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# Agree/disagree -Best ways -

# Cambridge 8, Test 3, Task 2

Increasing the price of petrol is the best way to solve growing traffic and pollution problems. To what extent do you agree or disagree ? What other measures do you think might be effective ?

There is no doubt that traffic and pollution from vehicles have become huge problems both in cities and on motorways everywhere. Solving these problems is likely to need more than a simple rise in the price of petrol.

While it is undeniable that private car use is one of the main causes of the increase in traffic and pollution， higher fuel costs are unlikely to limit the number of drivers for long. As this policy would also affect the cost of public transport, it would be very unpopular with everyone who needs to travel on the roads. But there are various other measures that could be implemented that would have a huge effect on these problems.

I think to tackle the problem of pollution, cleaner fuels need to be developed. The technology is already available to produce electric cars that would be both quieter and cleaner to use. Persuading manufacturers and travelers to adopt this new technology would be a more effective strategy for improving air quality, especially in cities.

However, traffic congestion will not be solved by changing the type of private vehicle people can use. To do this, we need to improve the choice of public transport services available to travelers. For example, if sufficient sky trains and underground train systems were built and effectively maintained in our major cities, then traffic on the roads would be dramatically reduced. Long-distance train and coach services should be made attractive and affordable alternatives to driving your own car for long journeys.

# 哪个影响更大

# Cambridge 5, Test 4 Task 2

Research indicates that the characteristic we are born with have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life. **Which do you consider to be the major influence?**

Today the way we consider human psychology and mental development is heavily influenced by the genetic sciences. We now understand the importance of inherited characteristics more than ever before. Yet we are still unable to decide whether an individual’s personality and development are more influenced by genetic factors (nature) or by the environment (nurture).

Research, relating to identical twins, has highlighted how significant inherited characteristics can be for an individual’s life. But whether these characteristics are able to develop within the personality of an individual surely depends on whether the circumstances allow such a development. It seems that the experiences we have in life are so unpredictable and so powerful, that they can boost or over-ride other influences, and there seems to be plenty of research findings to confirm this.

My own view is that there is no one major influence in a person’s life. Instead, the traits we inherit from our parents and the situations and experiences that we encounter in life are constantly interacting. It is the interaction of the two that shapes a person’s personality and dictate how that personality develops. If this were not true, then we would be able to predict the behaviour and character of a person from the moment they were born.

In conclusion, I do not think either nature or nurture is the major influence on a person, but that both have powerful effects. How these factors interact is still unknown today and they remain largely unpredictable in a person’s life.

# both views middle one side

# Cambridge 6, Test 2 Task 2

Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair. **Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

As a result of constant media attention, sports professionals in my country have become stars and celebrities, and those at the top are paid huge salaries. Just like movie stars, they live extravagant lifestyles with huge houses and cars.

Many people find their rewards unfair, especially when comparing these super salaries with those of top surgeons or research scientists, or even leading politicians who have the responsibility of governing the country. However, sports salaries are not determined by considering the contribution to society a person makes, or the level of responsibility he or she holds. Instead, they reflect the public popularity of sport in general and the level of public support that successful stars can generate. So the notion of “fairness” is not the issue.

Those who feel that sports stars’ salaries are justified might argue that the number of professionals with real talent are very few, and the money is a recognition of the skills and dedication a person needs to be successful. Competition is constant and a player is tested every time they perform in their relatively short career. The pressure from the media is intense and there is little privacy out of the spotlight. So all of these factors may justify the huge earnings.

Personally, I think that the amount of money such sports stars make is more justified than the huge earnings of movie stars, but at the same time, it indicates that our society places more value on sport than on more essential professions and achievements.

# both views middle both- 责任类 ; 同意2边

# Cambridge 8, Test 1 Task 2

**Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society. Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

A child’s education has never been about learning information and basic skills only. It has always included **teaching** the next generation **how to be good members of society**. Therefore, this cannot be the responsibility of the parents alone.

**In order to be a good member of any society,** the individual must respect and obey the rules of their community and share their values. Educating children to understand the need to obey rules and respect others always begins in the home and is widely thought to be the responsibility of parents. They will certainly be the first to help children to learn what is important in life, how they are expected to behave and what role they will play in their world.

However, learning to understand and share the value system of a whole society cannot be achieved just in the home. Once a child goes to school, they are entering a wider community where teachers and peers will have just as much influence as their parents do at home. At school children will experience working and living with people from a whole variety of backgrounds from the wider society. This experience should teach them how to co-operate with each other and how to contribute to the life of their community.

But to be a valuable member of any community is not like learning a simple skill. It is something that an individual goes on learning throughout life and it is the responsibility of every member of a society to take responsibility for helping the younger generation to become active and able members of that society.

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# agree/disagree best solution

# Cambridge 8, Test 3, Task 2

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There is no doubt that traffic and pollution from vehicles have become huge problems both in cities and on motorways everywhere. Solving these problems is likely to need more than a simple rise in the price of petrol.

While it is undeniable that private car use is one of the main causes of the increase in traffic and pollution， higher fuel costs are unlikely to limit the number of drivers for long. As this policy would also affect the cost of public transport, it would be very unpopular with everyone who needs to travel on the roads. But there are various other measures that could be implemented that would have a huge effect on these problems.

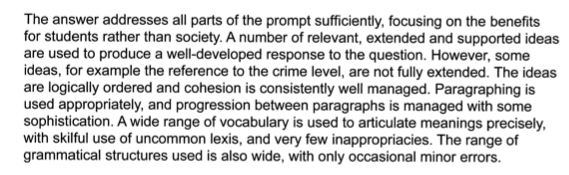
I think to tackle the problem of pollution, cleaner fuels need to be developed. The technology is already available to produce electric cars that would be both quieter and cleaner to use. Persuading manufacturers and travelers to adopt this new technology would be a more effective strategy for improving air quality, especially in cities.

However, traffic congestion will not be solved by changing the type of private vehicle people can use. To do this, we need to improve the choice of public transport services available to travelers.For example, if sufficient sky trains and underground train systems were built and effectively maintained in our major cities, then traffic on the roads would be dramatically reduced. Long-distance train and coach services should be made attractive and affordable alternatives to driving your own car for long journeys.

# Agree disagree one side

# Cambridge 9, Test 2 Task 2 Band 8

**Some people believe that unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmes (for example working for a charity, improving the neighbourhood or teaching sports to younger children). To what extend do you agree or disagree?**



It has been suggested that high school students should be involved in unpaid community services as a compulsory part of high school programmes. Most of the colleges are already providing opportunities to gain work experience, however, these are not compulsory. In my opinion, sending students to work in a community services is a good idea as it can provide them with many lots of valuable skills.

Life skills are very important and by doing voluntary work, students can learn how to communicate with others and work in a team but also how to manage their time and improve their organisational skills (life skills 包括). Nowadays, unfortunately, teenagers do not have many after-school activities. After-school clubs are no longer that popular and students mostly go home and sit in front of the TV browse internet or play video games.

By giving them compulsory work activities with charitable or community organisations, they will be encouraged to do something more creative **（This will develop their creativity）.** Skills gained through compulsory work will not only be an asset on their CV but also increase their employability. Students will aso gain more respect towards work and money as they will realize that it is not that easy to earn them and hopefully will learn to spend them in a more practical way.

Healthy life balance and exercise are strongly promoted by the NHS, and therefore any kind of spare time charity work will prevent from sitting and doing nothing. It could lso possibly reduce the crime level in the high school age group. If students have activities to do, they will not be bored and come up with silly ideas which can be dangerous for them or their surroundings.

In conclusion, I think this is a very good idea, and I hope this programme will be put into action for high school/colleges shortly.

# both views best way to do sth .

# Cambridge 9, Test 3 Task 2

**Some people say that the best way to improve public health is by increasing the number of sport facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

A problem of modern society is the declining level of health in the general population, with conflicting views on how to tackle this worrying trend. One possible solution is to provide more sports facilities to encourage a more active lifestyle.

**Advocates of this believe that** today’s sedentary lifestyle and stressful working conditions mean that physical activity is no longer part of either our work or our leisure time. If there were easy-to-reach local sports centres, we would be more likely to make exercise a regular part of our lives, rather than just collapsing in front of a screen every evening. The variety of sports that could be offered would cater for all ages, level of fitness and interests: those with painful memories of PE at school might be happier in the swimming pool than on the football pitch.

However, **there may be better ways of tackling this problem.** Interest in sport is not universal, and additional facilities might simply attract the already fit, not those who most need them. Physical activity could be encouraged relatively cheaply, for example by installing exercise equipment in parks, as my local council has done. This has added benefit that parents and children often use them together just for fun, which develops a positive attitude to exercise at an early age.

As well as physical activity, high tax penalties could be imposed on high-fat food products, tobacco and alcohol, as excessive consumption of any of these contributes to poor health. Even improving public transport would help: it takes longer to walk to the bus stop than to the car.

In my opinion, focusing on sports facilities is too narrow an approach and would not have the desired results. People should be encouraged not only to be more physically active but also to adopt a healthier lifestyle in general.

# both views 中立

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## Cambridge 6, Test 4 Task 2

**Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Over the last half century the pace of change in the life of human beings has increased beyond our wildest expectations.** This has been **driven** by **technological and scientific breakthroughs** that are changing in the whole way we **view** the world on an almost daily basis. This means that change is not always a personal option, but an **inescapable** fact of life, and we need to constantly **adapt to** **keep pace with it.**

Those people who believe they have achieved some security by doing the same, familiar things **are living in denia**l. Even when people believe they are **resisting change** themselves, they cannot **stop the world around them from** changing. Sooner or later they will find that the familiar jobs no longer exist, or that the **‘safe’ patterns** of behaviour are no longer **appropriate**.

**However, reaching the conclusion that change is inevitable is not the same as assuming that ‘change is always for the better’.** Unfortunately, it is not always the case that new things are promoted because they have good impacts for the majority of people. A lot of innovations are made with the aim of **making money for a few. This is because it is the rich and powerful people** in our society who are able to **impose** changes (such as in working conditions or property developments) that are in their own interests.

In conclusion, I would say that change can be **stimulating** and **energising** for individuals when they pursue it themselves, but that all change, including that which is imposed on people, does not necessarily have good outcomes.

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# positive / negative development 3 body

# Cambridge 10, Test 3 Task 2

**Countries are becoming more and more similar because people can buy the same products anywhere in the world. Do you think this is a positive or negative development ?**

It is said that countries are becoming similar to each other because of th global spread of the same products, which are now available for purchase almost anywhere. I strongly believe that this modern development is largely detrimental to culture and traditions worldwide.

A country’s history, language and ethos are all inextricably bound up in its manufactured artefacts. If the relentless advance of international brands into every corner of the world continues, these bland packages might one day completely oust the traditional objects of a nation, which would be a loss of richness and diversity in the world, as well as the sad disappearance of the manifestations of a place’s character. ~~What would a Japanese tea ceremony be without its specially crafted teapot, or a Fijian kava ritual without its bowl made from a certain type of tree bark?~~

Let us not forget either that traditional products, whether these be edicines, cosmetics, toys, clothes, utensils or food, provide emlpoyment for local people. The spread of multinational products can often bring in its wake a loss of jobs, as people turn to buying the new brand, perhaps thinking it more glamorous than the one they are used to. This eventually puts old-school craftspeople out of work.

Finally, tourism numbers may also be affected, as travellers become disillusioned with finding every place just the same as the one they visited previously. To see the same products in shops the world over is boring, and does not impel visitors to open their wallets in the same way that trinkets or souvenirs unqiue to the particular area do.

Some may argue that all people are entiled to have access to the same products, but I say that local objects suit local conditions best, and that facless uniformity wordwide is an unwelcome and dreary prospect.

# more pros than cons ?

# Cambridge 9, Test 1 Task 2

**Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at primary school rather than secondary school. Do The advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?**

Traditionally, children have begun studying foreign languages at secondary school, but introducing them earlier is recommended by some educationalists. This policy has been adopted by some educational authorities or individual schools, with both positive and negative outcomes.

**(Lynn的套路)**

**It is suggested by some educationalists that studying a foriegn langauge in primary school brings students more benefits than studying it in secondary school. In my opinion, this suggestion leads to more benefits than problems.**

**The obvious argument in its favour is that** young children pick up languages much more easily than teenagers. Their brains are still programmed to acquire their mother tongue, which facilitates learning another language, and unlike adolescents, they are not inhibited by self-consciousness.

**(Lynn的套路)**

**The obvious argument in its favour is that encouraging young children to learn languages helps them study foreign languages efficiently. This is because** heir brains are still programmed to acquire their mother tongue, which facilitates learning another language, and unlike adolescents, they are not inhibited by self-consciousness. Such advantages mean that learning a foreign language early/in one’s childhood helps people pick up languages much more easily than learning it later in life. (73)

**技能2 A>B>C 出处**

**The greater flexibility of** the primary timetable allows for more frequent, shorter sessions and for a play-centred approach, thus maintaining learners’ enthusiasm and progress. Their command of the language in later life will benefit from this early exposure, while learning other languages subsequently will be easier for them. They may also gain a better understanding of other cultures.

**(Lynn的套路)**

**The greater flexibility of** the primary timetable allows for more frequent, shorter sessions and for a play-centred approach, thus maintaining learners’ enthusiasm and progress. This early exposure facilitates their commond of the langauge in later life and the language learning skills developed in their childhood can help them learn other languages. They may also gain a better understanding of other cultures, which can definitely broaden their horizons and preventing them from being restricted by their own cultures’ shortcomings. (78)

**There are, however, some disadvantages.** Primary school teachers are generalists and may not have the necessary language skills themselves. If specialists have to be brought in to deliver these sessions, the flexibility referred to above is diminished. If primary language teaching is not standardised, secondary schools could be faced with a great variety of levels in different languages within their intake, resulting in a classroom experience which undoes the earlier gains. There is no advantage if enthusiastic primary pupils become demotivated as soon as they change schools. However, these issues can be addressed strategically within the policy adopted.

Anything which encourages language learning benefits society **culturally and economically,** and early exposure to language learning contributes to this. **Young children’s innate abilities should be harnessed to make these benefits more achievable.**

# causes and solutions

# **Cambridge 5, Test B Task 2**

**Nowadays we are producing more and more rubbish. Why do you think this is happening? What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?**

**I think it is true that in almost every country today each household and family produces a large amount of waste every week.** Most of this **rubbish** comes from packaging from the things we buy, such as processed food. But even if we buy fresh food without packaging, we still produce **rubbish** from the plastic bags used everywhere to carry shopping home.

**The reason why we have so much packaging is that** we consume so much more on a daily basis than families did in the past. Convenience is also very important in modern life, so we buy packaged or canned food that can be transported from long distances and stored until we need it, first in the supermarket, and then at home.

**However, I think the amount of waste produced is also a result of our tendency to use something once and throw it away**. We forget that even the cheapest plastic bag has **used up** valuable resources and energy to produce. We also forget that it is a source of pollution and difficult to **dispose of.**

**I think, therefore, that governments need to raise this awareness in the general public.** Children can be educated about environmental issues at school, but adults need to take action. Governments can encourage such action by putting taxes on packaging, such as plastic bags, by providing recycling services and by fining households and shops that do not attempt to recycle their **waste.**

With the political will, such measures could really reduce the amount of **rubbish** we product. Certainly nobody wants to see our resources used up and our planet poisoned by **waste.**

# discuss pros and cons

# Cambridge 5, Test 2 Task 2

**In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Discuss the advantage and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.**

It is quite common these days for young people in many countries to have a break from studying after graduating from high school. The trend is not restricted to rich students who have the money to travel, but is also evident among poorer students who choose to work and become economically independent for a period of time.

**技能2 by contrast 出处**

The reasons for this trend may involve the recognition that a young adult who passes directly from school to university is rather restricted in terms of general knowledge and experience of the world. By contrast, those who have spent some time earning a living or travelling to other places, have a broader view of life and better personal resources to draw on.

However, there are certainly dangers in taking time off at that important age. Young adults may end up never returning to their studies or finding it difficult to readapt to an academic environment. They may think that it is better to continue in a particular job, or to do something completely different from a university course. But overall, I think this is less likely today, when academic qualifications are essential for getting a reasonable career.

My view is that young people should be encouraged to broaden their horizons. That is the best way for them to get a clear perspective of what they are hoping to do with their lives and why. Students with such a perspective are usually the most effective and motivated ones and taking a year off may be the best way to gain this.