***Writing Task 2 workbook***

**Today the high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising and not the real needs of the society in which they are sold.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

**Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.**

**Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.**

**Some people believe that visitors to other countries should follow local customs and behaviour. Others disagree and think that the host country should welcome cultural differences.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion**

**Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents, for instance for sport or music, and others are not. However, it is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**As most people spend a major part of their adult life at work, job satisfaction is an important element of individual wellbeing.**

**What factors contribute to job satisfaction?**

**How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction for all workers?**

**Some people believe that there should be fixed punishments for each type of crime. Other, however, argue that the circumstances of an individual crime, and the motivation for committing it, should always be taken into account when deciding on the punishment.**

**Discuss both these views and give your opinion.**

**Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to give access to knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the course is useful to an employer.**

**What, in your opinion, should be the main function of a university?**

**Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of the society. Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this.**

**Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

**Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?**

**Increasing the price of petrol is the best way to solve growing traffic and pollution problems.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement?**

**In some countries, the average weight of people is increasing and their level of health and fitness is decreasing.**

**What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?**

**Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at primary school rather than secondary school.**

**Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?**

**Some people believe that unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmers (for example working for a charity, improving the neighbourhood or teaching sports to younger children).**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

**Some people say that the best way to improve public health is by increasing the number of sports facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required.**

**Discuss both these views and give your opinion.**

**Every year several languages die out. Some people think that this is not important because life will be easier if there are fewer languages in the world.**

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

**It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction.**

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

**What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behaviour to children?**

**Some people think that all university students should study whatever they like. Others believe that they should only be allowed to study subjects that will be useful in the future, such as those related to science and technology.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion**

**Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world. Is it a positive or negative development?**

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

**Many museums charge for admission while others are free. Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museums outweigh the disadvantages?**

**Governments should spend money on railways rather than roads.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

**Some people claim that not enough of the waste from homes is recycled. They say that the only way to increase recycling is for governments to make it a legal requirement.**

**To what extent do you think laws are needed to make people recycle more of their waste?**

**Some people say that the only reason for learning a foreign language is in order to travel to or work in a foreign country. Others say that these are not the only reasons why someone should learn a foreign language.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Many governments think that economic progress is their most important goal. Some people, however, think that other types of progress are equally important for a country.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion**

**Some people believe that it is good to share as much information as possible in scientific research, business and the academic world. Others believe that some information is too important or too valuable to be shared freely.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**At the present time, the population of some countries includes a relatively large number of young adults, compared with the number of older people. Do the advantages of this situation outweigh the disadvantages?**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**In a number of countries, some people think it is necessary to spend large sums of money on constructing new railway lines for very fast trains between cities. Others believe the money should be spent on improving existing public transport.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Some people believe that allowing children to make their own choices on everyday matters (such as food, clothes and entertainment) is likely to result in a society of individuals who only think about their own wishes. Other people believe that it is important for children to make decisions about matters that affect them.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**