

Grade 9 Article

0 5

'Our addiction to cheap clothes and fast fashion means young people in poorer countries have to work in terrible conditions to make them. We must change our attitude to buying clothes now.'

Write an article for a magazine or website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

You are advised to plan your answer to Question 5 before you start to write.

Based on the 2021 Paper

Plan:

'Our addiction to cheap clothes and fast fashion means young people in poorer countries have to work in terrible conditions to make them. We must change our attitude to buying clothes now.'

Addiction to cheap clothes

Mindlessly buying these unethical clothes-avariciousness

Cheap = exploitation. Support local businesses

Audience:
Young adults, can be slightly more informal as it is for a magazine.

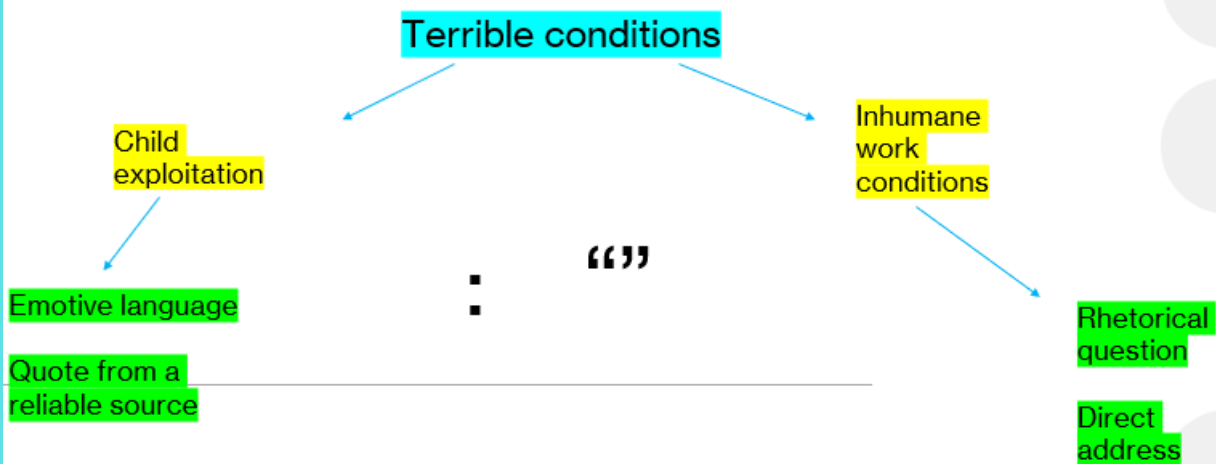
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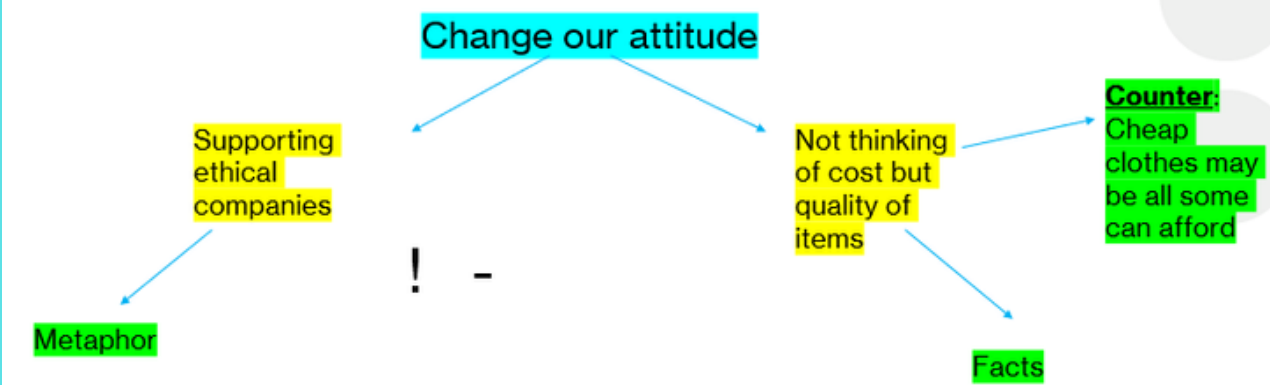
Repetition

Anecdote

‘Our addiction to cheap clothes and fast fashion means young people in poorer countries have to work in terrible conditions to make them. We must change our attitude to buying clothes now.’



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Exploitative, dehumanising and degrading.

This is what children are exposed too during the production of cheap manufactured goods. The world is evolving and growing at an immense rate, money is forever multiplying, the population is growing, and our awareness of the violation of human rights is too. Yet, we are inclined to pick up a t-shirt (that we will probably wear once) for £1.99 in a black Friday sale without any regard to how the company is managing to profit of this miniscule mark up.

Child exploitation is the answer.

Addiction: we are addicted to cheap items of fashion. In a world of abundance, people are more frugal than ever. Granted, the cost of living is immense, however our expenditure of our hard-earned income on these unethical cheap clothes is mammoth. It is as if society is wearing an irremovable blindfold that prohibits them from seeing the belligerent conditions these children endure. Instead, individuals are driven by their avariciousness and want to impress others with their vast amounts of materialistic goods; people buy endless cheap materialism mindlessly. When individuals start recognising cheap goods is synonymous with exploitation, then we will see change.

The answer: support local businesses. A woman based in Brighton created a stall during lockdown, handing out pamphlets on this matter and how it links to child exploitation. She compared people's hopelessness with being stuck in their luxurious houses, to the hopelessness of the children being stuck in these treacherous factories. Luckily, within laws in the UK, child labour is illegal and a criminal offence. Thus, supporting of local businesses ensures that children are unable to work in horrific conditions, whilst also giving back to your community. A win win.

Exploitative, dehumanising and degrading. Would you want to be responsible for this?

Exploitation: children are exploited in exchange for cheap manufacturing. Young innocent children, exploited in the squalor of their local factory, working in inhumane conditions. Their diminutive wage barely covering the food they need for that evening. Hazards and dangerous equipment cascading their workplace: this is their bleak reality. Ceaselessly these innocent children work, just to provide the western world with cheap clothes that they go and ignorantly purchase on their lunchbreak. The head of the NSPCC, Joan Butler, provides a solution to this nightmare: "To save the struggling children of today, more stringent laws need to be put in place in these countries. As this is a long process, an immediate change that can be made is being cautious of cheap-fast fashion.". This is not their problem; it is our problem. Your problem. My problem.

Change: change is imminent when we see the damage of these cheap goods and actively stand against them. An abundance of companies are standing against this pressing issue, so in order to actively make a stand, you can check out www.saveourchildrenfromexploitation.com for a list of companies who do not endorse these terrible conditions for children- these companies are Godsend and should be continually supported.

Undeniably, it cannot be dismissed that cheap items of clothes are only accessible to individuals who are struggling financially. However, a variety of ethical shops surround us that do not involve child labour. Charity shops! What better way to support local businesses, charity and stand against child exploitation. Charity shops reduce child labour within the fast fashion industry by 23%. That is 23% of children you are saving by shopping there.

Addiction to cheap clothes is reversible, the damage to children is not. Change is within our grasp; charity shops and other local businesses make this possible. We must change our attitudes.

Exploitative, dehumanising and degrading. These conditions must be stopped. We must stop them.