Transport

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2015Accommodation and transport problems are increasing in many large cities. Businessesare encouraged to move to rural areas. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?The movement of organizations from urban areas to less-developed provinces is a solution to various municipal problems, but we cannot turn a blind eye to the shortcomings of this trend. The essay will clarify both sides of the coin, and demonstrate my view that thebenefits outweigh the drawbacks.

On the one hand, it is absurd to say that an organization can easily move from a major city to the countryside without suffering any losses. A change in terms of position may cost a firm, for example, a reduction in the quality of its workforce. Not every employee is willing to resettle down in a faraway province, and they prefer seeking another career in the metropolis to maintain their current living standards. The enterprise, to handle such risk of brain drain, would have to hire local workers who are normally less competent. The expenses for their prerequisite training courses are significant, but an improvement in their professional performance would still not be guaranteed.

On the other hand, I believe that the advantages of this scenario are more important. Firstly, such relocation of organizations can reduce the population density in the urban areas. As a result, the influx of workers traveling in rush hours which causes traffic congestion would disappear. Secondly, the movement of companies’ headquarters makes way for the construction of more residential areas, so the citizens would no longer have to live in narrow houses and apartments anymore. Finally, factories carry along with them modern production lines to the suburban areas, hence the rural population might have access to such cutting-edge technological advancements, which have been by no means close to them ever.

In conclusion, I believe that governments should encourage companies to move to rural  
areas because of the mentioned considerable benefits.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

• Municipal: Relating to a town or district or its governing body  
Example: national and municipal elections, municipal offices.

• Shortcoming: A fault or failure to meet a certain standard, typically in a person’s  
character, a plan, or a system  
Example: he discussed the shortcomings of his wife.

• Metropolis: The capital or chief city of a country or region, a very large and busy  
city  
Example: he preferred the peaceful life of the countryside to the bustle of themetropolis.

• Brain drain: The emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular  
country  
Example: a leading British team of chemists has joined the brain drain to the US

Competent: Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something  
successfully  
Example: a highly competent surgeon

• Prerequisite: Required as a prior condition  
Example: the student must have the prerequisite skills.

• Density: The degree of compactness of a substance

• Influx: An arrivial or entry of large numbers of people or things  
Example: a massive influx of tourists.

• Cutting-edge: Highly advanced and pioneering  
Example: cutting-edge technology

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2016Some people believe government should spend money on building train and subway linesto reduce traffic congestion. Others think that building more and wider roads is the betterway to reduce traffic congestion. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The methods of mitigating traffic congestion have been a heated topic of controversy. Some people argue that the construction of larger roads is the answer for the problem. However, I contend that such a solution is ineffective in the long term, while the option to construct railways and subways is a far better measure.

There is a common fallacy that governmental spending on building larger roads could  
sustainably address the problem of traffic congestion. An increase in road size could reduce the traffic intensity in the short term, but larger roads also mean that the citizens are encouraged to purchase more individual vehicles. This leads to the fact that the roads, albeit larger, would soon be filled with intense traffic again. For instance, traffic jams returned to Shanghai’s main streets not long after they were expanded in the early 1990s. In brief, if this solution is implemented, traffic jams would still persist in the long run.

Rail and subway systems, however, could ensure that traffic congestion is properly  
addressed. Unlike cars and buses, trains are capable of transporting hundreds of people  
simultaneously and thus would meet the transport demand of a vast number of passengers. Moreover, trains do not have to go through intersections and traffic lights, and dedicated lines ensure their travel is hardly interrupted. In other words, trains are always on time regardless of the level of traffic. This level of punctuality would encourage many people to choose railways and subways as their primary means of transport, and the number of individuals vehicles would decrease accordingly. As a result, traffic congestion could be tackled successfully.

The existing data provides a concrete foundation to conclude that building more and larger roads in an unsustainable measure, while train and subway lines would be a much more effective solution for the problem of traffic congestion.

Useful words and phrases:

• Mitigate: To mitigate something means to make it less unpleasant, serious, orpainful. (FORMAL) ...ways of mitigating the effects of an explosion...

• Ineffective: If you say that something is ineffective, you mean that it has no effecton a process or situation.

Economic reform will continue to be painful andineffective...

• Measure: When someone, usually a government or other authority, takesmeasures to do something, they carry out particular actions in order to achievea particular result. (FORMAL) The government warned that police would taketougher measures to contain the trouble...

• Sustainable: You use sustainable to describe the use of natural resources whenthis use is kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment. Tryto buy wood that you know has come from a sustainable source.

• Intensity: Intensity is used to describe something that is very great or extremein strength or degree. The attack was anticipated but its intensity came as ashock.

• Albeit: You use albeit to introduce a fact or comment which reduces the forceor significance of what you have just said. (FORMAL). Charles's letter wasindeed published, albeit in a somewhat abbreviated form.

• Persist: If something undesirable persists, it continues to exist. Contact yourdoctor if the cough persists...

• Demand: If you demand something such as information or action, you ask for itin a very forceful way. Mr Byers last night demanded an immediate explanationfrom the Education Secretary...• Intersection: An intersection is a place where roads or other lines meet or cross.  
...at the intersection of two main canals.

• Dedicated: You use dedicated to describe something that is made, built, ordesigned for one particular purpose or thing. Such areas should also be servedby dedicated cycle routes.

• Interrupt: If someone or something interrupts a process or activity, they stop itfor a period of time. He has rightly interrupted his holiday in Spain to return toLondon...

• Punctuality: doing something or arrive somewhere at the right time and are notlate.I'll have to have a word with them about punctuality.