Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? people in the past are more interested in improving their neighborhood (the area where they live) than now.

These days, the economy has grown significantly. It is obvious that people are busier than in the past and ~~people are~~ more likely to move from one neighborhood to another. Some people say that people today are less interested in improving their neighborhood than before. Although I agree that people seem having less time and energy ~~which can put on improving~~ to improve the neighborhood, I do not think they are less interested in it.

First, whether in cities or rural areas, the [sanitary](javascript:void(0);) [condition](javascript:void(0);)s are better than before. As the educational and cultural levels of the Chinese people have greatly improved, more~~. More~~ people started to care for the sanitary conditions of neighborhood. They no longer throw litters everywhere~~. Every~~ and each community ~~and every street have~~ has a dedicated person who maintains ~~the~~ sanitation. For example, in our neighborhood, I used to ~~can~~ see many corners ~~which~~ where garbage were piled up ~~with garbage in the past~~. However, these days I can rarely see ~~same appearance~~ eye-sores like that.

~~Second~~ In addition, investments in infrastructure construction, ~~afforestation~~ reforestation, and facility coordination are increased. For ~~Take our city for~~ example, in our city,~~. In~~ many ~~old~~ communities ~~which ordinary bus cannot~~ have no access to bus transport, but a company has established a community bus line to provide public transportation for residents. Also, ~~Many communities, streets have increased~~ green belt area have increased while~~. Furthermore, our city has built~~ several wetland parks were built in the city. These ~~From all the~~ changes ~~shown~~ in our cities~~, I can conclude~~ prove that people are more interested in improving ~~their~~ the neighborhood.

Meanwhile ~~Last but not least~~, people these days are more concerned with ~~the~~ access to education ~~in neighborhood. Some friends of mine,~~ when they choose a community to settle down. ~~The education resource is a key aspect for them to evaluate the community.~~ The communities with top schools normally were valued twice or more than ~~which~~ others without good schools. ~~In these situation~~ Thus, property developers and local governments are trying to invest more in education~~. It is not true that people today are not concerned their neighborhood. It is an illusion. People~~ while people are willing to improve their neighborhood. ~~However, we have better social division of labor these days. Some people will specialize in improving the neighborhood.~~

In conclusion, people are still interested in improving their neighborhood although they~~. Someone does not think so, maybe just because people these~~ do not talk about it ~~too~~ that much.

The more words that you write, the more chances of committing mistakes; thus, it is important to write concisely or write only what is needed. In this essay, you wrote details or information that does not relate to the topic of your paragraph. This can and will affect your score because the examiner might think that you do not know what you are writing about or that you do not know how to organize your ideas. Nevertheless, you still get an overall score of **23** because you were able to present more relevant ideas and you were able to answer the topic question with only minor errors in coherence, cohesion, sentence structure, grammar and vocabulary.

* Ceejay -

**REDUNDANCY AND WORDINESS**

You have used too many words in expressing ideas that can be expressed in fewer words; thus, sometimes your composition become redundant.

To develop a keen eye for wordiness, you need to learn to spot specific kinds of wordiness. Expletives, passive voice, nominalization, for example—each creates its own special brand of wordiness. On the other hand, although they sometimes seem wordy, noun stacks compress an expression to such a degree that they become difficult; readers actually need more words to understand what is going on in a noun stack.

One of the categories of wordiness might be called "wordy set phrases" or "canned" phrases. For example, instead of writing "at that point in time," you could simply write "then." Instead of "in view of the fact that," you could write "because."

Another category, involves redundancy. Here, that means using words that actually repeat in some way—for example, "complete and total," "transportation vehicle," "use and implementation," or "plan and scheme."

**Spotting Wordiness**

Wordiness divides into two categories. One of those categories is wordy set or "canned" phrases such "as in view of the fact that" when "because" works just as well. Here are some additional examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Examples of Wordy Canned Phrases** |  |
| *Wordy version* | *Simpler version* |
| subsequent to | after |
| in the event | that is |
| in my own personal opinion | I believe… |
| due to the fact that | because |
| it would be advisable to | you should |
| in close proximity to | near |
| in view of the fact that | because |
| at that point in time | then |
| has the ability to | can |
| with reference to the fact that | concerning |
| a large number of | many |
| within the realm of possibility | possible |
| in some cases | sometimes |

 Redundancy is a category of wordiness. A redundant pair of words repeat each other such as "very unique" or "state and express." As the following categories show, there are some comically wacky varieties of redundancy:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Categories of Redundancy** |  |  |
| *Category* | *Wordy version* | *Simpler version* |
| *Redundant adverbs and verbs* | completely finish, tentatively suggest, connected together, prove conclusively | finish, suggest, connected, prove |
| *Redundant adverbs and adjectives* | totally unique, completely finished, thoroughly complete, bothersomely annoying, productively useful | unique, complete, annoying, useful |
| *Redundant adjectives* | complete and total failure, a slender, narrow margin? | complete failure, narrow margin |
| *Redundant adverbs* | completely and totally fail, carefully and methodically working | fail, carefully working |
| *Redundant adjectives and nouns* | transportation vehicle, tactful diplomacy, successful victory, twenty-four-hour day, time schedule, alternative choices, component part | vehicle, diplomacy, victory, day, schedule, choices, part |
| *Redundant nouns* | parts and components, means and methods, ways and means, use and implementation, source and origin | parts, methods, ways, use, source |
| *Redundant verbs* | behave and conduct oneself; scheming and planning; discusses and explains | behave, scheming, discusses |

**Fixing Wordiness**

When you first start trimming wordiness out of text, you may feel as though you are damaging the meaning of that text. You may feel like a barbarian, slashing and ripping apart a carefully devised expression.

We all produce first drafts that contain wordiness. You should be able to reduce the word count of most rough drafts by as much as 20 percent! Try it—once you've been through this book, or at least this chapter.

If you've studied the categories of wordiness in the preceding, consider the following examples. In these examples, we'll mercilessly de-bloat, uninflate, cut, chop, slash the dead wood. Remember: every useless word chopped out is a victory! As you read this next section, cover up the revisions and see if you can mentally work them out yourself.

*Wordy version:* IRH, Inc., utilizes analytical tools developed by its research group to determine the optimal policies, strategies, and procedures to meet clients' objectives.

utilizes sounds so much more self-important, doesn't it? But doesn't uses express the same idea but in 4 fewer letters? optimal is a big pompous word for best. And while there are shades of difference in meaning between policies, strategies, andprocedures, are those shades really needed here? (True, we could tell if we knew the full context. But let's be cynical and think not!)

*Revision:* IRH, Inc., uses analytical tools developed by its research group to determine the best strategies to meet clients' objectives.

*Wordy version:* It is important for persons to read the notes, advice and information detailed opposite and then complete all sections of the form prior to its immediate return to the agency via the envelope provided.

Notice how the entire phrase It is important for persons to can be replaced byPlease! This reduction of of 6 words to 1 word also makes the sentence dramatically clearer and more direct. Always suspect a string of two or more words such as notes, advice and information. What's the real difference? Are these distinctions *really*necessary here? Probably not. The rest of the original sentence is a jungle of unnecessary words and phrases—get out the bush wacker!

*Revision:* Please read the instructions, fill out the form completely, and then send it back as soon as possible in the envelope provided.

*Wordy version:* High-quality learning environments are a necessary precondition for facilitation and enhancement of the ongoing learning process.

Here's an example where cutting out all the wordiness and using simple words reduces the sentence to a laughably obvious statement! Aren't High-quality learning environments simply schools? Isn't preconditions better stated with rewording that uses necessary? Notice in the revision how we've added people; the original made it sound like some impersonal chemical process was at work. Notice too how this big pompous phrase a necessary precondition for facilitation and enhancement of the ongoing learning process can be reduced to enable people to learn more.

*Revision:* Good schools enable people to learn more.

*Wordy version:* At this point in time, our time schedules do not allow or permit further or additional work tasks.

At this point in time is one of those wordy canned phrases that can be replaced with now, or in this particular sentence with Currently. Do schedules involve anything other than time? The verbs allow and permit say the same thing—they are redundant to each other. The same is true for the adjectives further and additional. And, finally, all work involves tasks and vice versa.

*Revision:* Our schedules are full!

*Wordy version:* With reference to the fact that the company is deficient in manufacturing and production space, the contract may in all probability be awarded to some other enterprise.

With reference to the fact that is another wordy canned phrase. Replace it with because. There is no real difference between manufacturing and production. The verb may carries within it the notion of in all probability. We don't need to say to some other enterprise because that's obvious.

*Revision:* The company may not be awarded the contract because it lacks production facilities.

Got the idea? Don't hesitate to be ruthless, merciless. You are doing humanity a great favor. There are enough words in the world already.

**PLANNING YOUR ESSAY**

**The process of planning an essay**

Plans matter because they should ensure that you answer the question and you write enough words. Or put the other way, if you do not plan, you may not answer the question or you may get half way through the essay and find you have nothing to say.

**How to plan**

There is no easy answer to this question. Planning tends to be very individual and what works for one candidate may not work for another. However, there are one or two guidelines to follow:

* + be methodical: before you get to the exam, know exactly how you are going to plan your essay and stick to that plan in the exam.
  + give yourself enough time: you only have 30-40 minutes (depending on the language test) to write , but don’t start writing too quickly. Time spent planning is rarely wasted and candidates who fail to finish are generally those who start to write too soon.
  + remember it’s a language exam: make sure your plan helps you produce good language
  + keep it simple: your plan is there to help you write. If it is too complex, it may not work within the given time .
  + read the question: make sure your plan relates directly to the question.

**How long to plan**

Again, there can be no exact answer here, but I would suggest 10 minutes is approximately correct. That may seem a long time, but the longer you stop and plan for the better and the more quickly you will write. People who fail to finish in time are very often those who start writing too soon. .

**What to plan – vocabulary and examples**

Most text books suggest planning ideas. This is hard to do in practice when you are under pressure in the exam. My suggestion is to focus first on vocabulary and examples. Vocabulary will give you ideas and examples will allow you to develop those ideas in coherent paragraphs.

**REVISED VERSION:**

These days, the economy has grown significantly. It is obvious that people are busier than in the past and more likely to move from one neighborhood to another. Some people say that people today are less interested in improving their neighborhood than before. Although I agree that people seem having less time and energy to improve the neighborhood, I do not think they are less interested in it.

First, whether in cities or rural areas, the sanitary conditions are better than before. As the educational and cultural levels of the Chinese people have greatly improved, more people started to care for the sanitary conditions of neighborhood. They no longer throw litter everywhere and each community has a dedicated person who maintains sanitation. For example, in our neighborhood, I used to see many corners where garbage were piled up, but these days I can rarely see eye-sores like that.

In addition, investments in infrastructure construction, reforestation, and facility coordination are increased. For example, in our city, many communities have no access to bus transport, but the bus company has established several community bus lines to provide public transportation for residents. Also, green belt area have increased while several wetland parks were built in the city. These changes in our cities prove that people are more interested in improving the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, people these days are more concerned with access to education when they choose a community to settle down. The communities with top schools normally were valued twice or more than others without good schools. Thus, property developers and local governments are trying to invest more in education while people are willing to improve their neighborhood.

In conclusion, people are still interested in improving their neighborhood although they do not talk about it that much.