

1. LESSON 1: Task Response

Wrap-up:

- Answer the question (or questions) fully
- Avoid simply listing ideas
- Avoid generalization

2. LESSON 2: Cohesion and Coherence

3. LESSON 3: Vocab

4. LESSON 4: Grammar

Writing an essay - Necessary structures:

- If S + V, S + V (were sth to + V/ Had + S + Vpp2)
- By + Ving, S + V
- In order to + V, S + V

Reason:

- Because/ As/ Since + S + V, S + V
- Because/ As/ Since university education is very expensive, poor people can not pursue it.
- Given = Considering + N/ Given that + S + V, S + V
- Given = Considering the unaffordability of university education, poor people can not pursue it
- This is because ...
- Due to/ Thanks to ...
- With ... For example:
- If higher education were free, poor people could get a degree, leading to higher chances of employment.
- By providing free higher education, the government could allow poor people to get a degree, leading to higher chances of employment for these people.
- Because poor people cannot find a good job due to their low education levels, the provision of free tertiary education could enhance their chances of employment.
- Given poor people's difficulty in finding a job due to their low education levels, the provision of free tertiary education could enhance their chances of employment.
- In order to provide free education, the government would have to reallocate resources from other important areas such as healthcare and infrastructure. This would have negative impacts on the well-being of citizens and the economy of the country
- Although a free system could help the poor, it would negatively affect the people and the economy of the country
- Instead of
- Nominalization

Necessary words/ phrases:

- Allow/ help/ enable
- Result in/ lead to
- Affect/ have a positive/ negative impact on sth/ so
- ... , which
- This
- These
- Such

Paragraph structure:

- **There are compelling reasons to argue that** homework does play an important role in a child's learning process. **The key reason is that** *since* children are challenged to work through tasks alone and at their own pace, homework encourages independent learning and *helps* them foster a strong work ethic. *These* virtues that can *allow* them to succeed when they are adults. **Furthermore**, by giving students homework, teachers can make sure that child's after-school hours are at least spent on something worthwhile. Otherwise, perhaps addiction to frivolous activities like gaming or TV is unavoidable, which affects both their well-being and their performance at school.

5. LESSON 5: 3 types of paragraph - 1 idea

Topic sentence → Explanation → Example → Discuss → Link

Topic: The media should include more stories which report good news. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Firstly, the so-called bad news can be beneficial. This is because it can alarm the public of existing and looming problems in their communities. Take, for example, a piece of news on a tragic traffic accident in which a family of 4 lost their lives because the father was driving under the influence of alcohol. Undoubtedly, if people are constantly exposed to this kind of news, they are much more likely to avoid drunk driving or try to dissuade their drunk friends from driving. Therefore, by reporting tragic deaths caused by dangerous driving, or causes of cold-blooded murderers, media companies can help the general public avoid countless problems in life.
- To add further credence to my assertion, I note the negative impact on the media industry if they tried to include more positive stories. In my view, since most people are predisposed to reading shocking news about robbery, embezzlement, or the downfall of a certain business, this tendency renders good news unattractive, regardless of how meaningful a piece of news might be. Consider *Song Dep*, which was a Vietnamese TV show reporting only

inspiring stories about people who maintain a positive outlook on life even in the face of adversity. Due to the failure to attract viewers, this show had been closed after only 2 months since the day it was aired. Thus, the news industry should continue its practice to ensure its profitability.

Topic sentence → Example ... → Link

Topic: The news media has too much influence in people's lives today and this is a negative development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Firstly, the power to manipulate people's opinion of the news media is evident. Take, for example, Hoang Son, who committed a mass murder against his own family. However, after he turned himself in and gave his testimony, countless articles started sharing about him being sexually assaulted as a child by his own father. He is believed to have been suffering from PTSD ever since. This, coupled with being pressured by his brother into giving up his rights to his family's inheritance, forced him to commit such an abhorrent act. With the media depicting him as the victim, a large section of the public empathized with his heinous act, directing their criticism towards the deaths. This example clearly underlines how much influence the media has on people's lives.
- The media's ability to manipulate public opinion is very damaging to society. Consider the infamous 2016 genocide in Cambodia, during which over 100,000 people were woefully killed on the basis of race. Facebook, on which certain people with certain religions and interests can be targeted easily, was used by the leaders of the two parties involved to induce and spread violence and provoke conflicts. Undoubtedly, due to geographical constraints, propagating certain beliefs among a population used to take years or even decades in the past. However, thousands or even millions of people now could be affected by a piece of news almost at the same time. This makes the media an extremely powerful and dangerous weapon.

Contrast:

Topic: Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Firstly, reading stories undoubtedly helps children enrich their language ability, which has been proven to help absorb knowledge better. Of course, one might argue that when young people watch TV shows or movies, they can also learn new words, expressions and grammar structures. However, spoken language is not as diverse as written language. As for gaming, those playing computer games may be asked to read a text to know what they need to do to win or what their next mission is. Nevertheless, the text only revolves around the context of

the game, which does not expose young gamers to as many aspects of life as stories do.

- In addition, reading fairy tales or fictional or even real-life stories allows children to have better imagination. This is because when reading, they have to conjure up images of, say, a wondrous world, or a homeless person's suffering or joyous moments on their own. This can boost their creativity in ways that watching TV and playing digital games cannot. To be specific, when watching a certain TV program, which is the product of someone else's imagination, children only observe what is happening on the screen, which does not require them to think at all. Similarly, in order to win, gamers do need to use different tactics and strategies, but these tend to be the fruit of their experience rather than creativity.

6. LESSON 6: 2 ideas

Topic sentence → Supporting 1 → Discuss (Example/ Result/ Discussion/ Reason/ Contrast) → Supporting 2 → Discuss

Topic: The media should include more stories which report good news. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Admittedly, there are good reasons to say that the press should include more good news. the key argument here is that reading positive pieces of news allows people to have a more positive outlook on life. By reading news about successful entrepreneurs who thrive in the face of adversity, readers of news can learn to persevere and stay positive during tough times. Furthermore, exposure to positive, emotional stories helps people connect and empathize with others, fostering stronger social bonds. People living in such a milieu are more likely to help each other, which is a clear benefit for everyone.
- However, there are stronger reasons to believe that the news industry should continue to report the most news-worthy stories. Chief of these is that the domination of bad news can allow the public become cognizant of existing and looming problems in their communities. For example, by reporting tragic deaths caused by dangerous driving, or cases of cold-blooded murderers, media companies can help people avoid these problems in their life. In addition, since most people are predisposed to reading shocking news about robbery, embezzlement, or the downfall of a certain business, this tendency renders good news much less attractive. Thus, if a news company tried to report more good news, this would perhaps have a negative influence on its profitability.

Topic: The news media has too much influence in people's lives today and this is a negative development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- There are good reasons to say that the news industry exerts too much influence on the ordinary people's lives. Chief of these is that our conversations these days tend to revolved around what the news media reports. This can be seen in the way people primarily talk about trendy clothes, sports, celebrities or politics because these often receive extensive media coverage. Added to this is the fact that news reporters could manipulate public opinion. For example, if a certain fact from a story is omitted, readers are left to wonder what actually happened or manipulated into thinking in a certain way.
- There are also compelling reasons to argue the increasing bearing the news media has is a worrying development. The key reason is that it can be used to propagate misleading information, which could subvert the stability of our society. We see this in the way some news companies capitalized on and normalized the dangers associated with Corona Virus, causing conflicts and many demonstrations against the stay-at-home order, which is issued to keep the safe. In addition, the influence of news companies may even be weaponized. For instance, leaders of two opposing parties in Cambodia used Facebook to induce and spread violence and provike conflicts that killed thousands of people in this country in 2016.

7. LESSON 7: Counter-argument

Point → Explain → Counter:

Topic: Some people say that we do not need printed newspaper anymore. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Granted, one might sargue that traditional newspapers are obsolete. This is predicated on the assumption that anyone with a mobile phone or a laptop with an access to the internet can easily keep abreast of what is happening in the world. However, this line of reasoning is not sound because it fails to factor in the unaffordability of the technological gadgets involved. Since a large number of people are still living under the poverty line, it is unreasonable to expect them to spend several hundreds of dollars on such devices and pay another amount every month to get access to online news. These people clearly rely on newspapers to find information about what is going on in their own communities and across the globe.

Topic: the best way to solve world's environmental problem is to increase the cost of fuel. Do you agree or disagree?

- Of course, one might argue that increasing the prices of fuel could help solve environmental issues. This is predicated on the assumption that such a measure would force some people, especially money-conscious ones, to give up their private vehicles for public transport. This, according to this theory, ultimately

results in less fuel being consumed and lower levels of toxic gases being released into the air. However, this line of reasoning is not sound because the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by personal vehicles is negligible, compared to that of industrial plants or even cow farts. This very fact renders the effects of increasing the price of petrol on the environment insignificant.

Topic sentence → Explain → Acknowledge → Counter

Topic: Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later, and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Firstly, teenagers are more likely to accept advice from someone who can speak from experience. Reformed offenders can tell young people about how they become involved in crime, the dangers of a criminal lifestyle, and what life in prison is really like. The vivid and perhaps shocking nature of these stories is likely to have a powerful impact on young people. Granted, one might argue that adolescents, who are still impressionable, might idolize ex-criminals and try to imitate their crimes. However, after hearing about how much suffering they and their loved-ones experienced when they were serving a prison term, as we see, for example, in cases where convicts are not allowed to visit their dying family members, I doubt that anyone would choose to go down the criminal path.

8. LESSON 8: Big no-nos in IELTS Writing Task 2

- Không viết tắt
- Không viết câu dài > 40 chữ
- Không viết 3, 4 câu đơn ngắn cạnh nhau
- Không viết mở bài, kết bài quá dài
- Không viết ideas ra xong để đấy
- Không viết ideas 1 đằng, kết luận 1 nẻo
- Không viết câu thiếu động từ
- Không được thiếu mở bài và kết luận
- Không gộp 2 khổ thân bài làm 1
- Không sau lỗi song song khi liệt kê (a, b, c → a, b and/ or C)
- Không dùng ... / hoặc etc
- Không dùng từ quá informal/ idioms
- Không dùng FANBOYS đầu câu

9. LESSON 9: Should

Topic: Education for young people is important in many countries. However, some people think that the government should spend more money on education for the adult population who cannot read and write. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Governments around the world justifiably focus their resources on the education of younger generations. However, the staggering high number of illiterate adults in even arguably the most developed nations such as the US has heightened public interest in whether more money should be spent on helping those people learn to read and write. I strongly believe that this is a worthwhile endeavor as it benefits not only the recipients but also the country as a whole.
- Firstly, since adults who are not able to read and write are faced with tremendous difficulties in both personal and professional life, literacy courses provide them with necessary knowledge and skills to overcome such problems. For example, participants of these classes will no longer feel helpless when they need to read a piece of story for their children before bed or write an email for their friends. Similarly, they will no longer be deprived of promotion opportunities at work solely on the basis of their literacy skills, or the lack thereof. The provision of adult education, thus, liberates individuals with low-literacy levels and empowers them to succeed both personally and professionally.
- Besides this, countries deciding to invest more in adult education will also reap financial rewards. This is because a better educated workforce can act as a precursor to fostering economic growth, as seen in countries such as Vietnam, where a casual link was found in the crusade to eradicate illiteracy and economic development. Furthermore, since literate parents are repeatedly found to be better at rearing their children, investing in adult education will produce better-raised children. The corollary of this investment would be a sustainable economy and a better society.
- In conclusion, giving access to education for illiterate adults is a sensible and economically sound initiative and therefore should be adopted more widely.

Some should and some should not

Topic: Some people argue that there is no point in preserving old buildings when land is so valuable in our cities. Others believe that old buildings are an important part of our heritage and should be preserved. Discuss both views and state your opinion.

- Opinions are divided on whether old buildings should be preserved or demolished to make room for more accommodation or commercial developments. I believe that the decision depends on the special circumstances of each one.

- In areas where more housing is needed, many old structures are not worth keeping because they either lack interest, or are dangerous. With regard to their historic value, many of them are not interesting architecturally or historically, and neither are they unique any way. Another reason for replacing them is that they may be dangerous, damp, or in other ways unsuitable for modern cities, and for this reason local people could benefit from new, purpose-built accommodation. In some cities, housing in the central areas is prohibitively expensive, so new constructions will reduce the living costs to ordinary people.
- However, even though many old buildings are of no value, as seen above, there are others that are worth preserving for their historic or architectural interest. A good example of this in Vietnam is the Royal Palace in Hue, which no one would dream of destroying because as well as being of great historic importance, it is also a magnet for tourists. Another important building is Ho Chi Minh's house in the center of Hanoi. This, although it may not be important for its architecture, is of great value as a historic artefact for the local people. These structures should be preserved and maintained for their cultural value, regardless of the financial value of the land they lie on.
- In conclusion, although there are many buildings that must be kept for their cultural or historic value, others should be replaced by housing or other developments.

Seems 'shouldn't', but 'should'

Topic: New parents should attend parenting courses to ensure the growth of their children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Of all the worries young couples often have, perhaps the most incessant one is about whether they are prepared to raise their children. This has led some to believe that newly-wed couples should attend parenthood preparation courses to best rear their children, and I personally think that there is little to disagree with in this observation.
- Granted, one might argue that it is unnecessary for young married couples to take parental lessons to learn childcare skills. This is predicated on the assumption that we can gain these skills from our older family members, such as our parents and grandparents. According to this theory, our ancestors have done this for thousands of years without any formal support or the intervention of a taught course. In addition, what works on a child may not work on others, so perhaps it is better for adults to get to know their own children. By observing and trying different strategies, good parents will gradually develop a parenting method that best facilitates the development of their children.

- However, this line of reasoning is not sound since many arguably traditional child-rearing practices are scientifically proven to be detrimental. Newborn babies in Vietnam, for example, are often kept away from the sunlight during their first month because this is believed to boost their immune system, while the opposite is the case. Thus, parenting courses are an ideal vehicle to dispel such misconceptions. Although it is true that we can now read books or online articles about parenting, there is no way to verify the information. By contrast, young parents can learn from real experts in childcare when they participate in parental courses.
- In conclusion, to ensure the growth of their offspring, newly married parents should set aside some time to attend parental training courses because such courses help prospective parents avoid unorthodox and potentially harmful practices, and unnecessary risks when raising their children

10. LESSON 10: The only way

No

Topic: The only way to improve safety of our roads is to give much stricter punishments for driving offences. What extent do you agree or disagree?

- Given the increasing rates of deaths caused by traffic accidents, many people believe that only by implementing stricter traffic laws can the safety of our roads be more improved. However, in this essay I will challenge this school of thought.
- Granted, stricter punishment for traffic violations may improve road safety to a certain extent. For example, those found running the red lights, driving recklessly or speeding would have to pay hefty fines; and those found driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs would have their driving license suspended or even be sentenced to jail. These punitive measures may deter road-users from committing traffic offences, leading to fewer accidents.
- However, this only works if people are made aware of these changes. This requires a more fundamental approach, which is to make people apprised/cognizant of traffic laws in the first place. This can be done by making driving tests harder: both written and drive tests must be more difficult so that only those knowing how to drive safely are allowed on the roads. People should also be required to retake driving tests once every two years to reinforce their understanding of traffic laws and learn about the new regulations in effect. These steps would even render imposing harsher punishments unnecessary, given how severe most punishments for traffic offences already are.
- Furthermore, to say that more stringent punishments are key to enhancing road safety is to ignore environmental factors causing traffic accidents. Evidence indicates that an overwhelming number of tragic deaths are caused by subpar

roads, blind spots or insufficient numbers of road signs. Furthermore, road safety can certainly be improved by repairing potholes or widening narrow roads, removing objects or overgrown plants that hinder drivers' sight, and setting up more road signs.

- In conclusion, enforcing stricter punishments for driving offences may work to a certain degree but is by no means the only way to improve the safety of road-users. Other viable/ feasible measures include forcing people to undergo more training and demonstrate sufficient understanding of accepted behaviors on the roads before they are allowed to drive and improving road conditions.

Yes

Topic: Some people say that economic growth is the only way to end hunger and poverty, while others say that economic growth is damaging the environment so it should be stopped. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

- Economic development is seemingly achieved at the cost of the environment. This has led some to propose that governments should halt economic growth, but many people posit it as the only panacea for starvation and poverty. My stance is that economic advancement is not entirely to balance for environmental problems and that it plays a key role in alleviating world hunger and breaking the vicious circle of poverty.
- Admittedly, there is empirical evidence suggesting how much harm countries thriving economically are doing to the environment. This can be seen in the disappearance of natural habitats due to deforestation, the extinction of many animal species due to poaching, and pollution of various kinds due to industrial and agricultural waste. Such problems, however, are fundamentally caused by maladroit governments that either overlook the repercussions of their inaction or condone pernicious human activities because of short-term economic incentives. Thus, the environment could still be protected if governments around the world strove for economic sustainability.
- I am convinced that growth in global wealth is the only way to eradicate hunger and poverty. The former problem can be remedied by providing those living in destitute regions with food and shelter, but this provision is not financially viable without economic progress. Furthermore, a successful economy invariably engenders more job opportunities, hence allowing more economically disadvantaged people to feed themselves and their families. Nevertheless, the lack of important knowledge areas or employability skills confines poor people to a small number of jobs. In order to holistically curb this problem, countries have to allocate more funding to education, for example in the form of educational facilities in less well-off neighborhoods and free

vocational courses for underemployed and unemployed adults. Again, without sufficient funds, this capital allocation is impossible.

- In conclusion, economic development does not necessarily exclude the protection of the environment and vice versa, provided that governments rigorously circumscribe detrimental economics activities. Thus, the promotion of economic growth should be embraced because it is the only way to tackle starvation and poverty.

11. LESSON 11 - The best/ the most

No

Topic: The best way to solve world's environmental problem is to increase the cost of fuel. do you agree or disagree?

- Some people believe that increasing the cost of gasoline is the best way to address environmental problems. In this essay, however, I will challenge this school of thought.
- Of course, one might argue that increasing the prices of fuel could help solve environmental issues. This is predicated on the assumption that such a measure would force some people, especially money-conscious ones, to give up their private vehicles for public transport. This, according to this theory, ultimately results in less fuel being consumed and lower levels of toxic gases being released into the air. However, this line of reasoning is not sound because the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by personal vehicles is negligible, compared to that of industrial plants or even cow farts. This very fact renders the effects of increasing the price of petrol on the environment insignificant.
- To add further credence to my assertion, I note the root cause of most serious environmental issues: our energy-hungry lifestyles. For example, the accelerated depletion of natural resources that are used to produce electricity. by the machines can be attributed to the insatiable thirst for energy of mankind. By the very same token, global warming and pollution, arguably the two most severe environmental problems, are the dreadful knock-on effects stemming from humans excessively consuming energy. Thus, the key to solving the world's environmental problems is to find alternative sources of energy. This could be done by exploiting solar, wind and tidal power, all of which are unlimited and clean sources of energy that are largely underdeveloped.
- In conclusion, it is a mistake to assume that increasing the price of fuel is the best way to alleviate problems posed to the environment because the key to solving these issues is to develop renewable energy.

Yes

Topic: Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later, and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- It is true that ex-prisoners can become normal, productive member of society. I agree that allowing such people to speak to teenagers about their experience is the best way to discourage them from breaking the law
- Firstly, teenagers are more likely to accept advice from someone who can speak from experience. Reformed offenders can tell young people about how they become involved in crime, the dangers of a criminal lifestyle, and what life in prison is really like. The vivid and perhaps shocking nature of these stories is likely to have a powerful impact on young people. Granted, one might argue that adolescents, who are still impressionable, might idolize ex-criminals and try to imitate their crimes. However, after hearing about how much suffering they and their loved-ones experienced when they were serving a prison term, as we see, for example, in cases where convicts are not allowed to visit their dying family members, I doubt that anyone would choose to go down the criminal path.
- Secondly, the alternatives to using reformed criminals to educate teenagers about crime would be much less effective. One option would be for police officers to visit schools and talk to young people. This could be useful in terms of informing teens about what happens to lawbreakers when they are caught, but young people are often reluctant to take advice from figures of authority. A second option would be for school teachers to speak to their students about crime, but I doubt that students would see teachers as credible sources of information about this topic. Finally, although educational films might be informative, there would be no opportunity for young people to interact and ask questions.
- In conclusion, those who have turned their lives around after serving a prison sentence are the best people to talk to teenagers about why they should not commit crime.

12. LESSON 12: Each is better for a certain group

Each is better for a certain group

Topic: It is better for people to be unemployed than people to be employed by they do not enjoy the job. Do you agree or disagree?

- There is an opinion that people are better off being out of work rather than doing a boring job. Personally, I believe that this idea is only relevant to individuals with financial means, who can afford to stay at home until they find a satisfying job. For the vast majority of people, it is more rewarding to do any job, even one that they do not enjoy.

- Granted, many people said that they felt liberated after they had decided to quit their boring job. They found that they had more time for family and personal interests, and so their mental health improved significantly; they also had the time to learn the skills and knowledge needed for the job that they always wanted. However, this option is only available to/ for people who either are well-off or have accrued a large enough amount of wealth to sustain their lives during the unemployment period. Most of us, on the other hand, have little option but to work whatever job available to provide for ourselves and our families, regardless of how dissatisfying it might be.
- Besides being free of monetary worries, no matter how boring the job is, working confers helps workers cultivate the ability to endure negative feelings, which is a desirable trait as we should not base our decisions on our emotions alone. Furthermore, each and every job requires the job-holder to perform certain tasks and work with his/her colleagues, and this enables people to learn the associated skills and expand their social network. These skill sets and contacts might come in useful in the future when they apply for a more fulfilling job.
- In conclusion, the decision to stay unemployed rather than to work the job they dislike should depend on people's financial situation. It is a good option for those who can subsist their lives and make good use of their unemployment time. However, most people benefit more if they work, even though they cannot derive much satisfaction from their job.

A better than B (more ...)

Topic: Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- There is an opinion that children benefit more if they read books rather than playing video games or watching TV programs. Personally, I agree with this view for several reasons.
- Firstly, reading stories undoubtedly helps children enrich their language ability, which has been proven to help them absorb knowledge better. Of course, one might argue that when young people watch TV shows or movies, they can also learn new words, expressions and grammar structures. However, spoken language is not as diverse as written language. As for gaming, those playing computer games may be asked to read a text to know what they need to do to win or what their next mission is. Nevertheless, the text only revolves around the context of the game, which does not expose young gamers to as many aspects of life as stories do.
- In addition, reading fairy tales or fictional or even real-life stories allows children to have better imagination. This is because when reading, they have to

conjure up images of, say, a wondrous world, or a homeless person's suffering or joyous moments on their own. This can boost their creativity in ways that watching TV or playing digital games cannot. To be specific, when watching a certain TV program, which is the product of someone else's imagination, children only observe what is happening on the screen, which does not require them to think at all. Similarly, in order to win, gamers do need to use different tactics and strategies, but these tend to be the fruit of their experience rather than creativity.

- In conclusion, reading stories is superior because it enables children to have better language skills and promotes creative thinking skills. These benefits are not as pronounced or even not found in playing video games or watching TV.

Not necessarily better

Topic: Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- There is an opinion that children benefit more if they read books rather than playing video games or watching TV programs. Personally, I disagree with this view, for these activities allow children to gain different skills and broaden their understanding in different aspects of life.
- There are good reasons to say that reading stories is more beneficial to children than playing computer games or watching TV. The key reason is that reading undoubtedly helps children enrich their vocabulary, which, in turn, enhances their ability to absorb knowledge. As a result, they are likely to have a strong academic performance in the future. In addition, reading stories allow children to have better imagination since they have to conjure up images on their own. This can boost their creativity, which is a buffer against unemployment in today's workplace, where automation is terminating countless jobs in various industries.
- There are stronger reasons to argue that reading stories is not necessarily better than gaming or watching TV. The most important reason is that when children play computer games, they need to constantly think of strategies to win. This has a positive impact on their decision-making skills. Furthermore, since most programs on TV confer certain educational values, children can learn that which is not featured in children's stories. For example, by watching a documentary call 'the Planet Earth', viewers can have intimate knowledge about how wild animals live and hunt and how we are polluting the environment. These things are rarely included in any stories found in children's books.

- In conclusion, I disagree with the idea that reading books is better for children than playing computer games or watching TV. This is because each of these pastimes teaches children different important skills and areas of knowledge.

A vs B (both)

Topic: Some people think that schools should reward students with the best academic results, while other believe it is more important to reward students who show improvement. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

- Schools have always tried to incentivize their students to study harder. Although this can be achieved by rewarding students who excel in their studies, I believe that those who make progress should also be rewarded.
- Admittedly, there are justifiable reasons to believe that elite students should be rewarded exclusively. Chief of these is that since they have diligently applied themselves to their studies, they deserve the praises and privileges. This may encourage these students and others to study harder to win the rewards, propelling overall academic gains. Added to this is the fact that this kind of competition is seen in almost every aspect of life where only the best individuals are rewarded. If students are used to this reality and thrive in the face of fierce competition, this will enable them to achieve success in later life.
- However, there are more compelling reasons to say that schools should also reward students who show improvements. The key reason is that only a few smart students can come first and receive the rewards. This unequivocally causes others to think that their effort is to no avail because they cannot surpass those outstanding individuals. As a result, they are prone to feeling overwhelmed and disheartened and gradually lose the incentive to study. Furthermore, emphasizing improvement not only encourages all students to be diligent in their studies, but also helps students understand that they need to constantly improve themselves, irrespective of how well they have been or are performing. The constant desire to outdo themselves surely benefits them more than the competitive determination to win against all others.
- In conclusion, even though it is arguably just to reward top students exclusively, schools should do this in tandem with rewarding those who show signs of improvement. This way, every student, those with best performance included, is motivated to exert themselves harder.

13. LESSON 13: ... A and B ...

Topic: Some people believe that to protect local culture, tourism should be banned in some areas whereas others think that change is inevitable and banning tourism will have no benefits. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

- Of all the truisms about tourism, perhaps one of the truest is that it empowers people of different cultures to interact, learn, and evolve. Although this has led some to worry about local culture disappearing as a result of such interaction, my stance is that any kind of restriction or ban on tourism would not only fail to protect local culture, but also yield no benefits whatsoever.
- Granted, one might argue that by banning tourist activities in certain places, the traditions and cultures in these areas can be preserved. This predicated on the assumption that with the presence of foreign travelers, native people will be affected by other cultures, ways of life and languages. According to this theory, local people may start to reject their own way of life and beliefs to adopt more exotic ones, thinking that these are more enlightened and modern. Without such interaction, perhaps they would not compare their traditional values to others'. hence preserving the historic and culturally unique traditions, customs and practices of their area.
- However, this line of reasoning is not sound because the widespread use of the internet exposes people to foreign mores, mindsets and values regardless. This means that changes in different facets of life are inexorable and a form of indoctrination would ensue if the authorities decided to take away their citizens' chance to learn by deliberately restricting their access to the world. The corollary of this control would be the loss of critical thinking, which subsequently would have stultifying effects on the progress of a society. Furthermore, since tourism is a lucrative industry that also employs lots of people, a ban on this industry would result in huge job and economic losses.
- In conclusion, prohibiting tourist activities for the sake of local culture is an unwise proposal. This is because it is pointless to try to stop change and such a ban would upset the equilibrium of the local economy and cause hardship for local people whose living depends on the influx of holidaymakers.

Topic: Some say that news has no connection with most people's lives, and it is waste of time for most of us to read newspaper and watch television news programs. Do you agree or disagree?

- There is an opinion that news is detached to an average person's life, and people simply waste time on reading and watching news. In this essay, however, I will challenge this school of thought.
- Most news is related to people's lives on a certain level. Consider the US 2020 presidential election, which seemingly has no connection with a Vietnamese person. However, who is going to be president-elect is a hotly debated topic among the Vietnamese population due to the potential laws enacted in the future. The economic war between China and the US during the Trump administration has weakened the Chinese economy and the Chinese

government has stopped most aggressive military actions in the Southeast sea, a large area of which is rightfully in Vietnamese water. If the incumbent president gets reelected, Vietnamese people can hope that the Chinese government's aggression will be curbed, and this affects Vietnamese people's lives. Therefore, it is unreasonable to say that news is fundamentally disconnected with people's lives.

- It is also wrong to say that people essentially waste time reading newspapers or watching news channels. This is because these activities help people avoid potential problems and allow them to gain insights into many aspects of life. As for the former, if one watches news about tragic car accident caused by drunk driving, he or she is likely to avoid such a driving behavior and dissuade their drunk friends from driving themselves home. In addition, many pieces of news can come in useful in the future. For example, after reading about the contagiousness of the Covid-19, my mother set up a factory manufacturing face masks and made a fortune.
- In conclusion, it is a mistake to say that news is unhelpful and that it is a waste of time to read news. This is because any event can directly or indirectly affect a person and knowing about it can help people avert the associated problems or gain certain opportunities.

14.LESSON 14: Advantages outweigh disadvantages - More benefits + address the problems

Topic: There are more workers working from home and more students studying from home. This is because computer technology is more and more easily accessible and cheaper. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

- The increasing affordability of modern technologies such as computers and smartphones has facilitated teleworking and virtual learning. As such, there has been a progressive increase in the number of remote workers and learners in many parts of the world. While the shift towards working and studying from home may cause some problems, the overall impact has been tremendously positive.
- Admittedly, the drawbacks of remote working and learning are evident. As for the former, teleworkers are more susceptible to psychological problems such as boredom and depression due to the lack of face-to-face interaction with their colleagues. In addition, adults who opt for working from home for childcare reasons tends to find it hard to concentrate on their work, hence lower productivity. Similar challenges are found in internet-based learning. Online lessons lack the element of competition that traditional classes offer, and there is inevitably less direct interaction between students and teachers. These factors

may negatively affect students' motivation to study, leading to lower academic results.

- Despite the negatives mentioned above, the benefits of the trend towards learning and working remotely are more significant. On an individual level, while distant learners can study whenever and wherever is convenient, teleworkers can still can take care of their children or elderly members and earn money at the same time. They also have complete freedom to design their learning and working environment to best suit their personal preferences and needs, enhancing their productivity and creativity. On a business level, institutions and companies allowing distant learning and remote working can reduce operation costs in the form of fewer classrooms and offices, and lower electricity bills.
- In conclusion, I believe that the advantages of the decision to study or work from home outstrip the disadvantages. This is provided that virtual learners and teleworkers eliminate possible distractions at home and socialize with their neighbors and friends so that their productivity and mental health are not affected.

Topic: Some people prefer to live alone. Others enjoy sharing a house with family or friends. Do advantages of living with others outweigh the disadvantages?

- It is widely acknowledged that we are living in an increasingly isolated world. Although some individuals claim to enjoy their somewhat solitary lifestyle, the vast majority of us would rather share our homes and our lives with others.
- The drawbacks of living with others are indeed in plain sight. Firstly, one's room-mates may behave in ways one finds annoying: they might play loud music, leave a mess in the kitchen or spend hours in the bathroom. However, with some tact and diplomacy, these issues can usually be overcome. Another apparent disadvantage of sharing is that one has to take other residents' wishes and opinions into account. Nevertheless, having to consider the needs of those one shares the apartment with, one probably becomes more sensitive, caring and a generally kinder and more likable person.
- Besides this, living with loved-ones or flatmates is healthier because it is essential that we have warm human contact and that we interact and share our experiences with fellow-humans. From a practical viewpoint, those who live with friends or family can save money by splitting utility bills, rent and food costs. They can also save time by dividing household chores such as cooking, dusting, washing up and ironing. Obviously, a house with more inhabitants is likely to be occupied more of the time and is therefore at reduced risk of burglary or break-in.

- In conclusion, while there are some drawbacks to living with others, for example in the form of frustration and having to make compromises, there are outstripped by the positives including better mental health, savings in money and time, and increased personal security.

More drawbacks and address the benefits

Topic: In some countries, some criminal trials in law courts are shown on television so that the general public can watch. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

- It is true the people in some countries can watch some criminal trials live on TV. While I acknowledge the benefits of this decision, they are outweighed by its problems.
- The advantages of televising trials on a casual basis are indeed in plain sight. Firstly, court shows, theoretically, were started with a view to informing adults, and children alike, of how the judicial system works. Obviously, the more knowledgeable one is about the criminal justice system, the less likely he or she is to commit an unlawful act. Reports have suggested that court shows are cost-effective ways the authorities use to enforce the law and deal with the escalating crime rate, as the information provided in the show can deter would-be offenders. Secondly, since most citizens have doubts about the effectiveness of their countries' justice system, televised trials are perhaps a way to allow more transparency into the judicial branch of the government.
- Despite the positives mentioned above, the negative ramifications of allowing cameras in the courtroom are far more significant. Flashing lights and camera lens may put the judge, who must always be of sound mind, off his stride and hence affect his judgements. In other words, the final verdict given by the judge, which decides whether the defendant is guilty or not, may be affected due to the presence of cameras. Moreover, after all the editing, court shows have become entertainment shows, failing manipulate the viewers, precluding transparency rather than promoting it.
- In conclusion, streaming criminal trials on TV might be beneficial, for example in the form of informing the public and making judicial procedures more transparent. However, court shows might serve as nothing short of entertainment or even a means of manipulation, and so these potential problems negate the aforementioned benefits.

More drawbacks without addressing the benefits

Topic: Some people regard video games as harmless fun, or even as a useful educational tool. Others, however, believe that videos games are having an adverse

effect on the people who play them. In your opinion, do the drawbacks of the video games outweigh the benefits.

- While some people believe that video games can be both fun and educational, others think otherwise, saying that these games are likely to have a harmful impact on users. Personally, I am of the latter school of thought for several reasons.
- Granted, there is some truth in the view that video games can be both entertaining and educational. Users, or gamers, are transported into virtual worlds in which they are allowed to do things that are unthinkable in real life, for example in the form of shooting, killing or car-racing, these bring them not only a sense of novelty, but also the adrenaline rush that only a few real-life pastimes can. From an educational perspective, these games encourage imagination and creativity, as well as concentration, logical thinking and problem solving, all of which are useful skills outside the gaming context.
- However, I would argue that these benefits are outweighed by the drawbacks. Gaming can be highly addictive because users are constantly given scores, new targets and frequent rewards to make them feel like they are achieving something. For example, many children now spend hours each day trying to progress through the levels of a game in the blind pursuit of achievement or to get a higher score than their friends out of the sense of competition. This type of addiction can have negative effects on users, ranging from lack of sleep to problems at school or at work and obesity.
- In conclusion, it is true that those who play video games can derive a certain level of excitement and can also learn something. These benefits pale in comparison with the potential dangers of video games.

Good for A but not B

Topic: Many things which were done in the home by hand in the past are now done by machines. Does this development bring more advantages or disadvantages?

- Chores which used to be done manually are now completed by dishwashers, food processors and electric sewing machines. While this trend benefits individuals and society alike in the short term, it has a negative long-term repercussions for the planet as a whole.
- On the one hand, the process of mechanization in the home undoubtedly saves time and energy. Overworked and exhausted adults no longer have to worry about tedious tasks, such as doing the laundry or doing the dishes. This means they can enjoy themselves and spend quality time with loved ones. Women in particular reap the rewards as, in former times, they tended to be responsible for most of the laborious housework. They now have the opportunity either to

work and become economically independent or to socialize, instead of scrubbing floors or chopping vegetables.

- On the other hand, the popularity of these products has unwanted environmental consequences. Machines including vacuum cleaners and washing machines are made using nonrenewable and relatively scarce resources. When used, they are powered by large quantities of electricity, which is often obtained by burning fossil fuels. This obviously causes an increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Furthermore, as these items are deliberately designed only to last for a limited period, they soon have to be replaced and are thrown into landfill sites, which puts additional pressure on the ecosystem.
- In conclusion, although we should not ignore the positive social and economic impact of the increasing use of modern appliances in the home, this trend is contributing to the depletion of natural resources and pollution.

15. LESSON 15: Positive or negative development

Fully support

Topic: It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote areas with natural environments, such as the South Pole. Is this a positive or negative development?

- Given the availability of modern means of transport such as planes and cruiseships, and refrigeration technologies, traveling to remote parts of the world is no longer an impossible task. I believe that this possibility benefits both tourists and scientists.
- Exploring far-flung natural places can be beneficial to travelers. No matter how many tourist attractions there are in the world, globatrotters all around the world still crave novelty, for example in the form of new activities or untouched destinations. By traveling to an island that is unknown to the vast majority of people, for instance, travelers may have a chance to participate in exotic religious practices of indigenous people, feast their eyes on rarely seen plants and animals and try new food and experience a whole new way of life. Although it is true that they can see these things on TV channels dedicated to travel, the experience is far inferior to experiencing such activities in person.
- Scientists can also benefit from visiting untouched parts of the world. Regardless of how much we already know about the world, there is still much that is unknown in the world of science and visiting such places could give scientists answers to many existing and future problems. We can see this in the way novel viruses break out every once in a while, and how global warming is affecting lives and habitats of elusive animals living in heavily wooded areas and deep under the sea. If we understand more about such phenomena, we will

be much more prepared for potential outbreaks that could kill millions in the future and help restore damaged habitats.

- In conclusion, visiting remote areas of the world can impart otherwise unachievable experience and lessons in tourists and people in the scientific world.

Seem negative but is actually positive

Topic: Some universities now offer their courses on the Internet so that people can study online. Is this a positive or negative development?

- Technology has permeated many aspects of education, as seen in the way online courses are becoming a common feature of university education. Although there are inherent problems associated with Internet-based learning, it is a fundamentally positive development.
- Admittedly, the drawbacks of the trend towards offering and attending online university courses are indeed evident. Chief of these is that there is invariably less direct interaction between students and their professors. This, given the complexity of knowledge in university courses, could have an adverse impact on students' understanding of the concepts learned and their performance at school. Added to this is the fact that these learners may also lack the motivation and element of competition that conventional lectures bring. This can be seen in the way many students zealously raise their hand in the class to showcase the depth of their intellect.
- Despite the negatives mentioned above, I believe that online university courses are welcome development for various reasons. The key benefit is that they allow learners to study in a flexible way, meaning that they can work whenever and wherever is convenient, and they can cover the material at their own pace. Working adults, for example, now can pursue their education from the comfort of their own home by taking online classes, which would have been impossible in the days before internet-based education. Furthermore, by eliminating the costs of travel, accommodation and the use of university facilities, online courses are made much more affordable. This renders university education accessible to larger section of human population.
- In conclusion, I believe online learning to be a positive development overall because it offers online learners flexibility and accessibility. This is provided that these students proactively seek help from their professors when they encounter difficulties and have group work or group discussions to maintain high-levels of competition and motivation.

Negative without addressing the benefits

Topic: For more and more people, wearing fashionable clothes has become very important. Is this attitude to wearing fashionable clothes a positive or a negative development?

- People from all walks of life are becoming dedicated followers of fashion, constantly trying to keep up-to-date with the latest fashion trend. There are both benefits and drawbacks of this; however, I personally feel that it borders on being more harmful than beneficial.
- Increased interest in fashion has resulted in fashionable clothing being more affordable for the masses. Previously, owning such items meant buying overpriced designer clothes and, therefore, it was only accessible to the wealthy and the privileged. In the last few decades, however, high street chains have been producing trendy clothes at affordable prices to meet the greater demand of the general public. As a result, fashion is no longer a reserve for the rich, but it now accessible to all, which is a positive step toward in this regard.
- On the other hand, though, the desire to be stylish has greater negative consequences. Firstly, it has made clothes more disposable, as outfits are produced cheaply, worn on a couple of occasions and subsequently discarded. This causes a large amount of waste and exacerbate the problem of pollution. In addition to this, there is a great deal of pressure, particularly on the younger generation, to keep up with their peers. For instance, if a student is wearing the latest Nike trainers, and consequently, everyone in the class feels pressurized into having the same or equally trendy footwear.
- In conclusion, this obsession with wearing the latest fashion trends has made clothes throwaway and not reusable. Moreover, this incessant need to have the latest must-have items puts far too much pressure on the environment and adolescents, so it cannot be regarded as progress.

16. LESSON 16: Problems - Solutions → Make your solutions better!

Topic: In many developing countries, the standard of living in cities is much higher than in the countryside. What difficulties might a country face because of this situation? How can these difficulties be solved?

- There is little doubt about that economic growth has led to a surge in living standards and levels of prosperity, particularly in urban areas. The gap between the wealthier urban areas and poorer rural areas can pose many challenges to both villagers and the government. The solutions would lie in incentivizing people to stay in rural areas and making the countryside more attractive.
- The gap between urban and rural areas in terms of the quality of life and living conditions can cause social and demographic instability. This gap is certain to lead to an influx of rural people moving to cities in search of employment and a better life because of the superiority of salaries, education, healthcare and other

public services in these cities. As a result, cities will become overcrowded and the countryside will be sparsely populated. This could lead to high levels of unemployment and crime in urban areas, while the countryside would suffer a lack of manual workers to maintain the agricultural sector. It is, of course, agriculture which feeds the entire population.

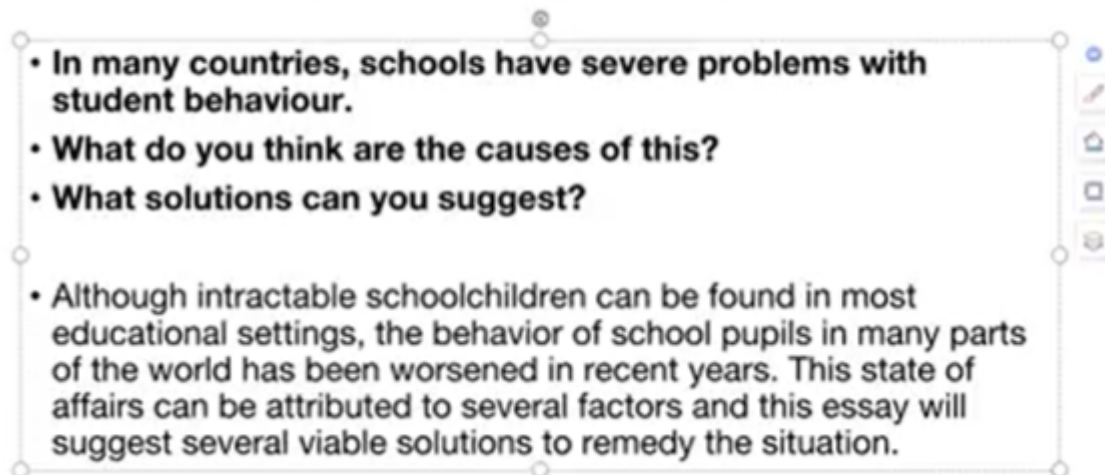
- There are a number of policies which governments and those in power can introduce to alleviate the problem. The most immediate measure would be to offer incentives to those living in the countryside, for example in the form of free education, healthcare or lower taxes. Besides this, companies and factories should be encouraged to move to rural areas. This would generate employment opportunities in these places, eliminating the need for young people to relocate. To this end, the government would need to improve the infrastructure of the countryside and subsidize education for young people to ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure and well-educated workforce in place to attract businesses.
- In conclusion, the yawning chasm between the standard of living in urban and rural areas can cause higher unemployment and crime rates in cities and a lack of workers in the countryside. The answers would involve policies that incentivize villagers to stay and companies to relocate to less developed parts of the country.

Topic: The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what are the possible solution?

- The way in which information is circulated has been completely transformed by the internet but this has also created issues we never had before. However, several solutions that we can adopt to remedy the situation will be outlined in this essay.
- The proliferation of the internet brings in its wake problems in the form of cyberbullying and manipulation. With regard to the former, social media can be used to spread lies and rumors to thousands of people in an instant, and the invasive nature of this type of bullying means that there is simply no way for the victim to escape it. In addition, there is hardly any regulation on what type of information can be put on the internet, which means that malicious people can use it to their advantage. This can be seen in the way the Trump administration won the US presidential election, in large part, by running ads on social media like Facebook.
- To address these problems, they should be, first and foremost, brought to the fore. This can be done by mounting awareness campaigns about the problems associated with using the internet, especially cyberbullying. Celebrities who are

trusted by the public can also help spread the message on their platform, for example by talking about what psychological distress a bullied person may have to endure. The problem of manipulation seems difficult to tackle because introducing legislation to check the content of, say, social media posts and adverts is in itself a form of manipulation as deciding what is illegal to say on the internet is often subjective and tantamount to taking away the freedom of speech.

Lesson 17 - Causes - solutions



- **In many countries, schools have severe problems with student behaviour.**
- **What do you think are the causes of this?**
- **What solutions can you suggest?**
- Although intractable schoolchildren can be found in most educational settings, the behavior of school pupils in many parts of the world has been worsened in recent years. This state of affairs can be attributed to several factors and this essay will suggest several viable solutions to remedy the situation.

17. LESSON 17: Cause - Solution

Topic: In many countries, schools have severe problems with student behaviour. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?

- Although intractable schoolchildren can be found in most educational settings, the behaviors of school pupils in many parts of the world has been worsened in recent years. This state of affairs can be attributed to several factors and this essay will suggest several viable solutions to remedy the situation.
- There are two main contributions to the way young people behave at school nowadays. Chief of these is that with modern parents becoming increasingly too busy or permissive, children often find it difficult to accept the demands of teachers or the limits imposed on them by school rules. For example, children who are used to negligence or indulgence are likely to show disruptive behavior in class. Added to this is the fact that children are all too often influenced by the behavior of celebrities. This can be seen in the way many teenagers think that success can be achieved without finishing school or try to act, talk or wear the way their idols do.
- The problem of students misbehaving at school can be addressed in a number of ways. An immediate remedy is for parents to use reasonable punishments to

demonstrate that actions have consequences when their children break the rules. The disciplinary techniques could range from depriving them of things that they treasure, such as their favorite toys or TV shows, to stopping them from seeing their friends. In addition, famous people, such as musicians and football players, need to understand the responsibility that they have to act as good role models to children. This could be done by their managers, who need to make it abundantly clear to celebrities about how much influence they have on their fans.

- In conclusion, the causes of schools increasingly facing discipline problems are parents' leniency and famous people's behavior, and the solutions lie in changing parents' ways of disciplining their children and the participation of high-profile public figures.

18. LESSON 18: Cause - Effects

Topic: It is observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects. What are the causes? What are the effects on society?

- It is true that there is a lack of students majoring in science-related fields. This could be attributed to a number of factors and it could affect humans' quality of life and the economy of a country.
- There are two main contributors to the shift away from science subjects among students. In developed countries, science has already been prioritized over decades, which has produced an abundance of people working in the science field. This surplus renders this domain fiercely competitive, discouraging youngsters from choosing to study it. On the other hand, in underdeveloped and developing nations, it is wiser for governments to invest in the tourism industry, which yields immediate results. The proliferation of lucrative jobs created to cater for increasing demands for tourist activities has attracted a large proportion of young people in these countries, which explains the dearth of students in science majors.
- The lack of students studying science subjects may not pose any imminent drawback, but in the long run, it could have a stultifying effect on the economy of a nation and human health. Research has shown that productivity can only be improved if innovations are made or new technologies are invented. Advances in science are the core of inventions and innovations, so the dearth of science majors would perhaps hinder the economic progress of a society. Furthermore, humans are still suffering from countless health problems that are presently incurable and we can only hope that scientific breakthroughs can be made to solve them. The move away from science education would prolong the suffering of ill people and increase the number of deaths, resulting from those health issues.

- In conclusion, the tendency among young people choose other areas of knowledge rather than science can be ascribed to the high level of competition with the field in developed countries and more attractive job opportunities in developing countries. This development is deeply troubling as it would fail to enhance people's well-being and stultify economic growth in the long run.

19. LESSON 19: 2-part question

Topic: More and more people today are spending large amount of money on their appearance in order to look younger. Why do people want to look younger? Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

- Of all the problems that are still baffling scientists, perhaps one of the most challenging is how to combat the effects of the ageing process. Although there are sensible reasons why increasingly many people choose to have plastic surgery such as a face-lift or brow-lift or buy beauty products to make themselves look younger, I feel that this development is largely negative.
- There are two main contributors to people wanting to look younger. Chief of these is that it is certainly true that most people look worse as they age. Hardly ever do we find a person who feels good about his or her wrinkles, or gray hair. Added to this is the fact that advertisers can now easily target and prey on people who feel insecure about their aging appearance, portraying the idea that inly by having a youthful look can one be confident. Users of social media sites like Facebook or Twitter, for example, are bombarded with adverts showing how unhappy those with aging look feel and how easy it is to turn the clock back ten or even twenty years.
- This trend can bring in its wake many problems. The key problem is that many so-called elixirs of life that claim that skin will be rejuvenated after use or that wrinkles will disappear do not actually work. This can be seen in the way countless appearance-conscious people are lured into buying these products because of such bold claims, only to be disappointed time and time again since their wrinkles still persist. Furthermore, many cosmetic procedures result in the person looking worse than before. The victims of these botched operations are then forced into having further prohibitively expensive procedures.
- In conclusion, the beauty industry is thriving and this is largely because it is playing on people's insecurities about growing older. Given the disappointing results of cosmetic products and plastic surgery procedures, the trend towards spending sizable amounts of money in the hope that their youthful appearance can be restored is unwelcome.

Topic: Most people think about creating an ideal society, but most of the time fail in making this happen. What is your opinion about an ideal society? How can we create in ideal society?

- Many great philosophers have contemplated what an ideal society should comprise and how we can achieve it, but our contemporary society is far from ideal since countless problems still permeate our every aspect of life. An ideal society manifests itself in several fundamental ways including but not restricted to people's freedom, and well-being. Thus, it is extremely difficult, nay, impossible to create one due to the conflicting and personal nature of each of the aforementioned elements.
- A milieu in which everyone could have the autonomy to do what they wish, achieve high levels of happiness and is well catered for should be considered ideal. With regard to freedom, it is unanimously agreed that being stripped of the freedom of choice, speech, or expression, one can hardly find an environment worth living. As for people's well-being, this abstract concept is difficult to define due to its personal nature. While one may achieve a high level of satisfaction without many material possessions, other may feel so depressed or helpless that he commits suicide, even though he may have an unimaginable amount of wealth.
- It would be nigh on impossible to create a utopian society where everyone is happy and well and free to do what they like. For example, imposing a ban on smoking would indeed force smokers to quit, but at the same time, it would also violate their freedom of choice. Perhaps, in order to avoid conflicts, a step that would go a long way to forming an ideal society would be to educate people to believe in certain sets of beliefs, and values. Nevertheless, the corollary of such an ideological indoctrination would be the loss of critical thinking, which would in turn have stultifying effects on the progress of any society.
- In conclusion, an ideal society is undoubtedly desirable and consists of many different elements, but it is unrealistic to create one.