

Writing Task

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What is assessed?

- Task Response
- Cohesion and Coherence (structure/paragraphing)
- Lexical Resource
- Range of Grammar
- Accuracy (grammar/spelling)

Outline

Introduction

Body Paragraph 1

Body Paragraph 2

Body Paragraph 3

Conclusion

Content and Strategy

Introduction: summary of the essay topic, thesis statement, your stance, outline

Body Paragraph 1 - idea 1 (reasons, examples)

Body Paragraph 2 - idea 2 (reasons, examples)

Body Paragraph 3 - idea 3 (reasons, examples)

Conclusion: restate your thesis statement and what you had covered in your essay

Tips

- Use synonyms (money = wealth, riches, funds)
- Use signposting
- Use complex sentences (where, when, that)

Useful Phrases

Introduction:

- *Many/some people claim/ believe that...*
- *It is often said that...*
- *It is universally accepted that...*

Stance Expression:

- *My opinion is that...*
- *Personally speaking...*
- *In my view...*
- *I believe...*

Useful Phrases

Body Paragraph 1

- *First/ First of all/ Firstly/ First and foremost...*
- *Initially...*
- *To begin with/ To start with...*

Body Paragraph 2 & 3

- *Second(ly)/ Third(ly)...*
- *Then/ Next...*
- *Besides...*
- *Likewise...*
- *In addition...*
- *Consequently...*
- *What's more/ Furthermore/ Moreover...*

Useful Phrases

Contrast Vocabulary

- *On the other hand...*
- *On the contrary...*
- *However...*
- *Nevertheless.../ Nonetheless...*
- *Nonetheless/ Nevertheless...*
- *Oppositely...*
- *Alternatively...*
- *Unlike...*
- *While...*

Conclusion:

- *To sum up...*
- *To summarise...*
- *In conclusion...*

Things to avoid

- You, We
- Kindda (informal phrases)
- Acronyms (Common/Rare)
- Symbols such as “/, &” but %
- “Thank you for your attention, you should...”

Sample

Task

Space exploration is a luxury that we cannot afford. Instead of spending billions of dollars on space programs, governments should use this money to fight global problems such as poverty, disease, and climate change.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

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Introduction

Since the middle of the last century, governments have been investing large sums of money in space exploration programs.

Many people are in favour of these programs, because they see space exploration as exciting and full of potential. However, it is now becoming clear that space exploration programs are a waste of money. The money invested in space programs would be better spent on urgent problems at home, such as poverty, disease, and the environment.

Although we are living in prosperous times, with people in many countries enjoying a higher standard of living than ever before, there are still millions of people in the world who are living in **poverty**. These people do not care whether or not an astronaut is able to land on Mars. They need food, clean water, and a roof over their heads. It is unacceptable for governments to ignore this problem.

Another urgent problem that threatens the survival of us all is **disease**. The world's population is constantly at risk from epidemics such as SARS and bird flu. While these outbreaks have been controlled so far, experts say it is only a matter of time before a global pandemic occurs. Other diseases, such as AIDS and malaria, continue to kill millions every year. Governments should be allocating funds to fight these diseases, rather than wasting money on space exploration.

Finally, we have begun to see the effects of climate change around the world, with increasing reports of terrible droughts, storms, or floods. It is vital to protect our delicate **environment**. Instead of spending money on the exploration of new worlds, our governments should be working to save our own.

Conclusion

In conclusion, despite the attraction and excitement that space exploration offers, it is a luxury that we cannot afford. We must first solve some of the urgent problems here on this planet before exploring the rest of the universe.