1- People have different views of about the effectiveness of group study as opposed to working alone.

Effectiveness: more effective

As opposed to: instead of; rather than

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2- While there are some benefits to studying independently, I believe that group work is usually more productive.

Independently: alone

Productive: effective, producing or achieving a lot

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3- There are various reasons why offenders repeatedly break the law, but government could certainly take steps to address this issue.

Take steps to:

Address this issue: tackle the problem

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4- This lifestyle is prone to entail many health problems such as obesity and damaged eye-sight.

Entail: to involve something