

The Academic Word List

Advanced

Did you know??

- There are around 1,000,000 words in English
- Most other European languages contain around 200,000 words
- The average native speaker has an active vocabulary of around 2,000 words
- These 2,000 words make up almost 80% of all standard communication in English
- The Academic Word List (AWL) consists of around 570 words and constitutes a further 7% of English communication

The **Academic Word List** (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The list contains 570 semantic fields which were selected because they appear with great frequency in a broad range of academic texts. The list does not include words that are in the most frequent 2000 words of English (the General Service List), thus many of the words are specific to academic contexts. However, a significant percentage of the vocabulary contained within the AWL is of general use; it is simply not of high enough frequency to be contained within the General Service List. Words such as *area, approach, create, similar, and occur*, for example, are in sublist one, yet are words which one could expect to encounter in everyday life, in newspapers, on television, etc. The AWL was primarily made so that it could be used by teachers (especially teachers of English as a Second Language) as part of a programme preparing learners for tertiary level study or used by students working alone to learn the words most needed to study at colleges and universities.

The 570 words are divided into 10 sublists. The sublists are ordered such that the words in the first sublist are the most frequent words and those in the last sublist are the least frequent.

abandon	8	abstract	6	academy	5
access	4	accommodate	9	accompany	8
accumulate	8	accurate	6	achieve	2
acknowledge	6	acquire	2	adapt	7
adequate	4	adjacent	10	adjust	5
administrate	2	adult	7	advocate	7
affect	2	aggregate	6	aid	7
albeit	10	allocate	6	alter	5
alternative	3	ambiguous	8	amend	5
analogy	9	analyse	1	annual	4
anticipate	9	apparent	4	append	8
appreciate	8	approach	1	appropriate	2
approximate	4	arbitrary	8	area	1
aspect	2	assemble	10	assess	1
assign	6	assist	2	assume	1
assure	9	attach	6	attain	9
attitude	4	attribute	4	author	6
authority	1	automate	8	available	1
aware	5	behalf	9	benefit	1
bias	8	bond	6	brief	6
bulk	9	capable	6	capacity	5
category	2	cease	9	challenge	5
channel	7	chapter	2	chart	8
chemical	7	circumstance	3	cite	6
civil	4	clarify	8	classic	7
clause	5	code	4	coherent	9
coincide	9	collapse	10	colleague	10
commence	9	comment	3	commission	2
commit	4	commodity	8	communicate	4
community	2	compatible	9	compensate	3
compile	10	complement	8	complex	2

component	3	compound	5	comprehensive	7
comprise	7	compute	2	conceive	10
concentrate	4	concept	1	conclude	2
concurrent	9	conduct	2	confer	4
confine	9	confirm	7	conflict	5
conform	8	consent	3	consequent	2
considerable	3	consist	1	constant	3
constitute	1	constrain	3	construct	2
consult	5	consume	2	contact	5
contemporary	8	context	1	contract	1
contradict	8	contrary	7	contrast	4
contribute	3	controversy	9	convene	3
converse	9	convert	7	convince	10
cooperate	6	coordinate	3	core	3
corporate	3	correspond	3	couple	7
create	1	credit	2	criteria	3
crucial	8	culture	2	currency	8
cycle	4	data	1	debate	4
decade	7	decline	5	deduce	3
define	1	definite	7	demonstrate	3
denote	8	deny	7	depress	10
derive	1	design	2	despite	4
detect	8	deviate	8	device	9
devote	9	differentiate	7	dimension	4
diminish	9	discrete	5	discriminate	6
displace	8	display	6	dispose	7
distinct	2	distort	9	distribute	1
diverse	6	document	3	domain	6
domestic	4	dominate	3	draft	5
drama	8	duration	9	dynamic	7
economy	1	edit	6	element	2
eliminate	7	emerge	4	emphasis	3
empirical	7	enable	5	encounter	10
energy	5	enforce	5	enhance	6
enormous	10	ensure	3	entity	5
environment	1	equate	2	equip	7
equivalent	5	erode	9	error	4
establish	1	estate	6	estimate	1
ethic	9	ethnic	4	evaluate	2
eventual	8	evident	1	evolve	5
exceed	6	exclude	3	exhibit	8
expand	5	expert	6	explicit	6
exploit	8	export	1	expose	5

external	5	extract	7	facilitate	5
factor	1	feature	2	federal	6
fee	6	file	7	final	2
finance	1	finite	7	flexible	6
fluctuate	8	focus	2	format	9
formula	1	forthcoming	10	foundation	7
found	9	framework	3	function	1
fund	3	fundamental	5	furthermore	6
gender	6	generate	5	generation	5
globe	7	goal	4	grade	7
grant	4	guarantee	7	guideline	8
hence	4	hierarchy	7	highlight	8
hypothesis	4	identical	7	identify	1
ideology	7	ignorance	6	illustrate	3
image	5	immigrate	3	impact	2
implement	4	implicate	4	implicit	8
imply	3	impose	4	incentive	6
incidence	6	incline	10	income	1
incorporate	6	index	6	indicate	1
individual	1	induce	8	inevitable	8
infer	7	infrastructure	8	inherent	9
inhibit	6	initial	3	initiate	6
injure	2	innovate	7	input	6
insert	7	insight	9	inspect	8
instance	3	institute	2	instruct	6
integral	9	integrate	4	integrity	10
intelligence	6	intense	8	interact	3
intermediate	9	internal	4	interpret	1
interval	6	intervene	7	intrinsic	10
invest	2	investigate	4	invoke	10
involve	1	isolate	7	issue	1
item	2	job	4	journal	2
justify	3	label	4	labour	1
layer	3	lecture	6	legal	1
legislate	1	levy	10	liberal	5
licence	5	likewise	10	link	3
locate	3	logic	5	maintain	2
major	1	manipulate	8	manual	9
margin	5	mature	9	maximise	3
mechanism	4	media	7	mediate	9
medical	5	medium	9	mental	5
method	1	migrate	6	military	9
minimal	9	minimise	8	minimum	6

ministry	6	minor	3	mode	7
modify	5	monitor	5	motive	6
mutual	9	negate	3	network	5
neutral	6	nevertheless	6	nonetheless	10
norm	9	normal	2	notion	5
notwithstanding	10	nuclear	8	objective	5
obtain	2	obvious	4	occupy	4
occur	1	odd	10	offset	8
ongoing	10	option	4	orient	5
outcome	3	output	4	overall	4
overlap	9	overseas	6	panel	10
paradigm	7	paragraph	8	parallel	4
parameter	4	participate	2	partner	3
passive	9	perceive	2	percent	1
period	1	persist	10	perspective	5
phase	4	phenomenon	7	philosophy	3
physical	3	plus	8	policy	1
portion	9	pose	10	positive	2
potential	2	practitioner	8	precede	6
precise	5	predict	4	predominant	8
preliminary	9	presume	6	previous	2
primary	2	prime	5	principal	4
principle	1	prior	4	priority	7
proceed	1	process	1	professional	4
prohibit	7	project	4	promote	4
proportion	3	prospect	8	protocol	9
psychology	5	publication	7	publish	3
purchase	2	pursue	5	qualitative	9
quote	7	radical	8	random	8
range	2	ratio	5	rational	6
react	3	recover	6	refine	9
regime	4	region	2	register	3
regulate	2	reinforce	8	reject	5
relax	9	release	7	relevant	2
reluctance	10	rely	3	remove	3
require	1	research	1	reside	2
resolve	4	resource	2	respond	1
restore	8	restrain	9	restrict	2
retain	4	reveal	6	revenue	5
reverse	7	revise	8	revolution	9
rigid	9	role	1	route	9
scenario	9	schedule	8	scheme	3
scope	6	section	1	sector	1

secure	2	seek	2	select	2
sequence	3	series	4	sex	3
shift	3	significant	1	similar	1
simulate	7	site	2	so-called	10
sole	7	somewhat	7	source	1
specific	1	specify	3	sphere	9
stable	5	statistic	4	status	4
straightforward	10	strategy	2	stress	4
structure	1	style	5	submit	7
subordinate	9	subsequent	4	subsidy	6
substitute	5	successor	7	sufficient	3
sum	4	summary	4	supplement	9
survey	2	survive	7	suspend	9
sustain	5	symbol	5	tape	6
target	5	task	3	team	9
technical	3	technique	3	technology	3
temporary	9	tense	8	terminate	8
text	2	theme	8	theory	1
thereby	8	thesis	7	topic	7
trace	6	tradition	2	transfer	2
transform	6	transit	5	transmit	7
transport	6	trend	5	trigger	9
ultimate	7	undergo	10	underlie	6
undertake	4	uniform	8	unify	9
unique	7	utilise	6	valid	3
vary	1	vehicle	8	version	5
via	8	violate	9	virtual	8
visible	7	vision	9	visual	8
volume	3	voluntary	7	welfare	5
whereas	5	whereby	10	widespread	8

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The importance of a well-paid police force

In every country in the world the police force is an important _____ in preserving law and order so that society can _____ effectively. In industrialized nations, police officers are generally paid decent salaries and can enjoy a comfortable life-style. They are highly regarded by the population. In some developing countries, however, police officers receive low salaries and enjoy low _____ among society. This latter _____ can lead to serious problems. This essay will outline some of these problems.

The _____ of law and order is important for a number of reasons. First of all, citizens need to feel safe and protected as they carry on their daily lives. If life is routinely _____ by criminal activity, society _____ less effectively. An _____ of this is the existence of mafia gangs who intimidate business people and extort 'protection money'. While it is _____ impossible to eradicate all forms of mafia activity, it is important to _____ these gangs' activities by _____ laws to reduce such intimidation. If _____ gangs gain the upper hand, then society is at risk of disintegration, and anarchy can follow.

One way to _____ a healthy balance in the fight against crime is to _____ that police officers are _____ rewarded for their hard work. If the police force _____ of under-paid officers with commensurately little education and training, then there is a great risk that officers will try to _____ their salaries in other ways. One such way would be to accept bribes from criminals. If this happens, then criminal _____ would have no fear of being brought to justice. Crime would, as a result, thrive. _____, the police force would become a de-facto part of the mafia underworld itself, _____ increasing the level of organized crime. A society in which ordinary citizens feared police officers rather than respected them would find itself in a downward spiral of _____ activities.

To avoid such a situation, then, it is of the greatest importance that the nation's police force should be well-paid, effectively trained, and as a result highly respected, in order to avoid a society governed by bribery and corruption.

The following words will fill the gaps:

adequately	affected	consists	element	elements	enforcing	ensure	function
functions	furthermore	illegal	illegal	illustration	maintain	maintenance	restrict
scenario	status	supplement	thereby	virtually			

Why the population is getting older

In recent _____ there has been a changing _____ in population. There has been a _____ change in _____ from a young population to a state in which the older _____ has become the _____. This essay will examine some of the reasons for this _____.

There are a number of reasons why people are living longer today. The first of these is the improvement in health-care. The number of well-equipped hospitals and clinics has grown, especially in developed nations. In addition, the doctor-patient _____ has improved, resulting in a reduced workload for doctors, and _____ health-care for patients. Another reason is the fact that people nowadays are eating a healthier diet. Campaigns to make people more _____ of the need to eat nutritious food have been successful, as people move _____ from their preference for fast, fatty foods high in cholesterol. Combined with this is the fact that people are tending to take part in more _____ exercise. This also prolongs longevity.

Improved working conditions are another reason why people are living longer. In the past people had to work long hours under insanitary, even dangerous conditions. Now that _____ has reduced the need for _____, work has become less _____ draining. Improved terms and conditions of service, such as longer weekends and _____ of paid leave, have also had a _____ on working life. Ironically, the _____ for an ageing population has resulted in a change of _____ regarding retirement. Since people are living longer, it makes sense for the official retirement age to be raised so that the older _____ can remain mobile and _____.

In _____, there are a number of reasons why people are living longer. If the _____ continues, governments and society as a whole may need to change their mindset concerning old people. The older _____ may well have to become more productive in order to make up for the reduction in numbers of young people _____ to work.

The following words will fill the gaps:

attitude	automation	available	aware	aware	beneficial	conclusion	decades
dramatic	enhanced	focus	focused	generation	generation	generation	impact
labour	majority	manual	periods	physical	physically	ratio	trend
trend	trend	trend					

Arts or Science?

In recent times there has been much _____ about which subjects should be included on the school curriculum. Some people believe that the introduction of more modern subjects such as IT in place of more _____ subjects such as art and music would be more _____ for modern-day pupils, and a better _____ for future employment needs. This essay will outline some of the pros and cons of giving more _____ to science and maths over arts subjects.

There is one _____ argument in favour of replacing art, music and sport on the curriculum with subjects like IT. This is that the purpose of school is to prepare children for their working life after school, so the subjects on the curriculum should be _____ to their _____ careers. From this point of view, IT is much more _____ to schoolchildren as they need to be _____ literate if they want to _____ in the workplace. For example, it is easy to see that word _____ and programming skills will impress employers more than the ability to run fast or draw well.

There are also, however, strong arguments for _____ the more _____ subjects as part of the curriculum. One _____ counter-argument is that the purpose of education is not just to prepare children for later careers, but also to develop their all round _____. It is important that children leave school with some knowledge of art, music and sport as all these are all help develop _____ of young people's personalities.

My own personal point of view is that there is merit in both sides of the _____ and that all children should study some IT, art, music and sport at least at _____ school. At secondary school, however, children should be offered a choice between these subjects so that they can continue to study them if they wish.

The following words will fill the gaps:

appropriate	aspects	computer	culture	debate	debate	emphasis	investment
major	potential	primary	processing	relevant	relevant	retaining	significant
survive	traditional	traditional					

Computers and education

Since the development of advanced _____ towards the end of the last century, personal _____ have played an increasingly important _____ in our lives. One of the greatest _____ has been the use of _____ in school. This essay will examine some of the arguments for and against the increased use of _____ in education.

There are a number of _____ of using _____ in education. First of all, the _____ of the internet means that learners can _____ a wide _____ of knowledge at the click of a mouse. This _____ of information covers a variety of school subjects, from science to language studies. While in the past students had to search through _____ of encyclopaedias and reference books to broaden their knowledge, nowadays they can use one of the many search engines to find information more quickly and conveniently. Another improvement is the fact that students can now write their _____ using word _____ software, rather than writing everything by hand. This means that presentation is usually neater and better organized, and _____ can include _____ and diagrams which are also downloaded on-line.

Not all changes, however, can be viewed in a _____ light. While internet connectivity provides a quicker, more convenient means of _____ information, there are risks and dangers _____ in using the internet without _____. A number of _____ contain information which may be dangerous or _____ and so some sort of censorship is necessary to protect young people. This censorship is best provided by trained teachers. In addition, not all schools have _____ internet connectivity and so these schools are at a disadvantage. A further disadvantage is that the _____ in school need regular _____ and so the school needs to employ _____ staff for this. Not only this, but teachers also need proper training to _____ into their school curriculum.

In _____, while _____ have certainly improved education, there are _____ to be considered in order to _____ their effectiveness. _____ can _____ the learning _____ but it should be seen as just one more tool _____ to schools to provide a well-balanced education. Used sensibly and sensitively, and in conjunction with effective classroom teaching, _____ can have a _____ on moulding young people's brains.

The following words will fill the gaps:

access	accessing	adequate	assignments	assignments	availability	available	beneficial
computer	computers	computers	computers	computers	computers	computers	computers
computers	conclusion	enhance	evaluate	illustrations	impact	impacts	impacts
inaccurate	integrate	involved	issues	maintenance	positive	positive	process
processing	range	range	restrictions	role	sites	technical	technology
technology	volumes						

Corporal punishment for children

The use of _____ punishment for children is a contentious _____ nowadays. It is also emotive, and most people have strong feelings on the matter. Some people oppose the use of corporal punishment while others believe it can have a _____ effect on their children's behavior. This essay will outline some of these arguments for and against.

There are various arguments put forward against smacking children. First of all, _____ abuse of any sort is an _____ of disapproval. If a parent smacks a child, it shows that the parent does not love the child. This feeling is _____ each time the child is hit and the child develops a feeling of being unwanted. This can result in a feeling of _____ and a loss of self-esteem and self-confidence. Secondly, the fact that a parent uses _____ force to punish a child sends a clear message to the child that _____ abuse is acceptable behaviour. The child is then _____ likely to use force against other people, too. As the saying goes, 'violence breeds violence'.

There are, however, arguments in favour of using smacking occasionally to remediate a child's misbehaviour. When a child's behavior is out of control, for example during a tantrum, a light smack may be just enough to bring the child back to _____ behaviour. This does not mean _____ brutalizing the child but a single slap may be what is needed. There is, after, all, a big difference between _____ assault which puts the child's health and safety at risk, and a slap or smack to remediate behavior. There is also the argument that a parent who _____ their child and does not attempt to manage the child's behaviour can be accused of negligence in terms of helping the child to develop social skills.

In _____, it is important to _____ between a smack and _____ abuse. A smack may represent the concern of a loving parent to provide _____ for the child's social development, _____ assault may show _____ psychotic tendencies in the parent. In the end, it boils down to the personal relationship which a parent develops with the child. Even parents who oppose corporal punishment will need to set _____ remedial _____ in place so that the child learns the difference between acceptable and unacceptable social behaviour.

The following words will fill the gaps:

alternative	conclusion	differentiate	guidelines	ignores	indication	insecurity	issue
normal	physical	physical	physical	physical	physical	physical	physical
physically	positive	reinforced	responses	subsequently	underlying	whereas	

Drug abuse: effective punishments

There can be no doubt that drug abuse has become a _____ problem around the _____. While law _____ agencies struggle to keep the problem under control, drug barons make huge profits from trafficking drugs around the world. Some governments deal severely with drug users, often _____ the death sentence for possession of drugs. Other countries, however, choose to more lenient in their treatment of drug offenders. This essay will examine some of the pros and cons of punishing drug offenders harshly.

There are a number of arguments in favour of handing out harsh punishments for drug abuse. First of all, many believe that if enough drug users are put behind bars, then the problem will decrease in size. Others take a stronger position and suggest that drug offenders should be sentenced to death. They believe that harsh punishments will deter drug addicts from using drugs. A number of countries in South-east Asia have adopted this position.

However, there are strong arguments against the use of harsh penalties against drug users. First of all, it is not the users who are doing the harm. Those who traffic the drugs as a business are the real criminals; for example the drug barons in South America, Africa and Asia. They are the ones who should be hunted down and punished, not the users, who are merely victims themselves. In _____ to those countries which _____ the death sentence for drug abuse, it can be argued that putting people to death does not in any way reduce the problem. If it did, then there would not be an increase in drug abuse in those countries. _____ show, however, that drug abuse is on the increase even in those countries which use the death penalty.

In _____, while the drug problem is an emotive _____ since it _____ the breakdown of society and family life in particular, it must be dealt with effectively. That means striking at the _____ of the problem i.e. the drug barons, rather than the users. Effective law _____ is more likely to result in a reduction of drug _____. The question is, though, can law _____ officers remain detached from the corruption which surrounds the drug _____ business?

The following words will fill the gaps:

availability	conclusion	core	distribution	enforcement	enforcement	enforcement	globe
impose	imposing	involves	issue	major	response	statistics	

Does economic development outweigh social values?

Developing a nation's _____ is _____ a key _____ in improving the nation's well-being. If a country has a wide _____ of _____, it can develop its _____ so that everyone _____. However, the _____ on the 'bottom line' should not mean that important social _____ are _____. This essay will outline the need for a healthy balance between _____ development and a _____ on social _____.

_____ development is important for a number of reasons. First of all, a country with a healthy budget surplus can _____ heavily in its _____. This includes services and _____ such as public _____, health-care, education and _____. If the nation's _____ is _____ developed, everyone in society _____. Developing the _____ will also _____ employment opportunities as it will attract foreign _____. More _____ means more money for people to spend in the retail _____. A _____ upward spiral of affluence and material comfort can result.

However, there are a number of social _____ which should not be _____ at the expense of wealth _____. If the nation's _____ is on industry and _____, there is a danger that corners will be cut in terms of safety and health _____. Take, for example, the industrial development _____ of Map Ta Phut in the Rayong district of Thailand. A number of foreign _____ have been encouraged to set up industrial activities there. However, _____ for health and safety of the _____ in the _____ have resulted in many people becoming sick from the industrial pollution caused by the factories. The government is unwilling to take preventive action to protect the local population from the effects of the industrial activities because it may lose the foreign _____. The detrimental effects on people's health and on the _____ at large should not be _____ on the grounds of _____ development.

To _____ up, while industrial activity is important for a nation's _____ development, the government needs to have _____ in place to safeguard the _____ and to _____ pollution of the fragile _____.

The following words will fill the gaps:

adequately	area	available	benefits	benefits	communication	create
economic	economic	economic	economic	transportation	economy	economy
environment	exploiting	facilities	factor	factors	financial	focus
focus	ignored	ignored	ignored	infrastructure	infrastructure	infrastructure
invest	investment	investors	investors	issues	issues	issues
creation	environment	focus	insufficient	jobs	regulations	technology
minimize	obviously	positive	primary	primary	range	regulations
residents	residents	resources	resources	sector	site	sum

Endangered species

Ever since life began on our planet, the _____ of all species has hung in the balance. Charles Darwin was the first to coin the expression 'the _____ of the fittest', and it is this ability to _____ to change which is _____ for all living creatures. Even when creatures have been able to _____ to their surroundings, however, there is still one more threat to their existence. That threat comes in human form.

Human activities _____ a threat to the existence of many different creatures. A number of animals and birds, including the dodo, have already been hunted out of existence. Man's insatiable appetite is also the reason for many creatures currently being on the endangered species list. These creatures include many kinds of whales and some of the larger land mammals such as the rhino and the tiger. These animals are hunted for their food or for special properties such as their horn or their skin, which are highly valued by humans. Even if an animal does not _____ directly on the human menu, it may still be at risk. As human numbers grow, so does the need for space to build houses and grow crops. As humans encroach upon forests and savannahs, the natural habitats of many species are destroyed, leaving the animals with nowhere to go and no food to eat.

What action can we take to protect other living species? Some governments have already placed bans on hunting certain animals, but poachers operate outside the law and continue to slaughter endangered species. Stricter _____ of the laws is needed with harsher punishments for offenders. There also needs to be greater _____ against destroying forests and polluting waterways. Education and _____ are also keys to help address the _____. It is _____ that humans understand the nature of the relationship between animals and people. It is a _____, symbiotic relationship. We need animals to _____ our own _____ on this planet. Will we learn to stop slaughtering them before it's too late?

The following words will fill the gaps:

adapt	adapt	awareness	crucial	crucial	enforcement	ensure	feature
issue	legislation	mutual	pose	survival	survival	survival	

Home schooling

When it comes to children's education, parents are faced with a lot of choices. They can choose to send their children to a government or private school or they can opt to teach their children themselves in their own home. There are advantages and disadvantages of both _____, and this essay will outline some of these.

There are _____ advantages of choosing to send your child to a formal school learning _____. First of all, the school is staffed by trained specialists who can teach a variety of subjects with a _____ of educational _____. In addition, schools provide a variety of extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs which will help children to develop in non-academic fields. Probably the most important _____ of school-life, however, is the fact that it gives young children the chance to meet other young people and learn how to socialise at an early age. Socialisation at school also helps develop other skills such as team-work skills and group _____ skills.

There are, however, a number of arguments in favour of educating children in the safety and comfort of one's own home. First of all, although school gives the opportunity for children to meet and socialise with other children it also _____ them to _____ such as bullying, which can have a long-term detrimental effect on a child's development. In addition, school classes tend to be rather large with up to 50 students in a class. If that case, it is easy for a child with learning difficulties to slip through the system and not receive the special attention he/she needs. Learning at home is also much less _____ in terms of the competitive nature of schools. Some young learners do not fare well in a competitive learning _____ and prefer the more _____ of the home.

From the arguments above, it is _____ that there are pros and cons of choosing to educate children at school or at home. An important _____ in reaching such a decision will depend on the nature of the child, and the quality of the schools _____ for the child in the neighbourhood. At the end of the day, the most important _____ is how to produce a well-balanced happy _____.

The following words will fill the gaps:

approach	aspect	available	available	dynamic	environment	environment	equipment
exposes	factor	factor	individual	issues	obvious	obvious	options
range	relaxed	stressful					

Junk food

The number of obese youngsters has increased _____ recently. One _____ reason for this _____ is the _____ of fast food, sometimes referred to as 'junk' food since it contains little nutritional value. Since fast food is popular mostly among the younger _____, it has been suggested that advertisements for fast food should be banned.

There are good reasons why the government should _____ fast food advertising. First of all, the fast food producers tend to _____ young people since they are the _____ of their products. They buy television air-time to _____ with peak viewing time for children. While youngsters watch their favourite programmes, they are bombarded with commercials advertising fast food products which are _____ risks to their health. In addition, the fast food products are also _____ by free gifts for children who _____ the fast food. These free gifts may encourage the youngsters to buy the food, even if the food itself is not particularly tasty. For these reasons some people argue that advertising should be controlled or even banned.

There are a number of considerations, however, when it comes to banning commercial advertising. First of all, the television companies depend on advertising _____ to _____ the costs of showing television programmes. If the advertising _____ is decreased, the quality of programmes may also be reduced. Secondly, if the government _____ advertising for fast food, then surely it will have to control advertising for a wide _____ of other products which can also be harmful to children: for example, cosmetics and other body enhancers, which may also be dangerous for the health. _____, when it comes to watching television, it should be the parents who control what their children view. Children should be supervised while they spend time in front of the television screen so that their parents can educate them how to _____ what they see on television.

All in all, while there may be a case for government _____ of television advertising, at the end of the day it is really the parents' responsibility to supervise and _____ their children's viewing.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accompanied	availability	coincide	consume	consumers	evaluate	finally	generation
major	monitor	potentially	principal	range	regulate	regulation	restricts
revenue	revenue	significantly	subsidise	target	trend		

Who should choose your marriage partner?

Marriage is one of the oldest _____ in society. Marriage is the formal _____ of two people who choose to stay together 'until death us do part'. Choosing the correct _____ in marriage, then, is very important and _____ a great deal of consideration and skill. For this reason in many _____ the choice of marriage _____ is the responsibility of the parents. There are arguments both in favour and against this.

There are some _____ advantages in letting your parents _____ your _____. First of all, they have experience in this matter, since they have already been through the _____ themselves and they are _____ of any unforeseen risks that may _____ choosing a marriage _____. If a relationship is to last for a long time, then it should be based on reason rather than on emotions such as love and passion. Emotions of this sort can fade quite quickly and when they disappear, there may be no basis for the relationship to _____. For that reason, parents are able to make a more sensible, reasoned decision.

Many people would disagree with this, however. They would argue that marriage should be based first and foremost on love. If the _____ love each other, it is more than likely that they will be able to overcome any _____ which may face them in the future. They will stay together 'in sickness and in health'. A marriage based on a business relationship may bring _____ but there may be no real love in the relationship, and it is love which is the essential ingredient of a happy marriage.

In _____, there are strong arguments both in favour and against allowing your parents to choose your marriage _____. As the saying goes, 'different _____, different customs', and it is probably this _____ which determines whether young people should permit more experienced people to choose your _____ for life. So long as the end result is a happy _____ of two people, it does not really matter who makes the decision.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accompany	aspect	aware	bonding	bonding	challenges	conclusion	couple
cultural	cultures	cultures	financial	institutions	obvious	partner	partner
partner	partner	partner	partner	partner	process	requires	security
select	survive						

Pros and cons of foreign aid

There is an old saying that 'charity should begin at home', meaning that a nation should help its own citizens before it provides _____ to foreigners. While this may be true to a certain extent, there are _____ cases where this is _____ behaviour. This essay will outline the need for all countries to provide international _____ to less fortunate nations.

There are a number of cases in which international _____ is called for. One example would be natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, and famine caused by drought. These disasters can strike at _____ at any time. In addition, they often cause extensive damage and the losses are usually beyond the _____ of the local government to _____ cover. In these cases international _____ is a necessity. There can be no _____ reason for refusing to provide some degree of _____. After all, all _____ on earth are prone to such disasters and all nations should offer _____ when asked. There are, in addition, man-made disasters such as warfare, when innocent victims suffer unmentionable crimes t the hands of the soldiers. International _____ is also needed to alleviate these effects of war. The _____, however, must be _____. It should include food, clean water and make-shift _____. It should not include _____ to extend the fighting.

Some people believe that international _____ is a waste of _____. They claim that the money could be better spent at home, improving living conditions for their own nationals. While this may be true in nations which themselves have a high level of poverty and deprivation, there is still a case for providing help to foreigners in need. An important _____ of providing international _____ is to _____ good-will among nations. If a nation sends _____ to a country which has suffered a natural disaster, then it is likely that relations between the countries will improve. A further argument for providing _____ is that if no _____ is _____, then the country may turn to other _____ of _____, such as terrorist groups. If the terrorist groups gain a foothold in the country, by whatever means, then the group has another base from which to operate.

To _____ up, providing international _____ is a humanitarian _____ but is also has political side-effects. Refusing to offer _____ can back-fire and have a _____ on the country which neglects its human duty.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accommodation	appropriate	available	capacity	impact	aid	aid	aid	aid
adequately	assistance	definitely	generate	resources	aid	aid	aid	aid
inappropriate	aspect	negative	random	assistance	aid	aid	aid	aid
justifiable	locations	military	sources	issue	sum	aid	aid	aid

The pros and cons of travelling to other countries

With budget airlines travelling _____ has become easier and cheaper than ever before. Visiting foreign destinations, once the dream of many people, has now become reality. The reality of travelling, however, is not always as pleasant as one expects, and the dream sometimes turns into a nightmare. Modern _____ such as the internet means that we can now _____ Places _____ , and even take part in _____ tours of those places, _____ us to experience those places without having to actually travel there. This _____ has its _____ but there are also drawbacks to _____ tourism.

There can be no doubt that travelling to different countries allows us to experience _____ at first-hand. Each country has its own _____ atmosphere, _____ by a mixture of smells, tastes, climate and _____. In addition, the country's _____ heritage _____ , folklore and _____ provide an _____ into the nation's history and give an _____ of the people's character. The language, also, can be heard as it is spoken in its natural _____ , and continued _____ to the language is likely to result in some learning of that language. This real-life experience is likely to have a long-lasting effect.

However, the effect may not always be a pleasant one as there are many problems which can _____ travel. The practicalities of _____ visas and other bureaucratic _____ can take the edge off the trip even before you set off. Travel logistics such as making flight connections, being stranded at airports or docks due to bad weather or strikes also add to the frustration of the reality. In addition, _____ of _____ 'shock' can seriously reduce the novelty value of being in a foreign country. For example, different food, strange customs, unfamiliar _____ and homesickness can all make your ideal holiday abroad a nightmare.

In _____ , _____ travel can give valuable _____ into alien _____

but the practicalities _____ in travelling may not suit everyone. Fortunately, with advanced

_____ it is now possible to experience visits to foreign places in the comfort of _____ tourism. At the end of the day, it is up to each _____ to choose the _____ which best fits their personality.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accompany	aspects	aspects	concept	conclusion	context	created	cultural
cultural	culture	culture	cultures	currency	distinct	diversity	documents
enabling	exposure	indication	individual	insight	insights	involved	obtaining
option	overseas	overseas	overseas	overseas	positive	research	sites
technology	technology	traditions	virtual	virtual	virtual		

Rain-forest conservation

Almost ten per cent of the earth's surface is covered by tropical rainforests. These forests contain a wide variety of natural _____. Many people suggest that these _____ should be _____ to make life more comfortable and convenient for humans. Other people, however, are not in favour of such development. This essay will consider arguments from both points of view.

The rainforests of the world contain a vast amount of natural _____ which could be _____ for the development of mankind. These _____ include deposits of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil, as well as large amounts of valuable minerals such as gold. Since the world is running out of fossil fuels, it seems sensible to make use of these _____ hidden deep inside the jungle. Getting _____ to these _____ would mean cutting down all the trees, which would be very expensive but the cost of this could be _____ by making use of the forest timber.

Clearing the forests would result in a number of _____. Firstly, the cleared land could be used to develop _____ and settlements for people. This could prevent over-crowding in cities. In addition, the dangerous creatures that live in the forests could be eradicated. A further _____ would be the possibility of planting crops for food and bio-fuel such as palm oil, which has been done in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

There are, however, some very strong arguments in favour of preserving the rainforests. First of all, the jungles provide a home for millions of indigenous people who _____ on the forest for their food and shelter. These people have lived in the rainforests for many millions of years and help _____ a healthy balance between humans and plants and animals that live there. In addition, many of the plants that grow there are important for their medicinal value or for use in industrial products. Probably the most important argument, however, is the fact that rainforests protect the world from natural disasters as a result of climate change. The forests help _____ a healthy balance by absorbing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and by producing oxygen for people to breathe. The trees also hold soil together and prevent soil _____ which can result in land-slides and flooding.

All in all, then, it seems that the conservation of the rainforests is very important for the _____ future of mankind. Clearing rainforests for short-term _____ will lead to the extinction of humans, flora and fauna that live there, and possibly even to the destruction of the _____ itself.

The following words will fill the gaps:

access	benefit	benefits	benefits	communities	economic	environment	erosion
exploited	exploited	global	maintain	maintain	minimized	rely	resources
resources	resources	resources	resources	resources	sustainable		

Retirement age

Many old people work well into their 70s and 80s, running families, countries or _____. Other people, however, _____ being fit and highly talented, are forced to retire in their or even earlier because of company or national _____. This essay will examine whether people should be allowed to continue working for as long as they want or whether they should be encouraged to retire at a particular stage.

There are several arguments for allowing older people to continue working as long as they are able. First of all, older employees have an immense amount of knowledge and experience which can be lost to a business or organization if they are made to retire. A second point is that older employees are often extremely loyal employees and are more willing to _____ company _____ than younger less _____ staff. However, a more important point is regarding the _____ in society to old people. To force someone to resign or retire at 60 or 65 _____ that the society does not value the _____ of these people and that effectively their useful life is over.

Allowing older people to work _____, however, is not always a good _____. Age alone is no _____ of ability. Many younger employees have more experience or skills than older staff, who may have been stuck in one _____ or unit for most of their working lives. Having compulsory retirement allows new ideas in an organization. In addition, without age limits, however _____, many people would continue to work purely because they did not have any other plans or _____. A third point of view is that older people should be rewarded by society for their life's _____ by being given generous pensions and the freedom to enjoy their leisure.

With many young people unemployed or frustrated in low-level positions, there are often calls to compulsorily retire older workers. However, this can _____ the older _____ 'freedom - and right - to work and can deprive society of valuable experience and _____. I feel that giving workers more _____ and choice over their retirement age will _____ society and the _____.

The following words will fill the gaps:

affect	arbitrary	area	attitudes	benefit	committed	corporations	despite
flexibility	guarantee	implement	indefinitely	indicates	individual	individuals	input
insights	labor	policies	policy	regulations	roles		

Salary discrepancies

Nowadays sports stars are paid very high salaries, _____ other _____ such as doctors and teachers receive far less money. This essay will present arguments for and against paying sports stars such high wages.

People like Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi earn very high salaries, in addition, their clubs are willing to pay huge _____ of money to _____ the players from one club to another. This is, in my opinion, a waste of money. The money could be spent on more useful things such as providing education and health-care for poor people.

But these sports stars entertain the public with their skillful _____ on the pitch. Millions of people around the world look forward to the weekend matches in the English Premier League, when they can watch their favourite _____ and their favourite players in action: not only the spectators who attend the matches but also people who watch the matches on television.

It's been argued that _____ such as doctors, teachers and lawyers play a more important _____ in society. They educate and take care of people. Surely, they should be more valued than people who simply play sports. And many sports players are not particularly good _____ models. Their behaviour both on and off the pitch is sometimes quite disgraceful. Is this the kind of behaviour we want our young people to witness and imitate?

Of course, people will say that sports players work long hours, train hard and are prone to _____ because of their work, but other _____ work hard and long hours, too. And policemen are in great danger throughout their working life.

It seems, then, that society values entertainers more highly than _____ who keep society _____ effectively. But we mustn't forget that sports stars have a short career. Most soccer players have to retire when they are in their early 30's, although they've usually made enough money by then to build their own retail chain or sports centre. Also, it's important to remember that there are thousands of sports-people out there who do not earn large amounts of money, simply because they aren't the best at what they do.

Perhaps we should just increase the pay scales for _____ who take care of society such as doctors, teachers and law enforcers. The problem is, where will the extra money come from? People are prepared to hand over fifty pounds to watch a game of soccer, but are probably not happy to pay increased taxes to _____ pay-rises for _____ .

The following words will fill the gaps:

displays	functioning	fund	injuries	professionals	professionals	professionals	professionals
professionals	professionals	role	role	sums	team	transfer	whereas

Same job or change?

Some people find a _____ and work with the same company for many years. Others, however, prefer to stay with the same company for a short spell only and then move on to a different _____. There are advantages and disadvantages about changing _____ frequently.

People who stay in the same _____ for a long time do so for a number of reasons. First of all, they regard that _____ as part of a _____ career path, rather than simply as a means to earn a high salary. The terms and conditions which _____ the _____ are usually satisfactory and will improve incrementally the longer the person stays with the company. The longer the person does the same _____, the more experience they _____ and the more proficiently they can perform their duties. _____ generally comes at regular _____, and the employee may even work for just one company until it is time to retire. Such loyalty is usually rewarded by the company not only in _____ terms but also with _____ and added perks and bonuses. In addition to this, the work practices and _____ of the company is usually conducive to people staying a long time. In other words, there is not a _____ of competition and _____.

On the other hand, some people prefer to move from _____ to _____ on a regular basis in order to find improved terms and conditions of service. They may expect higher remuneration in return for showing a competitive spirit and by working longer hours to meet deadlines. Once an employee has reached a certain level, above which (s)he is unlikely to _____, then it may be the time to search for new opportunities elsewhere. There are, of course, other reasons for moving on. If, for example, working conditions are unpleasant, or if the relationship with one's _____ is unbearable, then it is advisable to change _____. One of the most common reasons for searching for a new _____ is if the boss makes too many demands on the employees. _____ from one workplace to another, however, can result in a feeling of not belonging to any particular workplace, or even _____ satisfaction.

In _____, there are arguments for and against changing employment frequently. It largely depends on the _____ and on the ambitions and expectations held by the _____ employee.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accompany	acquire	colleagues	conclusion	constant	corporate	culture	culture
diminished	financial	individual	individual	intervals	job	job	job
job	job	job	job	job	job	job	job
job	jobs	jobs	proceed	promotion	security	shifting	stress
structured							

Student-centred learning

Education is a very important _____ around the _____. A nation's development _____ on the government's _____ in quality education. Effective learning depends to a large extent on the _____ and teaching _____ used in schools. Some nations prefer a _____ learning _____, where the teacher plays a central _____. In other countries, a student-centred _____ is preferred. This essay will outline the strengths and weaknesses of both _____.

There are some advantages of a _____, teacher-focused _____ to learning. In many countries, there is a heavy _____ on teacher _____. A typical classroom _____ would _____ the teacher giving a _____ about the _____, with the students copying notes and rote-learning the content for homework. While this _____ the students only tangentially since they play a very _____ in the learning _____, many learners feel comfortable with this _____ and have developed strengths which suit this _____ of teaching. They enjoy the heavy _____ on teacher _____. In addition, this _____ of teaching is relatively easy for the teacher. Lesson planning is simple and _____, and the _____ amount of time can be spent on feeding the learners the information they need to pass the end of year examinations.

There are, however, limitations to this _____ of teaching. In less _____ classrooms, the _____ is on learner autonomy. Learners are encouraged to take a more active _____ in their own learning _____. In such a learning _____, the end content is not as important as the learning _____ which _____ during the lesson. Skills such as the ability to _____, _____ and question are more important than the ability to learn something by heart. Many people who prefer a student-centred _____ argue that today's society needs people who are able to _____ self-regulation and the ability to be proactive rather than people whose heads are simply filled with information.

To _____ up, there are both strengths and weaknesses to both _____. Since learners have different preferences regarding learning _____, it makes sense to _____ of both teaching _____ in the classroom, so that all learners can make full use of their learning strengths.

The following words will fill the gaps:

analyse	approach	approach	approach	approach	demonstrate	elements	environment
evaluate	focus	focused	globe	incorporate	input	input	investment
involve	involves	issue	lecture	maximum	method	methodologies	methodologies
methodology	occur	passive	process	process	processes	reliance	reliance
relies	role	role	role	traditional	scenario	style	style
style	styles	styles	styles	sum	topic	traditional	traditional

The benefits of taking a gap year

It has become common practice recently for young people to delay entry into university so that they have the opportunity to travel around the world or get some work experience before they start their tertiary education course. Taking a breather before university can have _____ results but there are also some disadvantages to this, too.

There are a number of advantages of postponing university entrance. First of all, the year off will give young people the chance to _____ their mind and broaden their horizons in terms of career opportunities. After finishing high school, many students have had little hands-on experience of real life situations. By travelling around the world they will have to confront a variety of different situations. What's more they will be faced with these problems without the _____ and support of their family, which is likely to result in greater independence and an increase in self-confidence. As the year goes by, the _____ and _____ of the young person may _____ and career preferences may change. It is important that young people make these discoveries before it is too late.

There are, though, a number of arguments against taking a year off before university. First of all, the _____ must be considered. By delaying university entrance, the young person may find that the _____ 'tuition _____ may have risen _____ by the time (s)he is ready to start studying. Even a modest rise of 5%25 can lead to _____ increases over a four year study _____. In addition, the cost of the gap year is likely to be substantial, too. Travelling around is not cheap, even if there is the possibility to do some part-time work along the way. Another consideration is the fact that the young person may enjoy the time off studying so much that (s)he decides not to go to university after all. Once the momentum of studying at school has gone, it may be difficult to find the _____ for further study. This may well _____ badly on future career _____.

In _____, while there are certain _____ of taking a gap year, the experience is not without risk. It is important to understand the reasons for postponing university entrance and to be _____ of the _____ dangers of such an _____. With careful planning, however, the experience can certainly _____ future _____.

The following words will fill the gaps:

aspects	aware	benefits	benefits	compounded	conclusion	considerably	enhance
evolve	expand	fee	fees	financial	impact	institutions	job
motivation	notions	options	period	perspectives	positive	potential	prospects
security	undertaking						

Teenage obesity

Society nowadays is getting fatter. Obesity is becoming one of the most dangerous _____ of our modern, sedentary life-style. This _____ is particularly disturbing since it _____ a large _____ of the younger _____. This essay will examine the reasons for this _____ and suggest ways in which society can tackle this problem.

There are a number of reasons why people are putting on excessive weight. The first reason is, of course, diet. We are what we eat, and the simple fact is that people are eating the wrong sort of food. Fast food outlets have sprung up in every _____ city, even in the developing nations. MacDonalds and KFC are in _____ in all _____ cities as their popularity continues to increase. Fast food is sometimes referred to as 'junk food' since it offers little nutritional value. It is largely oily and high in carbo-hydrates, which can _____ badly on health. It is certainly a _____ cause of obesity. Since fast food is popular mostly with young people, they are the ones at the greatest risk. Another _____ to excessive weight is the lack of exercise. _____ has shown that there has been a _____ in hobbies and pastimes over the last few _____. While exercise and outdoor _____ used to be the most popular form of leisure activity, nowadays the internet and _____ games have taken over the number one spot, especially with the younger _____.

So what can be done to address this _____. First of all, there needs to be greater _____ of the _____ of fast food _____. This can be done at school level as well as in the _____. If this _____ does not succeed, then the government should seriously consider _____ the number of fast food outlets, or at least to pass _____ regarding the quality of the food served at these outlets. Secondly, people need to be encouraged to take part in _____ activity, especially adolescents. Local governments could provide better _____ to free sports _____ and schools should _____ a compulsory _____ education programme.

To _____ up, obesity is a serious problem and action needs to be taken sooner rather than later if the _____ of excessive weight are to be prevented.

The following words will fill the gaps:

access	affects	awareness	computer	consequences	consequences	consumption	contributing
decades	evidence	facilities	factor	generation	generation	impact	impact
implement	issue	legislation	major	major	major	media	method
physical	physical	proportion	pursuits	research	restricting	shift	sum
trend	trend						

The benefits of providing foreign aid.

Currently, a lot of third world countries receive _____ from the more developed ones. This _____ can take the form of _____ for new _____ to improve the standard of living. Sometimes the _____ is _____ to _____ purposes, for example to help nations fight _____ terrorism. Donating _____ to poorer nations has both _____ and _____.

To begin with, humanitarian support is vital for Africa and some other continents where climatic conditions make it difficult to lead a healthy life. As a result of extremely low standards of living, people in such countries experience a great lack of food and medicine. Therefore, the need for international _____ is undoubted. _____, this support usually comes with education, which helps to prevent _____ and other social diseases. Also, international _____ is necessary after natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes when certain _____ suffer from lack of drinking water and _____ health-care.

However, there are some serious disadvantages of supporting poor countries. Firstly, most governments in such _____ do not make much effort to deal with social problems by themselves. Instead, they accept the _____ and use it for their own agendas. Worse still, they come to depend on this _____, which can make the situation even worse. Secondly, some recipient countries _____ money in weapons and food for their armies. _____, there does not seem any clear future _____ and improvement. In other words, there is no _____ that this situation will ever end.

In _____, international _____ must have long-term _____ for poor countries. The _____ must be used to improve the living standards of the people living there. _____

any _____ which is donated by wealthier nations should be made without any strings _____ . Developed nations should not offer _____ simply as an _____ in their own

_____ development, but with the real _____ of _____ people who need the help.

The following words will fill the gaps:

adequate	aid	aid	aid	aid	aid	aid	aid
aid	aid	aid	aid	aid	aid	aids	aspects
assisting	attached	benefit	benefits	conclusion	economic	evidence	finally
finally	funding	furthermore	internal	invest	investment	linked	military
motive	negative	overseas	positive	projects	prospects	regions	regions

The impact of an alien culture

Western _____ has proved to be very popular over the last few _____ and has had a strong _____ on countries all around the world. American and European popular music and Hollywood movies have become the benchmark standard all around the _____, and this has had a _____ on local folk _____. This essay will outline some of these _____ on _____ and suggest ways in which this _____ can be _____.

Western _____ and behaviour has had a _____ effect all around the _____. Since rock and roll music was first played in the USA after the First World War, its popularity has increased _____. This music was also _____ with a sense of rebellion since it was so very different from the music enjoyed by the older _____. With the advent of improved broadcasting, the music was heard in all corners of the world. A popular _____ of rebellion was also _____, something which was largely _____ unknown in _____ such as in Asian nations. The _____ continues until today. Movies, also, have had a great _____ on people's _____ and behaviour. The popular _____ of rebellion was portrayed on the big screen and idols such as James Dean became anti-heroic figures. Cinema content also became less censored and promiscuity was portrayed as a socially accepted _____. Such _____ behaviour has had a detrimental effect on more _____ nations' _____.

What can be done to stem this _____? Several nations have tried to censor or even ban such popular _____. However, _____ rarely succeeds, and a more sophisticated _____ is needed. Governments should _____ money on educating young _____ about their own _____ heritage and _____. Local musical instruments and other art-forms need to be singled out for conservation, and education programmes need to be _____ at schools. _____ models need to be _____ for the younger _____ to follow. For example local pop musicians can encourage young people to learn how to play _____ instruments. National movie stars could model _____ behaviour for youngsters to follow. By allowing both local _____ and western _____ to co-exist side by side, the national _____ can be preserved for future _____ to enjoy.

The following words will fill the gaps:

approach	appropriate	attitudes	cultural	cultural	cultural	culture	
culture	culture	culture	culture	culture	culture	cultures	cultures
cultures	decades	established	established	generation	generation	generations	generations
globe	globe	identified	identity	impact	impact	impact	
impacts	invest	linked	negative	negative	norm	previously	prohibition
reversed	role	significantly	traditional	traditional	traditional	traditional	traditions
traditions	trend	trend	trend	widespread			

The impact of tourism

With advanced _____, travelling from one continent to another is relatively easy nowadays and the number of foreign tourists is increasing. Although _____ from tourism is a much needed _____, _____ tourists are not always welcome in the countries they visit. This essay will outline the advantages of tourism and will outline some of the reasons why _____ tourists are not always welcome.

There are a number of reasons why foreign tourism is regarded in a _____ light. First of all, the _____ by _____ visitors is substantial. In a country such as Thailand, for example, foreign _____ from tourism is essential in helping to develop the nation. It provides a living for hundreds of thousands of people: the hotel, _____ and retail _____ all _____ from _____ visitors. The nation's _____ is improved with new roads and railways as well as _____. Apart from the _____ and _____ development, foreign visitors also provide a fresh _____ for the local people. _____ such as foreign languages, _____ and _____ can help _____ the minds of local people.

Ironically, these foreign _____ values may also have a _____ on local _____. The _____ of local _____ can result from the introduction of outside _____. For example, popular music and Hollywood movies from the USA can undermine the Thai _____. _____, foreign tourists are usually _____ of the correct social etiquette when it comes to visiting tourist _____, especially temples, mosques and shrines. This _____ 'pollution' is also _____ by _____ pollution, as more and more resorts are built to provide _____ for the _____ tourists. The _____ destroys the natural beauty of the _____. In addition, waste _____ systems pollute both the waterways and the soil around the resorts.

All in all, then, while foreign tourists can help _____ and _____ a nation's _____, people should also be _____ that _____ and _____ pollution can have a _____ on the tourist destinations.

The following words will fill the gaps:

accommodation	accompanied	aspects	aware	benefit	communications
cultural	cultural	cultural	culture	culture	cultures
environmental	environmental	erosion	expand	expand	financial
impact	impact	location	income	income	infrastructure
negative	negative	networks	overseas	overseas	overseas
perspective	positive	resource	revenue	sectors	sites
traditional	traditions	traditions	transport	unaware	construction
disposal	economy	furthermore	generated	infrastructure	
communities	overseas	overseas	sustain	technology	

The problems of urban migration

The _____ of people from rural to urban _____ has been going on for many years. Most of these people go in search of a new, improved life. However, many of them find that their dream of a new start turns out to be a nightmare in reality. This essay will examine why people move from the countryside to the city, and also will outline some of the problems which face these people.

People move from rural to urban _____ for a number of reasons. First of all, they hope to find better _____ opportunities. In rural _____, people tend to _____ on agriculture as a means of earning a living. In times of bad weather and poor harvests, they can find themselves with little _____ support. The second reason is the lack of public services and _____ in the countryside. Limited health and education services mean that people in rural _____ are disadvantaged. Hospitals in the countryside are few and far between, and the _____ between doctor and patients may be quite high, meaning that rural folks may not get _____ to _____ treatment as easily as urban counterparts. In addition, some people feel that life in the countryside is boring and they yearn for a more exciting life in the city, where there are cinemas, theatres and huge shopping malls offering all kinds of products. These are some of the reasons why people _____ to large towns.

This _____, however, does not always have a happy ending. As soon as people arrive in the city, they are faced with many problems. One of these problems is the lack of decent _____. Many find they have to sleep in the open air. Another reality is that there are not enough _____ and many people find themselves begging for money to _____. As a result, some of them turn to crime and prostitution. Drug abuse is a further danger confronting them. So, all in all, _____ to the city may not be the best move for everyone.

So, all in all, the dream of a better life in the city rarely turns out to be the reality. For many of these people, remaining in the countryside may be a better choice in spite of all the problems facing rural folks.

The following words will fill the gaps:

access	accommodation	areas	areas	areas	areas	available	facilities
financial	job	jobs	medical	migrate	migration	migration	migration
migration	ratio	rely	survive				

Why study abroad?

In recent years an increasing number of people are choosing to study _____ rather than at home. In spite of the increased costs _____ on _____ students, parents are prepared to pay for their children's education _____. There are a variety of reasons for taking this _____, which can be divided into educational and personal development _____. This essay will examine the reasons why so many students are taking courses _____.

From an educational point of view, there are many reasons for choosing to study abroad. First of all, many people believe that the standard of education provided _____ the quality offered at education _____ at home. In addition, courses _____ are usually _____ in a foreign language, usually English, which will help develop the learner's own skills in that foreign language. In many countries, the ability to speak a foreign language fluently increased the chances of _____ a good _____. _____ in many learning _____, there is less _____ on a teacher-based _____. Students are encouraged to develop learner-autonomy, which will provide the basis for lifelong learning.

There are, however, other reasons for choosing a course of study abroad. A main _____ of sending children to a different country to study is to develop personal skills. One of the most important of these skills is the ability to _____ independently without the _____ support of close family. Such independence is likely to help the learner to _____ earlier than if the student remains tied to his parents' apron strings. A further development is the ability of the learner to embrace a foreign _____ with greater ease. By living in an 'alien' _____, the learner will be able to broaden their _____ horizons.

To _____ up, in spite of the high costs of sending children to study _____, the _____ are numerous. For the above reasons, it is likely that people will continue to opt for _____ study in the future.

The following words will fill the gaps:

benefits	conducted	constant	cultural	culture	culture	environments	exceeds
focus	function	furthermore	imposed	institutions	issues	job	mature
methodology	objective	obtaining	option	overseas	overseas	overseas	overseas
overseas	overseas	overseas	overseas	overseas	sum		

ANSWER KEY

The importance of a well-paid police force

In every country in the world the police force is an important **ELEMENT** in preserving law and order so that society can **FUNCTION** effectively. In industrialized nations, police officers are generally paid decent salaries and can enjoy a comfortable life-style. They are highly regarded by the population. In some developing countries, however, police officers receive low salaries and enjoy low **STATUS** among society. This latter **SCENARIO** can lead to serious problems. This essay will outline some of these problems.

The **MAINTENANCE** of law and order is important for a number of reasons. First of all, citizens need to feel safe and protected as they carry on their daily lives. If life is routinely **AFFECTED** by criminal activity, society **FUNCTIONS** less effectively. An **ILLUSTRATION** of this is the existence of mafia gangs who intimidate business people and extort 'protection money'. While it is **VIRTUALLY** impossible to eradicate all forms of mafia activity, it is important to **RESTRICT** these gangs' activities by **ENFORCING** laws to reduce such intimidation. If illegal gangs gain the upper hand, then society is at risk of disintegration, and anarchy can follow.

One way to **MAINTAIN** a healthy balance in the fight against crime is to **ENSURE** that police officers are **ADEQUATELY** rewarded for their hard work. If the police force **CONSISTS** of under-paid officers with commensurately little education and training, then there is a great risk that officers will try to **SUPPLEMENT** their salaries in other ways. One such way would be to accept bribes from criminals. If this happens, then criminal **ELEMENTS** would have no fear of being brought to justice. Crime would, as a result, thrive. **FURTHERMORE**, the police force would become a de-facto part of the mafia underworld itself, **THEREBY** increasing the level of organized crime. A society in which ordinary citizens feared police officers rather than respected them would find itself in a downward spiral of **ILLEGAL** activities.

To avoid such a situation, then, it is of the greatest importance that the nation's police force should be well-paid, effectively trained, and as a result highly respected, in order to avoid a society governed by bribery and corruption.

Why the population is getting older

In recent **DECADES** there has been a changing **TREND** in population. There has been a **DRAMATIC** change in **FOCUS** from a young population to a state in which the older **GENERATION** has become the **MAJORITY**. This essay will examine some of the reasons for this **TREND**.

There are a number of reasons why people are living longer today. The first of these is the improvement in health-care. The number of well-equipped hospitals and clinics has grown, especially in developed nations. In addition, the doctor-patient **RATIO** has improved, resulting in a reduced workload for doctors, and **ENHANCED** health-care for patients. Another reason is the fact that people nowadays are eating a healthier diet. Campaigns to make people more **AWARE** of the need to eat nutritious food have been successful, as people move **AWARE** from their preference for fast, fatty foods high in cholesterol. Combined with this is the fact that people are tending to take part in more **PHYSICAL** exercise. This also prolongs longevity.

Improved working conditions are another reason why people are living longer. In the past people had to work long hours under insanitary, even dangerous conditions. Now that **AUTOMATION** has reduced the need for **MANUAL LABOUR**, work has become less **PHYSICALLY** draining. Improved terms and conditions of service, such as longer weekends and **PERIODS** of paid leave, have also had a **BENEFICIAL IMPACT** on working life. Ironically, the **TREND** for an ageing population has resulted in a change of **ATTITUDE** regarding retirement. Since people are living longer, it makes sense for the official retirement age to be raised so that the older **GENERATION** can remain mobile and **FOCUSED**.

In **CONCLUSION**, there are a number of reasons why people are living longer. If the **TREND** continues, governments and society as a whole may need to change their mindset concerning old people. The older **GENERATION** may well have to become more productive in order to make up for the reduction in numbers of young people **AVAILABLE** to work.

Arts or Science?

In recent times there has been much **DEBATE** about which subjects should be included on the school curriculum. Some people believe that the introduction of more modern subjects such as IT in place of more **TRADITIONAL** subjects such as art and music would be more **APPROPRIATE** for modern-day pupils, and a better **INVESTMENT** for future employment needs. This essay will outline some of the pros and cons of giving more **EMPHASIS** to science and maths over arts subjects.

There is one **MAJOR** argument in favour of replacing art, music and sport on the curriculum with subjects like IT. This is that the purpose of school is to prepare children for their working life after school, so the subjects on the curriculum should be **RELEVANT** to their **POTENTIAL** careers. From this point of view, IT is much more **RELEVANT** to schoolchildren as they need to be **COMPUTER** literate if they want to **SURVIVE** in the workplace. For example, it is easy to see that word **PROCESSING** and *programming skills* will impress employers more than the ability to run fast or draw well.

There are also, however, strong arguments for **RETAINING** the more **TRADITIONAL** subjects as part of the curriculum. One **SIGNIFICANT** counter-argument is that the purpose of education is not just to prepare children for later careers, but also to develop their all round “**CULTURE**”. It is important that children leave school with some knowledge of art, music and sport as all these all help develop **ASPECTS** of young people’s personalities.

My own personal point of view is that there is merit in both sides of the **DEBATE** and that all children should study some IT, art, music and sport at least at **PRIMARY** school. At secondary school, however, children should be offered a choice between these subjects so that they can continue to study them if they wish.

Computers and education

Since the development of advanced **TECHNOLOGY** towards the end of the last century, personal **COMPUTERS** have played an increasingly important **ROLE** in our lives. One of the greatest **IMPACTS** has been the use of computers in school. This essay will examine some of the arguments for and against the increased use of **COMPUTERS** in education.

There are a number of **POSITIVE IMPACTS** of using **COMPUTERS** in education. First of all, the **AVAILABILITY** of the internet means that learners can **ACCESS** a wide **RANGE** of knowledge at the click of a mouse. This **RANGE** of information covers a variety of school subjects, from science to language studies. While in the past students had to search through **VOLUMES** of encyclopaedias and reference books to broaden their knowledge, nowadays they can use one of the many search engines to find information more quickly and conveniently. Another improvement is the fact that students can now write their **ASSIGNMENTS** using word **PROCESSING** software, rather than writing everything by hand. This means that presentation is usually neater and better organized, and **ASSIGNMENTS** can include **ILLUSTRATIONS** and diagrams which are also downloaded on-line.

Not all changes, however, can be viewed in a **POSITIVE** light. While internet connectivity provides a quicker, more convenient means of **ACCESSING** information, there are risks and dangers **INVOLVED** in using the internet without **RESTRICTIONS**. A number of **SITES** contain information which may be dangerous or **INACCURATE** and so some sort of censorship is necessary to protect young people. This censorship is best provided by trained teachers. In addition, not all schools have **ADEQUATE** internet connectivity and so these schools are at a disadvantage. A further disadvantage is that the **COMPUTERS** in school need regular **MAINTENANCE** and so the school needs to employ **TECHNICAL** staff for this. Not only this, but teachers also need proper training to **INTEGRATE COMPUTERS** into their school curriculum.

In **CONCLUSION**, while **COMPUTERS** have certainly improved education, there are **ISSUES** to be considered in order to evaluate their effectiveness. **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY** can **ENHANCE** the learning **PROCESS** but it should be seen as just one more tool **AVAILABLE** to schools to provide a well-balanced education. Used sensibly and sensitively, and in conjunction with effective classroom teaching, **COMPUTERS** can have a **BENEFICIAL IMPACT** on moulding young people's brains.

Corporal punishment for children

The use of **PHYSICAL** punishment for children is a contentious **ISSUE** nowadays. It is also emotive, and most people have strong feelings on the matter. Some people oppose the use of corporal punishment while others believe it can have a **POSITIVE** effect on their children's behavior. This essay will outline some of these arguments for and against.

There are various arguments put forward against smacking children. First of all, **PHYSICAL** abuse of any sort is an **INDICATION** of disapproval. If a parent smacks a child, it shows that the parent does not love the child. This feeling is **REINFORCED** each time the child is hit and the child develops a feeling of being unwanted. This can result in a feeling of **INSECURITY** and a loss of self-esteem and self-confidence. Secondly, the fact that a parent uses **PHYSICAL** force to punish a child sends a clear message to the child that **PHYSICAL** abuse is acceptable behaviour. The child is then **SUBSEQUENTLY** likely to use force against other people, too. As the saying goes, 'violence breeds violence'.

There are, however, arguments in favour of using smacking occasionally to remediate a child's misbehaviour. When a child's behavior is out of control, for example during a tantrum, a light smack may be just enough to bring the child back to **NORMAL** behaviour. This does not mean **PHYSICALLY** brutalizing the child but a single slap may be what is needed. There is, after, all, a big difference between **PHYSICAL** assault which puts the child's health and safety at risk, and a slap or smack to remediate behavior. There is also the argument that a parent who **IGNORES** their child and does not attempt to manage the child's behaviour can be accused of negligence in terms of helping the child to develop social skills.

In **CONCLUSION**, it is important to **DIFFERENTIATE** between a smack and **PHYSICAL** abuse. A smack may represent the concern of a loving parent to provide **GUIDELINES** for the child's social development, **WHEREAS PHYSICAL** assault may show **UNDERLYING** psychotic tendencies in the parent. In the end, it boils down to the personal relationship which a parent develops with the child. Even parents who oppose corporal punishment will need to set **ALTERNATIVE** remedial **RESPONSES** in place so that the child learns the difference between acceptable and unacceptable social behaviour.

Drug abuse: effective punishments

There can be no doubt that drug abuse has become a **MAJOR** problem around the **GLOBE**. While law **ENFORCEMENT** agencies struggle to keep the problem under control, drug barons make huge profits from trafficking drugs around the world. Some governments deal severely with drug users, often **IMPOSING** the death sentence for possession of drugs. Other countries, however, choose to be more lenient in their treatment of drug offenders. This essay will examine some of the pros and cons of punishing drug offenders harshly.

There are a number of arguments in favour of handing out harsh punishments for drug abuse. First of all, many believe that if enough drug users are put behind bars, then the problem will decrease in size. Others take a stronger position and suggest that drug offenders should be sentenced to death. They believe that harsh punishments will deter drug addicts from using drugs. A number of countries in South-east Asia have adopted this position.

However, there are strong arguments against the use of harsh penalties against drug users. First of all, it is not the users who are doing the harm. Those who traffic the drugs as a business are the real criminals; for example the drug barons in South America, Africa and Asia. They are the ones who should be hunted down and punished, not the users, who are merely victims themselves. In **RESPONSE** to those countries which **IMPOSE** the death sentence for drug abuse, it can be argued that putting people to death does not in any way reduce the problem. If it did, then there would not be an increase in drug abuse in those countries. **STATISTICS** show, however, that drug abuse is on the increase even in those countries which use the death penalty.

In **CONCLUSION**, while the drug problem is an emotive **ISSUE** since it **INVOLVES** the breakdown of society and family life in particular, it must be dealt with effectively. That means striking at the **CORE** of the problem i.e. the drug barons, rather than the users. Effective law **ENFORCEMENT** is more likely to result in a reduction of drug **AVAILABILITY**. The question is, though, can law **ENFORCEMENT** officers remain detached from the corruption which surrounds the drug **DISTRIBUTION** business?

Does economic development outweigh social values?

Developing a nation's **ECONOMY** is **OBVIOUSLY** a key **FACTOR** in improving the nation's well-being. If a country has a wide **RANGE** of **FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE**, it can develop its **INFRASTRUCTURE** so that everyone **BENEFITS**. However, the **FOCUS** on the 'bottom line' should not mean that important social **FACTORS** are **IGNORED**. This essay will outline the need for a healthy balance between **ECONOMIC** development and a **FOCUS** on social issues.

ECONOMIC development is important for a number of reasons. First of all, a country with a healthy budget surplus can **INVEST** heavily in its **INFRASTRUCTURE**. This includes services and **FACILITIES** such as public **TRANSPORTATION**, health-care, education and **COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**. If the nation's **INFRASTRUCTURE** is **ADEQUATELY** developed, everyone in society **BENEFITS**. Developing the **ECONOMY** will also **CREATE** employment opportunities as it will attract foreign investors. More jobs means more money for people to spend in the retail **SECTOR**. A **POSITIVE** upward spiral of affluence and material comfort can result.

However, there are a number of social **ISSUES** which should not be **IGNORED** at the expense of wealth **CREATION**. If the nation's **PRIMARY FOCUS** is on industry and **EXPLOITING PRIMARY RESOURCES**, there is a danger that corners will be cut in terms of safety and health **ISSUES**. Take, for example, the industrial development **SITE** of Map Ta Phut in the Rayong district of Thailand. A number of foreign **INVESTORS** have been encouraged to set up industrial activities there. However, **INSUFFICIENT REGULATIONS** for health and safety of the **RESIDENTS** in the **AREA** have resulted in many people becoming sick from the industrial pollution caused by the factories. The government is unwilling to take preventive action to protect the local population from the effects of the industrial activities because it may lose the foreign **INVESTMENT**. The detrimental effects on people's health and on the **ENVIRONMENT** at large should not be **IGNORED** on the grounds of **ECONOMIC** development.

To **SUM** up, while industrial activity is important for a nation's **ECONOMIC** development, the government needs to have **REGULATIONS** in place to safeguard the **RESIDENTS** and to **MINIMIZE** pollution of the fragile **ENVIRONMENT**.

Endangered species

Ever since life began on our planet, the **SURVIVAL** of all species has hung in the balance. Charles Darwin was the first to coin the expression ‘the **SURVIVAL** of the fittest’, and it is this ability to **ADAPT** to change which is **CRUCIAL** for all living creatures. Even when creatures have been able to **ADAPT** to their surroundings, however, there is still one more threat to their existence. That threat comes in human form.

Human activities **POSE** a threat to the existence of many different creatures. A number of animals and birds, including the dodo, have already been hunted out of existence. Man’s insatiable appetite is also the reason for many creatures currently being on the endangered species list. These creatures include many kinds of whales and some of the larger land mammals such as the rhino and the tiger. These animals are hunted for their food or for special properties such as their horn or their skin, which are highly valued by humans. Even if an animal does not **FEATURE** directly on the human menu, it may still be at risk. As human numbers grow, so does the need for space to build houses and grow crops. As humans encroach upon forests and savannahs, the natural habitats of many species are destroyed, leaving the animals with nowhere to go and no food to eat.

What action can we take to protect other living species? Some governments have already placed bans on hunting certain animals, but poachers operate outside the law and continue to slaughter endangered species. Stricter **ENFORCEMENT** of the laws is needed with harsher punishments for offenders. There also needs to be greater **LEGISLATION** against destroying forests and polluting waterways. Education and **AWARENESS** are also keys to help address the **ISSUE**. It is **CRUCIAL** that humans understand the nature of the relationship between animals and people. It is a **MUTUAL**, symbiotic relationship. We need animals to **ENSURE** our own **SURVIVAL** on this planet. Will we learn to stop slaughtering them before it’s too late?

Home schooling

When it comes to children's education, parents are faced with a lot of choices. They can choose to send their children to a government or private school or they can opt to teach their children themselves in their own home. There are advantages and disadvantages of both options, and this essay will outline some of these.

There are **OBVIOUS** advantages of choosing to send your child to a formal school learning **ENVIRONMENT**. First of all, the school is staffed by trained specialists who can teach a variety of subjects with a **RANGE** of educational **EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**. In addition, schools provide a variety of extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs which will help children to develop in non-academic fields. Probably the most important **ASPECT** of school-life, however, is the fact that it gives young children the chance to meet other young people and learn how to socialise at an early age. Socialisation at school also helps develop other skills such as team-work skills and group **DYNAMIC** skills.

There are, however, a number of arguments in favour of educating children in the safety and comfort of one's own home. First of all, although school gives the opportunity for children to meet and socialise with other children it also **EXPOSES** them to **ISSUES** such as bullying, which can have a long-term detrimental effect on a child's development. In addition, school classes tend to be rather large with up to 50 students in a class. If that case, it is easy for a child with learning difficulties to slip through the system and not receive the special attention he/she needs. Learning at home is also much less **STRESSFUL** in terms of the competitive nature of schools. Some young learners do not fare well in a competitive learning **ENVIRONMENT** and prefer the more **RELAXED APPROACH** of the home.

From the arguments above, it is **OBVIOUS** that there are pros and cons of choosing to educate children at school or at home. An important **FACTOR** in reaching such a decision will depend on the nature of the child, and the quality of the schools **AVAILABLE** for the child in the neighbourhood. At the end of the day, the most important **FACTOR** is how to produce a well-balanced happy **INDIVIDUAL**.

Junk food

The number of obese youngsters has increased **SIGNIFICANTLY** recently. One **MAJOR** reason for this **TREND** is the **AVAILABILITY** of fast food, sometimes referred to as 'junk' food since it contains little nutritional value. Since fast food is popular mostly among the younger **GENERATION**, it has been suggested that advertisements for fast food should be banned.

There are good reasons why the government should **REGULATE** fast food advertising. First of all, the fast food producers tend to **TARGET** young people since they are the **PRINCIPAL CONSUMERS** of their products. They buy television air-time to **COINCIDE** with peak viewing time for children. While youngsters watch their favourite programmes, they are bombarded with commercials advertising fast food products which are **POTENTIALLY** risks to their health. In addition, the fast food products are also **ACCOMPANIED** by free gifts for children who **CONSUME** the fast food. These free gifts may encourage the youngsters to buy the food, even if the food itself is not particularly tasty. For these reasons some people argue that advertising should be controlled or even banned.

There are a number of considerations, however, when it comes to banning commercial advertising. First of all, the television companies depend on advertising **REVENUE** to **SUBSIDISE** the costs of showing television programmes. If the advertising **REVENUE** is decreased, the quality of programmes may also be reduced. Secondly, if the government **RESTRICTS** advertising for fast food, then surely it will have to control advertising for a wide **RANGE** of other products which can also be harmful to children: for example, cosmetics and other body enhancers, which may also be dangerous for the health. Finally, when it comes to watching television, it should be the parents who control what their children view. Children should be supervised while they spend time in front of the television screen so that their parents can educate them how to **EVALUATE** what they see on television.

All in all, while there may be a case for government **REGULATION** of television advertising, at the end of the day it is really the parents' responsibility to supervise and **MONITOR** their children's viewing.

Who should choose your marriage partner?

Marriage is one of the oldest **INSTITUTIONS** in society. Marriage is the formal **BONDING** of two people who choose to stay together 'until death us do part'. Choosing the correct **PARTNER** in marriage, then, is very important and **REQUIRES** a great deal of consideration and skill. For this reason in many **CULTURES** the choice of marriage **PARTNER** is the responsibility of the parents. There are arguments both in favour and against this.

There are some **OBVIOUS** advantages in letting your parents **SELECT** your **PARTNER**. First of all, they have experience in this matter, since they have already been through the **PROCESS** themselves and they are **AWARE** of any unforeseen risks that may **ACCOMPANY** choosing a marriage **PARTNER**. If a relationship is to last for a long time, then it should be based on reason rather than on emotions such as love and passion. Emotions of this sort can fade quite quickly and when they disappear, there may be no basis for the relationship to **SURVIVE**. For that reason, parents are able to make a more sensible, reasoned decision.

Many people would disagree with this, however. They would argue that marriage should be based first and foremost on love. If the **COUPLE** love each other, it is more than likely that they will be able to overcome any **CHALLENGES** which may face them in the future. They will stay together 'in sickness and in health'. A marriage based on a business relationship may bring **FINANCIAL SECURITY** but there may be no real love in the relationship, and it is love which is the essential ingredient of a happy marriage.

In **CONCLUSION**, there are strong arguments both in favour and against allowing your parents to choose your marriage **PARTNER**. As the saying goes, 'different **CULTURES**, different customs', and it is probably this **CULTURAL ASPECT** which determines whether young people should permit more experienced people to choose your **PARTNER** for life. So long as the end result is a happy **BONDING** of two people, it does not really matter who makes the decision.

Pros and cons of foreign aid

There is an old saying that 'charity should begin at home', meaning that a nation should help its own citizens before it provides **AID** to foreigners. While this may be true to a certain extent, there are **DEFINITELY** cases where this is **INAPPROPRIATE** behaviour. This essay will outline the need for all countries to provide international **AID** to less fortunate nations.

There are a number of cases in which international **AID** is called for. One example would be natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, and famine caused by drought. These disasters can strike at **RANDOM** at any time. In addition, they often cause extensive damage and the losses are usually beyond the **CAPACITY** of the local government to **ADEQUATELY** cover. In these cases international **AID** is a necessity. There can be no **JUSTIFIABLE** reason for refusing to provide some degree of **AID**. After all, all **LOCATIONS** on earth are prone to such disasters and all nations should offer **ASSISTANCE** when asked. There are, in addition, man-made disasters such as warfare, when innocent victims suffer unmentionable crimes at the hands of the soldiers. International **AID** is also needed to alleviate these effects of war. The **AID**, however, must be **APPROPRIATE**. It should include food, clean water and make-shift **ACCOMMODATION**. It should not include **MILITARY AID** to extend the fighting.

Some people believe that international **AID** is a waste of **RESOURCES**. They claim that the money could be better spent at home, improving living conditions for their own nationals. While this may be true in nations which themselves have a high level of poverty and deprivation, there is still a case for providing help to foreigners in need. An important **ASPECT** of providing international **AID** is to **GENERATE** good-will among nations. If a nation sends **ASSISTANCE** to a country which has suffered a natural disaster, then it is likely that relations between the countries will improve. A further argument for providing **AID** is that if no **AID** is **AVAILABLE**, then the country may turn to other **SOURCES** of **AID**, such as terrorist groups. If the terrorist groups gain a foothold in the country, by whatever means, then the group has another base from which to operate.

To **SUM** up, providing international **AID** is a humanitarian **ISSUE** but it also has political side-effects. Refusing to offer **AID** can back-fire and have a **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the country which neglects its human duty.

The pros and cons of travelling to other countries

With budget airlines travelling **OVERSEAS** has become easier and cheaper than ever before. Visiting foreign destinations, once the dream of many people, has now become reality. The reality of travelling, however, is not always as pleasant as one expects, and the dream sometimes turns into a nightmare. Modern **TECHNOLOGY** such as the internet means that we can now **RESEARCH** places **OVERSEAS**, and even take part in **VIRTUAL** tours of those places, **ENABLING** us to experience those places without having to actually travel there. This concept has its **POSITIVE ASPECTS** but there are also drawbacks to **VIRTUAL** tourism.

There can be no doubt that travelling to different countries allows us to experience **CULTURAL DIVERSITY** at first-hand. Each country has its own **DISTINCT** atmosphere, **CREATED** by a mixture of smells, tastes, climate and **CULTURE**. In addition, the country's **CULTURAL** heritage **SITES**, folklore and **TRADITIONS** provide an **INSIGHT** into the nation's history and give an **INDICATION** of the people's character. The language, also, can be heard as it is spoken in its natural **CONTEXT**, and continued **EXPOSURE** to the language is likely to result in some learning of that language. This real-life experience is likely to have a long-lasting effect.

However, the effect may not always be a pleasant one as there are many problems which can **ACCOMPANY OVERSEAS** travel. The practicalities of **OBTAINING** visas and other bureaucratic **DOCUMENTS** can take the edge off the trip even before you set off. Travel logistics such as making flight connections, being stranded at airports or docks due to bad weather or strikes also add to the frustration of the reality. In addition, **ASPECTS** of 'CULTURE shock' can seriously reduce the novelty value of being in a foreign country. For example, different food, strange customs, unfamiliar **CURRENCY** and homesickness can all make your ideal holiday abroad a nightmare.

In **CONCLUSION**, **OVERSEAS** travel can give valuable **INSIGHTS** into alien **CULTURES** but the practicalities **INVOLVED** in travelling may not suit everyone. Fortunately, with advanced **TECHNOLOGY** it is now possible to experience visits to foreign places in the comfort of **VIRTUAL** tourism. At the end of the day, it is up to each **INDIVIDUAL** to choose the **OPTION** which best fits their personality.

Rain-forest conservation

Almost ten per cent of the earth's surface is covered by tropical rainforests. These forests contain a wide variety of natural **RESOURCES**. Many people suggest that these **RESOURCES** should be **EXPLOITED** to make life more comfortable and convenient for humans. Other people, however, are not in favour of such development. This essay will consider arguments from both points of view.

The rainforests of the world contain a vast amount of natural **RESOURCES** which could be **EXPLOITED** for the development of mankind. These **RESOURCES** include deposits of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil, as well as large amounts of valuable minerals such as gold. Since the world is running out of fossil fuels, it seems sensible to make use of these **RESOURCES** hidden deep inside the jungle. Getting **ACCESS** to these **RESOURCES** would mean cutting down all the trees, which would be very expensive but the cost of this could be **MINIMIZED** by making use of the forest timber.

Clearing the forests would result in a number of **BENEFITS**. Firstly, the cleared land could be used to develop **COMMUNITIES** and settlements for people. This could prevent over-crowding in cities. In addition, the dangerous creatures that live in the forests could be eradicated. A further **BENEFIT** would be the possibility of planting crops for food and bio-fuel such as palm oil, which has been done in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

There are, however, some very strong arguments in favour of preserving the rainforests. First of all, the jungles provide a home for millions of indigenous people who **RELY** on the forest for their food and shelter. These people have lived in the rainforests for many millions of years and help **MAINTAIN** a healthy balance between humans and plants and animals that live there. In addition, many of the plants that grow there are important for their medicinal value or for use in industrial products. Probably the most important argument, however, is the fact that rainforests protect the world from natural disasters as a result of climate change. The forests help **MAINTAIN** a healthy balance by absorbing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and by producing oxygen for people to breathe. The trees also hold soil together and prevent soil **EROSION** which can result in land-slides and flooding.

All in all, then, it seems that the conservation of the rainforests is very important for the **SUSTAINABLE** future of mankind. Clearing rainforests for short-term **ECONOMIC BENEFITS** will lead to the extinction of humans, flora and fauna that live there, and possibly even to the destruction of the **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT** itself.

Retirement age

Many old people work well into their 70s and 80s, running families, countries or **CORPORATIONS**. Other people, however, **DESPITE** being fit and highly talented, are forced to retire in their or even earlier because of company or national **REGULATIONS**. This essay will examine whether people should be allowed to continue working for as long as they want or whether they should be encouraged to retire at a particular stage.

There are several arguments for allowing older people to continue working as long as they are able. First of all, older employees have an immense amount of knowledge and experience which can be lost to a business or organization if they are made to retire. A second point is that older employees are often extremely loyal employees and are more willing to **IMPLEMENT** company **POLICIES** than younger less **COMMITTED** staff. However, a more important point is regarding the **ATTITUDES** in society to old people. To force someone to resign or retire at 60 or 65 **INDICATES** that the society does not value the **INPUT** of these people and that effectively their useful life is over.

Allowing older people to work **INDEFINITELY**, however, is not always a good **POLICY**. Age alone is no **GUARANTEE** of ability. Many younger employees have more experience or skills than older staff, who may have been stuck in one **AREA** or unit for most of their working lives. Having compulsory retirement allows new ideas in an organization. In addition, without age limits, however **ARBITRARY**, many people would continue to work purely because they did not have any other plans or **ROLES**. A third point of view is that older people should be rewarded by society for their life's **LABOR** by being given generous pensions and the freedom to enjoy their leisure.

With many young people unemployed or frustrated in low-level positions, there are often calls to compulsorily retire older workers. However, this can **AFFECT** the older **INDIVIDUAL'S** freedom - and right - to work and can deprive society of valuable experience and **INSIGHTS**. I feel that giving workers more **FLEXIBILITY** and choice over their retirement age will **BENEFIT** society and the **INDIVIDUAL**.

Salary discrepancies

Nowadays sports stars are paid very high salaries, **WHEREAS** other **PROFESSIONALS** such as doctors and teachers receive far less money. This essay will present arguments for and against paying sports stars such high wages.

People like David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo earn very high salaries, in addition, their clubs are willing to pay huge **SUMS** of money to **TRANSFER** the players from one club to another. This is, in my opinion, a waste of money. The money could be spent on more useful things such as providing education and health-care for poor people.

But these sports stars entertain the public with their skillful **DISPLAYS** on the pitch. Millions of people around the world look forward to the weekend matches in the English Premier League, when they can watch their favourite **TEAM** and their favourite players in action: not only the spectators who attend the matches but also people who watch the matches on television.

It's been argued that **PROFESSIONALS** such as doctors, teachers and lawyers play a more important **ROLE** in society. They educate and take care of people. Surely, they should be more valued than people who simply play sports. And many sports players are not particularly good **ROLE** models. Their behaviour both on and off the pitch is sometimes quite disgraceful. Is this the kind of behaviour we want our young people to witness and imitate?

Of course, people will say that sports players work long hours, train hard and are prone to **INJURIES** because of their work, but other **PROFESSIONALS** work hard and long hours, too. And policemen are in great danger throughout their working life.

It seems, then, that society values entertainers more highly than **PROFESSIONALS** who keep **SOCIETY** functioning effectively. But we mustn't forget that sports stars have a short career. Most soccer players have to retire when they are in their early 30's, although they've usually made enough money by then to build their own retail chain or sports centre. Also, it's important to remember that there are thousands of sports-people out there who do not earn large amounts of money, simply because they aren't the best at what they do.

Perhaps we should just increase the pay scales for **PROFESSIONALS** who take care of society such as doctors, teachers and law enforcers. The problem is, where will the extra money come from? People are prepared to hand over fifty pounds to watch a game of soccer, but are probably not happy to pay increased taxes to **FUND** pay-rises for **PROFESSIONALS**.

Same job or change?

Some people find a **JOB** and work with the same company for many years. Others, however, prefer to stay with the same company for a short spell only and then move on to a different **JOB**. There are advantages and disadvantages about changing **JOBS** frequently.

People who stay in the same **JOB** for a long time do so for a number of reasons. First of all, they regard that **JOB** as part of a **STRUCTURED** career path, rather than simply as a means to earn a high salary. The terms and conditions which **ACCOMPANY** the **JOB** are usually satisfactory and will improve incrementally the longer the person stays with the company. The longer the person does the same **JOB**, the more experience they **ACQUIRE** and the more proficiently they can perform their duties. **PROMOTION** generally comes at regular **INTERVALS**, and the employee may even work for just one company until it is time to retire. Such loyalty is usually rewarded by the company not only in **FINANCIAL** terms but also with **JOB SECURITY** and added perks and bonuses. In addition to this, the work practices and **CORPORATE CULTURE** of the company is usually conducive to people staying a long time. In other words, there is not a **CULTURE** of competition and **STRESS**.

On the other hand, some people prefer to move from **JOB** to **JOB** on a regular basis in order to find improved terms and conditions of service. They may expect higher remuneration in return for showing a competitive spirit and by working longer hours to meet deadlines. Once an employee has reached a certain level, above which (s)he is unlikely to **PROCEED**, then it may be the time to search for new opportunities elsewhere. There are, of course, other reasons for moving on. If, for example, working conditions are unpleasant, or if the relationship with one's **COLLEAGUES** is unbearable, then it is advisable to change **JOBS**. One of the most common reasons for searching for a new **JOB** is if the boss makes too many demands on the employees. **CONSTANT SHIFTING** from one workplace to another, however, can result in a feeling of not belonging to any particular workplace, or even **DIMINISHED JOB** satisfaction.

In **CONCLUSION**, there are arguments for and against changing employment frequently. It largely depends on the **INDIVIDUAL** and on the ambitions and expectations held by the **INDIVIDUAL** employee.

Student-centred learning

Education is a very important **ISSUE** around the **GLOBE**. A nation's development **RELIES** on the government's **INVESTMENT** in quality education. Effective learning depends to a large extent on the **METHODOLOGY** and teaching **STYLES** used in schools. Some nations prefer a **TRADITIONAL** learning **STYLE**, where the teacher plays a central **ROLE**. In other countries, a student-centred **APPROACH** is preferred. This essay will outline the strengths and weaknesses of both **METHODOLOGIES**.

There are some **ADVANTAGES** of a traditional, teacher-focused **APPROACH** to learning. In many countries, there is a heavy **RELIANCE** on teacher **INPUT**. A typical classroom **SCENARIO** would **INVOLVE** the teacher giving a **LECTURE** about the **TOPIC**, with the students copying notes and rote-learning the content for homework. While this **APPROACH INVOLVES** the students only tangentially since they play a very **PASSIVE ROLE** in the learning **PROCESS**, many learners feel comfortable with this **METHOD** and have developed strengths which suit this **STYLE** of teaching. They enjoy the heavy **RELIANCE** on teacher **INPUT**. In addition, this **STYLE** of teaching is relatively easy for the teacher. Lesson planning is simple and **FOCUSED**, and the **MAXIMUM** amount of time can be spent on feeding the learners the information they need to pass the end of year examinations.

There are, however, limitations to this **STYLE** of teaching. In less **TRADITIONAL** classrooms, the **FOCUS** is on learner autonomy. Learners are encouraged to take a more active **ROLE** in their own learning **PROCESS**. In such a learning **ENVIRONMENT**, the end content is not as important as the learning **PROCESSES** which **OCCUR** during the lesson. Skills such as the ability to **ANALYSE**, **EVALUATE** and question are more important than the ability to learn something by heart. Many people who prefer a student-centred **APPROACH** argue that today's society needs people who are able to **DEMONSTRATE** self-regulation and the ability to be proactive rather than people whose heads are simply filled with information.

To **SUM** up, there are both strengths and weaknesses to both **METHODOLOGIES**. Since learners have different preferences regarding learning **STYLES**, it makes sense to **INCORPORATE ELEMENTS** of both teaching **STYLES** in the classroom, so that all learners can make full use of their learning strengths.

The benefits of taking a gap year

It has become common practice recently for young people to delay entry into university so that they have the opportunity to travel around the world or get some work experience before they start their tertiary education course. Taking a breather before university can have **POSITIVE** results but there are also some disadvantages to this, too.

There are a number of advantages of postponing university entrance. First of all, the year off will give young people the chance to **EXPAND** their mind and broaden their horizons in terms of career opportunities. After finishing high school, many students have had little hands-on experience of real life situations. By travelling around the world they will have to confront a variety of different situations. What's more they will be faced with these problems without the **SECURITY** and support of their family, which is likely to result in greater independence and an increase in self-confidence. As the year goes by, the **NOTIONS** and **PERSPECTIVES** of the young person may **EVOLVE** and career preferences may change. It is important that young people make these discoveries before it is too late.

There are, though, a number of arguments against taking a year off before university. First of all, the **FINANCIAL ASPECTS** must be considered. By delaying university entrance, the young person may find that the **INSTITUTION'S** tuition **FEES** may have risen **CONSIDERABLY** by the time (s)he is ready to start studying. Even a modest rise of 5% can lead to **COMPOUNDED FEE** increases over a four year study **PERIOD**. In addition, the cost of the gap year is likely to be substantial, too. Travelling around is not cheap, even if there is the possibility to do some part-time work along the way. Another consideration is the fact that the young person may enjoy the time off studying so much that (s)he decides not to go to university after all. Once the momentum of studying at school has gone, it may be difficult to find the **MOTIVATION** for further study. This may well **IMPACT** badly on future career **OPTIONS**.

In **CONCLUSION**, while there are certain **BENEFITS** of taking a gap year, the experience is not without risk. It is important to understand the reasons for postponing university entrance and to be **AWARE** of the **POTENTIAL** dangers of such an **UNDERTAKING**. With careful planning, however, the experience can certainly **ENHANCE** future **JOB PROSPECTS**.

Teenage obesity

Society nowadays is getting fatter. Obesity is becoming one of the most dangerous **CONSEQUENCES** of our modern, sedentary life-style. This **TREND** is particularly disturbing since it **AFFECTS** a large **PROPORTION** of the younger **GENERATION**. This essay will examine the reasons for this **TREND** and suggest ways in which society can tackle this problem.

There are a number of reasons why people are putting on excessive weight. The first reason is, of course, diet. We are what we eat, and the simple fact is that people are eating the wrong sort of food. Fast food outlets have sprung up in every **MAJOR** city, even in the developing nations. MacDonalds and KFC are in **EVIDENCE** in all **MAJOR** cities as their popularity continues to increase. Fast food is sometimes referred to as 'junk food' since it offers little nutritional value. It is largely oily and high in carbo-hydrates, which can **IMPACT** badly on health. It is certainly a **MAJOR** cause of obesity. Since fast food is popular mostly with young people, they are the ones at the greatest risk. Another **CONTRIBUTING FACTOR** to excessive weight is the lack of exercise. **RESEARCH** has shown that there has been a **SHIFT** in hobbies and pastimes over the last few **DECADES**. While exercise and outdoor **PURSUIITS** used to be the most popular form of leisure activity, nowadays the internet and **COMPUTER** games have taken over the number one spot, especially with the younger **GENERATION**.

So what can be done to address this **ISSUE**. First of all, there needs to be greater **AWARENESS** of the **IMPACT** of fast food **CONSUMPTION**. This can be done at school level as well as in the **MEDIA**. If this **METHOD** does not succeed, then the government should seriously consider **RESTRICTING** the number of fast food outlets, or at least to pass **LEGISLATION** regarding the quality of the food served at these outlets. Secondly, people need to be encouraged to take part in **PHYSICAL** activity, especially adolescents. Local governments could provide better **ACCESS** to free sports **FACILITIES** and schools should **IMPLEMENT** a compulsory **PHYSICAL** education programme.

To **SUM** up, obesity is a serious problem and action needs to be taken sooner rather than later if the **CONSEQUENCES** of excessive weight are to be prevented.

The benefits of providing foreign aid.

Currently, a lot of third world countries receive **AID** from the more developed ones. This **AID** can take the form of **FUNDING** for new **PROJECTS** to improve the standard of living. Sometimes the **AID** is **LINKED** to **MILITARY** purposes, for example to help nations fight **INTERNAL** terrorism. Donating **AID** to poorer nations has both **POSITIVE** and **NEGATIVE ASPECTS**.

To begin with, humanitarian support is vital for Africa and some other continents where climatic conditions make it difficult to lead a healthy life. As a result of extremely low standards of living, people in such countries experience a great lack of food and medicine. Therefore, the need for international **AID** is undoubted. **FURTHERMORE**, this support usually comes with education, which helps to prevent **AIDS** and other social diseases. Also, international **AID** is necessary after natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes when certain **REGIONS** suffer from lack of drinking water and **ADEQUATE** health-care.

However, there are some serious disadvantages of supporting poor countries. Firstly, most governments in such **REGIONS** do not make much effort to deal with social problems by themselves. Instead, they accept the **AID** and use it for their own agendas. Worse still, they come to depend on this **OVERSEAS AID**, which can make the situation even worse. Secondly, some recipient countries **INVEST** money in weapons and food for their armies. **FINALLY**, there does not seem any clear future **PROSPECTS** and improvement. In other words, there is no **EVIDENCE** that this situation will ever end.

In **CONCLUSION**, international **AID** must have long-term **BENEFIT** for poor countries. The **AID** must be used to improve the living standards of the people living there. **FINALLY** any **AID** which is donated by wealthier nations should be made without any strings **ATTACHED**. Developed nations should not offer **AID** simply as an **INVESTMENT** in their own **ECONOMIC** development, but with the real **MOTIVE** of **ASSISTING** people who need the help.

The impact of an alien culture

Western **CULTURE** has proved to be very popular over the last few **DECADES** and has had a strong **IMPACT** on countries all around the world. American and European popular music and Hollywood movies have become the benchmark standard all around the **GLOBE**, and this has had a **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on local folk **TRADITIONS**. This essay will outline some of these **NEGATIVE IMPACTS** on **TRADITIONAL CULTURES** and suggest ways in which this **TREND** can be **REVERSED**.

Western **CULTURE** and behaviour has had a **WIDESPREAD** effect all around the **GLOBE**. Since rock and roll music was first played in the USA after the First World War, its popularity has increased **SIGNIFICANTLY**. This music was also **LINKED** with a sense of rebellion since it was so very different from the music enjoyed by the older **GENERATION**. With the advent of improved broadcasting, the music was heard in all corners of the world. A popular **CULTURE** of rebellion was also **ESTABLISHED**, something which was largely **PREVIOUSLY** unknown in **TRADITIONAL CULTURES** such as in Asian nations. The **TREND** continues until today. Movies, also, have had a great **IMPACT** on people's **ATTITUDES** and behaviour. The popular **CULTURE** of rebellion was portrayed on the big screen and idols such as James Dean became anti-heroic figures. Cinema content also became less censored and promiscuity was portrayed as a socially accepted **NORM**. Such **CULTURAL** behaviour has had a detrimental effect on more **TRADITIONAL** nations' **CULTURES**.

What can be done to stem this **TREND**? Several nations have tried to censor or even ban such popular **CULTURE**. However, **PROHIBITION** rarely succeeds, and a more sophisticated **APPROACH** is needed. Governments should invest money on educating young **GENERATIONS** about their own **CULTURAL** heritage and **TRADITIONS**. Local musical instruments and other art-forms need to be singled out for conservation, and education programmes need to be **ESTABLISHED** at schools. **ROLE** models need to be **IDENTIFIED** for the younger **GENERATION** to follow. For example local pop musicians can encourage young people to learn how to play **TRADITIONAL** instruments. National movie stars could model **APPROPRIATE** behaviour for youngsters to follow. By allowing both local **CULTURE** and western **CULTURE** to co-exist side by side, the national **CULTURAL IDENTITY** can be preserved for future **GENERATIONS** to enjoy.

The impact of tourism

With advanced **TECHNOLOGY**, travelling from one continent to another is relatively easy nowadays and the number of foreign tourists is increasing. Although **REVENUE** from tourism is a much needed **RESOURCE**, **OVERSEAS** tourists are not always welcome in the countries they visit. This essay will outline the advantages of tourism and will outline some of the reasons why **OVERSEAS** tourists are not always welcome.

There are a number of reasons why foreign tourism is regarded in a **POSITIVE** light. First of all, the **INCOME GENERATED** by **OVERSEAS** visitors is substantial. In a country such as Thailand, for example, foreign **INCOME** from tourism is essential in helping to develop the nation. It provides a living for hundreds of thousands of people: the hotel, **TRANSPORT** and retail **SECTORS** all **BENEFIT** from **OVERSEAS** visitors. The nation's **INFRASTRUCTURE** is improved with new roads and railways as well as **COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS**. Apart from the **FINANCIAL** and **INFRASTRUCTURE** development, foreign visitors also provide a fresh **PERSPECTIVE** for the local people. **ASPECTS** such as foreign languages, **CULTURE** and **TRADITIONS** can help **EXPAND** the minds of local people.

Ironically, these foreign **CULTURAL** values may also have a **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on local **COMMUNITIES**. The **EROSION** of local **TRADITIONS** can result from the introduction of outside **CULTURES**. For example, popular music and Hollywood movies from the USA can undermine the Thai **TRADITIONAL CULTURE**. **FURTHERMORE**, foreign tourists are usually **UNAWARE** of the correct social etiquette when it comes to visiting tourist **SITES**, especially temples, mosques and shrines. This '**CULTURAL POLLUTION**' is also **ACCOMPANIED** by **ENVIRONMENTAL** pollution, as more and more resorts are built to provide **ACCOMMODATION** for the **OVERSEAS** tourists. The **CONSTRUCTION** destroys the natural beauty of the location. In addition, waste **DISPOSAL** systems pollute both the waterways and the soil around the resorts.

All in all, then, while foreign tourists can help **SUSTAIN** and **EXPAND** a nation's **ECONOMY**, people should also be **AWARE** that **CULTURAL** and **ENVIRONMENTAL** pollution can have a **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the tourist destinations.

The problems of urban migration

The **MIGRATION** of people from rural to urban **AREAS** has been going on for many years. Most of these people go in search of a new, improved life. However, many of them find that their dream of a new start turns out to be a nightmare in reality. This essay will examine why people move from the countryside to the city, and also will outline some of the problems which face these people.

People move from rural to urban **AREAS** for a number of reasons. First of all, they hope to find better **JOB** opportunities. In rural **AREAS**, people tend to **RELY** on agriculture as a means of earning a living. In times of bad weather and poor harvests, they can find themselves with little **FINANCIAL** support. The second reason is the lack of public services and **FACILITIES** in the countryside. Limited health and education services mean that people in rural **AREAS** are disadvantaged. Hospitals in the countryside are few and far between, and the **RATIO** between doctor and patients may be quite high, meaning that rural folks may not get **ACCESS** to **MEDICAL** treatment as easily as urban counterparts. In addition, some people feel that life in the countryside is boring and they yearn for a more exciting life in the city, where there are cinemas, theatres and huge shopping malls offering all kinds of products. These are some of the reasons why people **MIGRATE** to large towns.

This **MIGRATION**, however, does not always have a happy ending. As soon as people arrive in the city, they are faced with many problems. One of these problems is the lack of decent **ACCOMMODATION**. Many find they have to sleep in the open air. Another reality is that there are not enough **JOBS AVAILABLE** and many people find themselves begging for money to **SURVIVE**. As a result, some of them turn to crime and prostitution. Drug abuse is a further danger confronting them. So, all in all, **MIGRATION** to the city may not be the best move for everyone.

So, all in all, the dream of a better life in the city rarely turns out to be the reality. For many of these people, remaining in the countryside may be a better choice in spite of all the problems facing rural folks.

Why study abroad?

In recent years an increasing number of people are choosing to study **OVERSEAS** rather than at home. In spite of the increased costs **IMPOSED** on **OVERSEAS** students, parents are prepared to pay for their children's education **OVERSEAS**. There are a variety of reasons for taking this **OPTION**, which can be divided into educational and personal development **ISSUES**. This essay will examine the reasons why so many students are taking courses **OVERSEAS**.

From an educational point of view, there are many reasons for choosing to study abroad. First of all, many people believe that the standard of education provided **OVERSEAS EXCEEDS** the quality offered at education **INSTITUTIONS** at home. In addition, courses **OVERSEAS** are usually **CONDUCTED** in a foreign language, usually English, which will help develop the learner's own skills in that foreign language. In many countries, the ability to speak a foreign language fluently increased the chances of **OBTAINING** a good **JOB**. **FURTHERMORE** in many learning **ENVIRONMENTS OVERSEAS**, there is less **FOCUS** on a teacher-based **METHODOLOGY**. Students are encouraged to develop learner-autonomy, which will provide the basis for lifelong learning.

There are, however, other reasons for choosing a course of study abroad. A main **OBJECTIVE** of sending children to a different country to study is to develop personal skills. One of the most important of these skills is the ability to **FUNCTION** independently without the **CONSTANT** support of close family. Such independence is likely to help the learner to **MATURE** earlier than if the student remains tied to his parents' apron strings. A further development is the ability of the learner to embrace a foreign **CULTURE** with greater ease. By living in an 'alien' **CULTURE**, the learner will be able to broaden their **CULTURAL** horizons.

To **SUM** up, in spite of the high costs of sending children to study **OVERSEAS**, the **BENEFITS** are numerous. For the above reasons, it is likely that people will continue to opt for **OVERSEAS** study in the future.