contributes to the largest proportion of leisure time (over 2 hours) regardless of sex.

Men in UK spent 3 hours and 45 minutes on their work or study. In contrast, this number is more than 1 hour less for women, at only 2 hours and 26 minutes. While women spent 3 hours on housework and just over half an hour on caring for their children per day, men only spent about half the time on both activities. The time spent on other activities like resting and voluntary work are approximately the same for both sexes and well below 1 hour per day

While making profit is the top priority of companies, many people argue that they should also take on social responsibilities. I totally agree with this view and believe socially responsible business strategies can be highly beneficial.

Companies can contribute to a better society in various ways. Firstly, they could alleviate the global income inequality by using only fairtrade raw materials and prioritize employee welfare during decision making. Starbucks, for example, makes sure that the local coffee farmers in south America receive appropriate salary. Business owners should also contribute to environmental protection as part of their social obligations. They should adopt to renewable energy forms when manufacturing their products and making them more eco-friendly by preventing overpackaging and increasing product durability. Finally, they could also support charity organizations and key scientific research areas related to their product.

Both business owners and society will benefit when companies are more socially responsible. Efforts made by of large corporations in environmental protection and fighting poverty can reduce the financial burden of government. For example, increase in minimum wage by companies can significantly reduce poverty and unemployment rate. Then government can better invest in other areas like education and healthcare, further improving citizens’ life quality. The companies themselves could also use their social responsibilities as advertisement campaigns and build more popular and renowned brand culture, which can attract more customers, leading to larger revenue.

In conclusion, there are various ways in which companies could be more socially responsible, and taking on social responsibilities are advantageous for both business and society as a whole.

The pie chart illustrates the different ways and motivations employees from an export company learn foreign languages.

It is clear that the vast majority of employees take part-time classes to learn foreign languages. Facilitating travels during holidays is the major motivator of learning a new language.

Observing the data in greater detail, part time evening training programs are the most popular way of language learning, used by 38% of the employees, followed by part-time training during working hours (23%). 22% of people learn foreign language themselves, which is almost twice as high as the percentage of employees attending intensive training classes (12%). Distant learning is the least popular way of learning with only 5% of people choose this option.

As for the reasons for their study, while 45% of people surveyed learn foreign language for holiday trips in foreign countries, the number of employees studying for business travels is 27% lower of that amount. The percentages of people studying foreign languages for personal interest and meeting with foreigners are approximately the same and stands at 14% and 13% respectively. Only 10% of employees study new language for better communication with their oversea clients.

The pie charts illustrate the water used for residential, industrial and agricultural purposes in San Diego, California, and other parts of the world.

It is noticeable that while residential usage dominates total water consumption in San Diego and California, a vast majority of the global water supply is used in the agriculture sector.

Looking at the data in greater detail, the largest proportion of water is used in San Diego by local residents, contributing to 60% of total water expenditure, which is 21% higher than the proportion of residential water use in California. The percentage of water used for industrial purposes is the highest in California among the 3 regions, which stands at just under 30%.

However, agriculture accounts for the largest water used globally, taking up almost three third of the total water expenditure. However, California uses just over a quarter of the water resources for agriculture, which is even 11 percent higher than the figure in San Diego.

The table and chart compare the financial support received by four developing countries and the amount of monetary support used in three areas between 1974 and 2014.

It is noticeable that all four countries received less support in 2014 than they did in 1974. The key areas on which the governments spent their funding shifted from catering in 1974 to medicine and finance in 2014.

Looking at the data in greater detail, all four countries received at least 40 million dollars of foreign support in 1974, with South Africa taking the highest amount, at 55 million dollars. However, in year 2014, the monetary support received by China decreased 10-fold to merely 5 million dollars. Indonesia and Thailand also received only around half of the financial support as they did in 1974, while South Africa still got 45 million dollars from foreign assistance.

While a 40 million dollars of financial support were spent on providing food in 1974, only around 5 million were used for catering 40 years later. Instead, the vast majority of money was used for medicine and finance in 2014, although their absolute amount declined from 80 and 70 million to 40 and 50 million respectively.

It is debated whether the majors of university students should be determined by the national government or the students themselves. While benefits exist when students choose subjects based on their own preferences, I believe that proper government intervention can serve as equally valuable guidance for high school graduates.

Currently, most students are allowed to apply freely, which is a policy justified by for various reasons. Learning process will be easier and more enjoyable when students prioritize their personal interest and aspiration. This could result in improved academic performance and creativity. For example, college students often received higher grades in subjects they are curious and compassionate about. At the same time, less practical subjects like art and literature, which are unlikely to receive large government assigned student quota, may flourish with large number of freshmen interested in these fields.

On the other hand, government’s decisions on major options are designed to tackle social problems and are therefore, more beneficial. Government can guide students to study the disciplines they are more capable of based on their previous achievements. In this way, key industries and research fields can benefit from a talented and skilled young generation. The astonishing achievements made in Internet technology by China recently exemplify the importance of talents supplied to this field through government-funded recruitment programs.

Personally, I believe that while individuals should be allowed to choose their own subject of study in university, government can run campaigns to encourage students to major in fields of great significance for the future development of the country like science- and technology-related disciplines. In this way, both personal interest and global policies should be equally emphasized.

In conclusion, I believe that while personal inclination towards college majors serve as a crucial motivator, government campaigns and guidance are equally important factors when choosing the subject of study.

The given bar plot illustrates the proportions of production contributed by Europe, Asia, and rest of the world in five years between 1840 and 2000.

In general, it is clear that the while Asia’s contribution to global production steadily reduced between 1840 and 1960, production share from rest of the world dramatically increased. In 2000, Asia again ranked first while Europe was at the last place.

Looking at data in greater detail, in 1840, Asia accounted for just over half of the share of goods produced worldwide, followed by Europe at just under 40%. However, the Asia’s impact on global production steadily declined throughout the next century, reaching its lowest point of one fifth of total production, while the percentage of European produced goods took lead and fluctuated between around 38% to 45%. In 2000, Asia’s contribution to world production experienced a 2-fold increase to just under 40%. In contrast, Europe’s share of global production dropped to a quarter of global sum.

Countries from other parts of the world experienced steady increase in production share throughout this period. While they only contributed to merely 10% of the global production, this figure increased to just under 40% in 1960, equivalent to the European production share in the same year. The share of these countries remained relatively stable in 2000.

The given bar plot compares the proportions of children aged 5-14 in Australia taking part in different activities within 14 days by gender.

In general, it is notable that watching TV is the most popular activity among children regardless of gender. While boys preferred sport-related activities and videogames, more girls enjoyed arts and crafting.

Looking at the data in greater detail, almost all (98%) of the surveyed boys and girls reported to have watched TV during the two weeks. Computer games were the second popular category, with just over 80% of the boys having played them, which is 20% higher than the percentage of girls who spent time on gaming. The percentage of boys reported to have cycled stands at 60%. In contrast, only 40% of the girls participated in cycling.

Preference differences between genders are best manifested in the other two categories. While half of the girls participated in arts and crafting activities, this figure was merely a quarter for boys. Quite the contrary, the proportion of boys who spent time skateboarding and or rollerblading lies at 40%, which is twice as high as the same figure for girls.

The given line plot illustrates the changes in population size of four species of fish during the period from 1982 to 2007.

From the graph it is notable that the number of Atlantic cod drastically decreased before rebounding in 2007. Populations of the other three fishes remained relatively stable throughout this period with varying absolute numbers.

Looking at the data in greater detail, the Atlantic cod started from the dominating species in 1982 with around 225000 individuals, while they steadily declined in population size within the next 20 years, reaching a bottom of just over 50000 fish. However, the Atlantic cod thrived from 2002 to 2007, doubling their population size to 10000.

Yellowfish also experienced population shrinking between 1982 and 1992, with the number of animals dropping from 80000 to 50000 and remained stable in the next 10 years before increasing to just over the 1982 level in 2007. While the number of tunas fluctuated throughout the 25 years at around 150000 and became dominant in year 2007, swordfish remained the rarest species, whose population size maintained at only 10000 the whole time.

**While some people consider aging as a unenjoyable part of life, others hold the opposite view, based on the argument that living qualities for the elderly have significantly improved recently. I believe that although technological development can benefit the old to some extent, being old can still be unpleasant.**

**The argument that modern technology and healthcare can considerably improve elderly’s daily lives is well justified. Modern medicine is a research field full of exciting discoveries ranging from targeted drug for Alzheimer’s disease to wearable blood pressure monitors. Many aging-related illnesses are being tackled by groups global biomedical scientists, whose advancements in their areas can significantly increase people’s life expectancy and decrease patients’ suffering during operation or treatments. Technology also creates new opportunities for the elderly. For instance, the state-of-the-art network connection being popularized across the globe enables real-time communication between the elderly and their close relatives or friends, significantly alleviating the loneliness experience by many senior citizens.**

**Despite the incredible achievements and their potentials depicted above, aging can still be intimidating and worrying for several reasons. The age-dependent deterioration of body physical capacity, although could be hindered by medical assistance, requires constant attention from the old people themselves and can have negative consequences. For example, many old people are reluctant to participate in physical activities like mountain climbing and swimming due to the health concerns. Hearing and vision loss are also examples of complications of aging. Additionally, senior citizens are often burdened by the social alienation and isolation due to their less frequent interpersonal interactions. Economical pressure also accounts for the stress experienced by the retired people.**

**In conclusion, although achievements in modern technological and medical serve as tackled many issues related to aging, the life of the elderly is still considerably less preferable than that of younger generation.**

**Wildlife protection is one of the many necessities proposed by environmental activists. However, many opponents argue that people should focus more on other pressing issues and spent more social resources elsewhere. I disagree with this view and believe that more attention should be devoted to protecting wild animals and birds.**

**The opponent view is not purely unjustified because of the limited resources we currently hold. A large amount of funding is required for keeping the natural habitats undisturbed by human activities. For example, national protection zones need to be constantly maintained by technicians and expert zoologists. Larger expenses could be expected for artificial protection areas, where advanced equipment is essential for regulating the temperature and moisture level to mimic the natural environment. However, the government budget spent on saving endangered animal species, if invested in the national healthcare system, may cure countless patients suffering from terminal illnesses.**

**However, protecting endangered species provides lasting benefits for the society in various aspects. Wildlife contributes to global environmental stability in ways we sadly only realize after the extinction of many species. For example, African alligators are vital in the local ecosystem by controlling the population of other species through food chain, whose extinction is predicted to cause accelerated global warming due to disordered rainforest environment. Protecting wild animals also brings long-term social advantages forth. Endangered species serve important educational value for children enthusiastic about biology because they often possess rare features and are therefore irreplaceable by textbooks pictures. One could for example consider what would happen if one day lions and tigers are only accessible by the next generation in the form of illustrations.**

**In conclusion, although tackling other key social problems are equally important and deserve government and social support, wildlife protection is highly beneficial and demands higher level of awareness and resources.**

**The given plot illustrates the proportion of European people who visit gym at least once a month among four different age groups.**

**From the graph it is notable that popularity of gym gradually increased from 1990 to 2010 gym is most popular among young adults of age 24-33. However, people over 34 seem to be more reluctant to work out in gym.**

**Looking at the data in greater detail, in 1990, only 17% of the people between 24 to 33 years old went to gym once or more a month, followed by 15% of the people of age 18 to 23. In contrast, only just over 5% of the People over 33 years old went to gym at least once per month, which is merely less than one third of the figure of the two younger age groups.**

**Over the next 20 years the figure for people between 24 and 33 fluctuated before reaching its peak in 2010 at about a quarter, while similar, but more drastic fluctuation was observed for people under 24. The proportions of people who go to gym more often are predicted to steadily increase after 2010 for both age groups. The number of gym enjoyers over 33 also gradually increased between 1990 and 2010, however, at a slower rate than people under 34 and is predicted to increase as well with people between 34 and 43 experiencing more dramatic increase.**

**The given bar plot illustrates the mean depth of snow in Canada between November to next April in three different years.**

**From the graph it is clear that snow depth gradually increased from November to April next year in year 1 and 2, with heaviest snow fall observed in year 2. In contrast, snow depth peaked in January for year 3.**

Specifically, while the snow depth in year 2 was merely 150 mm in November, this number rose drastically over the next half a year before reaching its peak at just over 400 mm in April. Similar, but milder increase was observed in year 1, with average depth of snow being only 100 mm in November. This number rose significantly from January to February of year 1 by around 75 mm to 250 mm and hovered at just over 250 mm until April.

**Specifically, while the snow depth in year 2 was merely 150 mm in November, this number rose drastically over the next half a year before reaching its peak at just over 400 mm in April. Similar, but milder increase was observed in year 1, with average depth of snow being only 100 mm in November. This number rose significantly from January to February of year 1 by around 75 mm to 250 mm and hovered at just over 250 mm until April.**

**In contrast, year 3 experienced early snow fall. The snow depth was already over 150 mm in November, more than any other years, before increasing to 275 mm in January, which is even slightly higher than the April level of year 1. However, it then lost its momentum and gradually decreased to 140 mm.**

**Many working adults consider children centers as a promising option for caring for their children, however, other people believe that grandparents should take on this responsibility. While supporting arguments exist for both views, from my perspective, the optimal choice would be a mixture of the two options.**

**Working parents turn to other family members for taking care of their kids for well-justified reasons. Close relatives are often more trustworthy than commercial childcare centers. People tend to pay more attention to the children of their family members than those of strangers. Grandparents, for example, are more likely to provide more proper care and get along well with kids because of their familial bonds. When having family members as caregivers, children can receive more focused and personalized support as they can in children centers, where they may not get enough attention from the employees. Additionally, letting family like grandparents to care for children can also reduce the financial burden experienced by many working-class people due to high fee charged at childcare centers.**

**However, kindergartens also have their own benefits. One notable advantage is the fact that licensed caregivers are more properly trained and can better suit children’s need and react to emergent situations. The meals provided at children centers are often more nutritious than homecooked cuisines. Childcare centers also offer children the chance to interact with their peers, which serves as valuable social practice preparing them for school years.**

**Personally, I think maximum gain can be achieved when parents combine both means of childcare. Family members can care for younger kids, when they need familial support most. When they reach the age of socialization, parents may want to choose professional caregivers instead.**

**In conclusion, because both professional caregivers and family-based childcare are advantageous, I believe that a balance can be achieved to provide the best care for children.**

**The given line plot compares the number of foreign travelers in UK for three different reasons from year 1989 to 2009.**

**It is clear that the number of people traveling to UK for all three reasons fluctuated but showed overall growing trends. holiday is the most common purpose for people to visit UK of all time. Business trip is the second important reasons, followed by visiting family members or friends.**

**Looking at the data in greater detail, in 1989, just over 6 million foreigners traveled to UK during holidays. In the next 10 years, this number steadily increased to 9.5 million people, before losing its momentum and dropping to 7.5 million in 2004 and rebounded back to 9 million in year 2009.**

**The figure for travelers in UK for business purposes experienced similar fluctuations, which first dropped from 5.5 to 4 million people from 1989 to 1992. Then over the next 15 years, this number gradually increased to 8 million in 2007, almost equaling to the amount of people visiting UK on holidays that year, before experiencing a slight decrease. Although being visiting friends and family was the least popular reason, number of people traveling for such purposes rose considerably from less than 4 million in 1989 to 7 million in 2004.**

**The worldwide mass production of commodities enjoyed by customers inevitably has detrimental effect on natural ecosystems. In this essay, the underlying contributing factors and potential countermeasures will be fully explored.**

**Natural environment is suffering from stress induced by all chains of the manufacturing starting from the acquisition of raw materials to final product being sold in markets. International manufacturers are exploiting the workforce and land in developing countries and have little respect for environmental protection, posing great risk to the natural habitats of indigenous species. An example is that the palm trees farms for production of instant noodles led to significant drop in biodiversity in rainforests. Contamination is also found throughout the processing of goods. Most of the modern factories rely heavily on fossil fuels, releasing carbon dioxide and toxicants into the air. Poisonous waste water dumped into rivers and oceans also led to extinction of certain fish species. Notably, electronic waste is becoming the dominant source of pollution in developed countries where customers tend to update their hardware more often than necessary because of the excessive advertising from tech-companies.**

**Despite the gravity of the situation, measures could be taken to ameliorate the problem. Governments should invest more budget in the establishment and maintenance of natural conservation zones, which can keep ecologically fragile regions from further damage due to human activities. Large incorporations should strive to be carbon-neutral by adopting renewable energy sources and reimbursing the natural environment by funding environmental protectionists’ campaigns. Consumers can also shape companies’ marketing strategies by boycotting products made at cost of the environment and recycle used or outdated pieces of technology instead of throwing them in the dumpster.**

**In conclusion, all goods produced to support our modern lifestyles burden our natural environment and this pressing issue demands timely actions from all parties.**

**The given plot illustrates the percentage of employee earned 3 different levels of art and science degree in a corporation in 2 different years.**

**It is clear that from 1990 to 2010, more people with only first degree of science or art joined the company. In contrast, the number of employees with corresponding master degrees considerably dropped.**

**In 1990, 18% of the graduate students in the company received first degree of art, which is equal to the number of people with first degree of science. However, 20 years later, these two figures rose by 9% and 6% respectively, contributing to just over half of the total number of employees.**

**While a quarter of people possessed a master degree of art in 1990, this number dropped to merely 15%. Similar, but milder decrease could be observed for people with master degree of science over the 20 years, from 20% to 17%. Highly qualified graduates with PhD degrees in art and science are the absolute minorities in the company the whole time, contributing to 12% and 7% of the total graduate students 1990, which remained relatively stable in 2010.**

**The given pie chart provide information on the major coffee manufacturing and consuming countries along with the distribution of net gain in this industry.**

**It is clear that South Africa is the largest coffee provider worldwide, producing more coffee than any other countries, while most of the coffee was supplied to the European market. Notably, half of the profit made was the obtained by delivery companies and personnels.**

**South Africa alone contributed to just over one third of global coffee production, more than any other countries. Other coffee exporting countries, including Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam, possess almost equal market shares of around 20% each. Looking on the buyer’s side, half of the coffee produced worldwide was consumed by European customers, followed by America, with just over a quarter. Much of the coffee produced in Japan seemed to be consumed domestically, contributing to 10% of global coffee sale.**

**The distribution of profit from coffee is highly biased. The majority of money made in the coffee business flows to the delivery and retail companies, taking up 50% and 25% of total earnings respectively. In contrast, local exporters and producers only receive 10% of the total profit each.**

**What weighs more when enrolling students, absolute individual excellence, or the combination of different talents? While both criteria bring certain benefits to the school environment, I believe that student’s skillset should be prioritized.**

**The strategy of selecting applicants possessing different qualities and abilities is not purely unjustified. Students with distinctive kinds of skills can bring diversity into the classrooms, where students can mutually benefit from peers specialized in different fields. For example, during an informatic group project, although proficiency in programming is the most crucial talent for team members, more transferable skills, including leadership, time management and even aesthetic knowledge are required for a successful slide presentation. Therefore, collaboration between students skilled in a variety of disciplines can contribute more fruitful learning experience.**

**However, the ideal situation described above are not easy to reach. If the schools focus on meeting the mandatory quota for students with different abilities, many students may encounter problems comprehending the difficult materials taught in class for lack of background knowledge. An example is that high school chemistry can be challenging for students without robust mathematical skills in primary schools. Since school prepares students for college, where academic specialization is encouraged, teachers should focus on equipping students with more consistent skillset and knowledge.**

**From my own perspective, students should be fostered to excel in one particular discipline or field, which does not necessarily come at cost of diversified qualities and traits, since most transferable skills like can, and should be learned by everyone. Therefore, considerations about diversity should come after assessment of absolute academic competency during admission.**

**In conclusion, although diversity of enrolled students can be beneficial, personal ability and suitability deserve more attention when evaluating applicants.**

**The bar plot given illustrates the five motivations for students to pursue a college degree in UK in two different years (1975 and 2005).**

**It is clear that course suitability is the most important reason for studying in UK in both years, while other factors received varied amount of focus by the high school graduates.**

**In 1985, 38% of the surveyed students reported to have opted for a UK university based on availability of suitable courses, and remained to be the most important reason after 20 years. While just over 20% of the student choose university based on resources in 1985, this figure dropped by 5% in 2005. Similar, but much more drastic decrease could be observed in students’ emphasis on high-quality sports facilities, which fell from 18% to merely 5% over the 20 years.**

**Now turning to the factors which weigh more to students nowadays than they did 20 years ago. Only 8% of the students reported to consider travel distance from home in 1985. In contrast, this number experienced over two-fold change to 20% in 2005. Teaching quality also seems to have become a more crucial criteria when picking universities, with 13% and 15% of students paying attention to this aspect in year 1985 and 2005 respectively.**

**Whether government should fund the protection of languages facing extinction has long been discussed among public. While well-established arguments for both sides exist, I believe that government support for minority languages is highly beneficial.**

**Saving languages at the edge of extinction serves profound cultural and educational values. While globalization make people more connected than ever, this trend simultaneously brings detrimental consequences, especially to the marginalized groups people, putting their language at the risk of dying out. An example is that in Peru, numerous languages spoken by native tribes residing in mountainous regions are facing extinction because of insufficient government support. If these languages were to be extinct, the literature work and knowledge accumulated in the past centuries would be interpretable to the future generation. Government intervention in saving languages facing imminent extinction can bring forth unexpected socioeconomic advantages by strengthening the bond between minorities and mainstream cultures and values. Museums exhibiting the accomplishments of the speaker of a dying language can even provide job opportunities for the native residents.**

**However, the view against government funding endangered languages is not purely unjustified. Many opponents argue that the opportunity cost for such programs will exceed their value and government budget should be spent elsewhere including healthcare and infrastructure construction. In addition, preservation of all minority languages is a labor-intensive and costly endeavor because the communities speaking such languages are hard to identify or keep track of.**

**From my perspective, I believe that government campaigns for preserving the minority languages can also promote social equality and solidarity by alleviating poverty of minority populations. The USA for instance offers financial packages to the native Americans to support their communities. As result, not only the protection of the language itself, but also improved living quality of people speaking them could be achieved through government intervention.**

**In conclusion, although can generate huge long-term socioeconomic benefits far exceeding the initial government investment.**