

Band 9 Essay Samples: Model IELTS Essays - Reducing Crime

IELTS essays can be on a variety of topics, and this writing sample is about **reducing crime**.

As with the previous essay, there are two opinions, and you must discuss each one and your opinion must also be given.

In the previous essay, the writers opinion was given in the conclusion.

In this one, a separate body paragraph discusses the writers opinion.

IELTS Essays - Example 5

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

IELTS Essays - Model Answer

Crime is a serious and growing problem in most societies. Although many people believe that the best way to tackle this is to place people in prison for longer periods, others are of the opinion that other measures will be more effective.

There are benefits of giving offenders longer prison sentences. Firstly, spending a long time in prison provides an opportunity for the prison services to rehabilitate a prisoner. For example, someone who has committed a serious offence such as assault will need a long time in prison in order to be sure they can be re-educated not to re-offend. In addition to this, longer prison sentences will act as a deterrent for someone who is thinking of committing a crime.

However, some people argue that leaving people in prison for a long time means that they will mix with other criminals and so their character will not improve. One alternative is community service. This gives an offender the opportunity to give something positive back to society, and so it may improve their character. Also, the government could focus its resources on the causes of crime, which would lead to less crime in the future.

In my opinion, it is important to look at alternative methods. Many countries have lengthy prison sentences, but crime has continued to increase throughout the world, so it is clear that this is not

completely effective. That said, long prison sentences should remain for those who commit serious crimes such as assault or murder, as justice for the victim and their family should take priority.

To conclude, there are good arguments for and against long sentences, so governments must continue to research the various methods of crime reduction to ensure effective policies are in place.

(290 words)

IELTS Food Additives Essay

This food additives essay is basically an **advantages and disadvantages** essay.

You need to be careful with the word '**outweigh**' as this often confuses students.

The word 'outweigh' can be placed in different ways in the sentence so rather than work it out, it is better to think of it simply as '**are there more advantages or disadvantages**

Decide what you think there are more of and then state this in the thesis statement without mentioning the word 'outweigh'.

For example, look at the thesis statement from the food additives essay model answer:

In my opinion, the potential dangers from this are greater than the benefits we receive.

'Outweigh' questions do suggest, though, that there are definitely both advantages **AND** disadvantages, so you should **discuss both**.

However, make sure your essay supports your opinion. For example, if you have said there are more disadvantages, it would not make sense to then write mostly about advantages.

As you can see from the model answer, advantages are discussed, but the focus is on the disadvantages as this is what it is stated are greater in the thesis statement.

Model Essay 15 - Food Additives Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Do the dangers derived from the use of chemicals in food production and preservation outweigh the advantages?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Food Additives Essay Model Answer

Most foods that are purchased these days in small stores and supermarkets have chemicals in them as these are used to improve production and ensure the food lasts for longer. However, there are concerns that these have harmful effects. In my opinion, the potential dangers from this are greater than the benefits we receive.

There are several reasons why chemicals are placed in food. Firstly, it is to improve the product to the eye, and this is achieved via the use of colourings which encourage people to purchase food that may otherwise not look tempting to eat. Another reason is to preserve the food. Much of the food we eat would not actually last that long if it were not for chemicals they contain, so again this is an advantage to the companies that sell food as their products have a longer shelf life.

From this evidence, it is clear to me that the main benefits are, therefore, to the companies and not to the customer. Although companies claim these food additives are safe and they have research to support this, the research is quite possibly biased as it comes from their own companies or people with connections to these companies. It is common to read reports these days in the press about possible links to various health issues such as cancer. Food additives have also been linked to problems such as hyperactivity in children.

To conclude, despite the fact that there are benefits to placing chemicals in food, I believe that these principally help the companies but could be a danger to the public. It is unlikely that this practice can be stopped, so food must be clearly labeled and it is my hope that organic products will become more readily available at reasonable prices to all.

(Words 298)

IELTS Causes and Effects Model Essay

This causes and effects model essay is about **obesity in children**.

You specifically have to talk about the **causes** (reasons) of the increase in overweight children, and explain the **effects** (results) of this.

This particular essay is organized as follows:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Effects

Of course it is also possible to have a 3 body paragraph essay. For example:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Causes

Body 3: Effects

Or:

Body 1: Causes

Body 2: Effects

Body 3: Effects

However, remember not to write too little on one part.

For example, if you wrote one very short paragraph about 'causes' with little support and most of your essay on 'effects', you may then be seen to have not fully answered both parts of the question.

Another possible way of organizing it is to put each cause and its effect within a separate paragraph:

Body 1: Cause 1 - Effect

Body 2: Cause 2 - Effect

If you do this though, each particular cause must relate to that specific effect.

Example Essay 10

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Causes and Effects Essay - Model Answer

Over the last ten years, western societies have seen close to a 20% rise in the number of children who are overweight. This essay will discuss some reasons why this has occurred and examine the consequences of this worrying trend.

The main cause of this problem is poor diet. Over the last decade there has been a prolific increase in the number of fast food restaurants. For example, on nearly every high street there is a MacDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut. The food in these places has been proven to be very unhealthy, and much of the advertising is targeted at children, thus ensuring that they constitute the bulk of the customers of these establishments. However, it is not only due to eating out, but also the type of diet many children have at home. A lot of food consumed is processed food, especially with regards to ready-made meals which are a quick and easy option for parents who are working hard.

The effects of this have been and will continue to be very serious. Firstly, there has been a large increase in health related diseases amongst children, especially diabetes. This debilitating illness means a child has to be injected with insulin for the rest of their life. Not only this, very overweight children often experience bullying from other children, which may affect their mental health. The negative stigma of being overweight may also affect self-esteem.

To sum up, it is evident that there are several causes of obesity amongst children, and a variety of negative effects. Society must ensure steps are taken to prevent this problem from deteriorating further.

(275 words)

IELTS Cause and Effect Essay

This cause and effect essay is about the issue of skin whitening products: why people are using them and their possible dangers for health and society.

There are three things you must discuss:

The reasons why they are used

Their effects on health

Their effects on society

This causes and effects essay has been organized into two body paragraphs.

The first discussing the reasons, and the second discussing the effects on health and society.

There are other ways to organize it of course.

For example, you could have three paragraphs, each discussing one of the points above.

Cause and Effect Essay - Model 17

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many parts of the world today there is a profitable market for products which lighten or whiten people's skin.

Outline the reasons for using such products and discuss what effects they have in terms of health and society.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Cause and Effect Essay - Model Answer

In many countries, particularly places like Asia, skin whitening products are incredibly popular and provide huge profits for the companies involved in their sale. This essay will examine the reasons why people use these products and the effects this has on people's health and on society.

The principal reason that people use skin whitening products is because whiter skin is seen to be more desirable than darker skin. To understand why, we need to firstly look at history. In ancient times, those people of a higher status tended to stay indoors, whilst people of a lower status worked outside, usually farming. As a result, those people who were indoors had much lighter skin, which means that whiter skin is now associated with having a higher status than dark skin. Another reason, which is partly related to this, is the desire for the 'Western' look. For example, plastic surgery to create western eyelids and noses is common in Asia, and the white skin is part of this. These beliefs and images are also perpetuated in the media, with adverts showing people with white skin as more successful and attractive.

However, despite the fact that having whiter skin may improve a person's self-esteem, these products can have negative effects. Regarding health, there are reports that people are harming their skin permanently as some products bought over the counter have prescription-strength ingredients. For instance, some contain steroids or toxins which can severely damage the skin and other parts of the body. In terms of society, there are also detrimental effects. Such behaviour perpetuates the belief that 'white' is better than 'black', and thus those with darker skin may experience discrimination.

In conclusion, people use whitening products due to the fact that white skin, usually through the media, is portrayed as more desirable. However, steps should be taken to change this image as the drawbacks of this are clear, with potentially dangerous consequences for people's future health and society as a whole.

(328 Words)

IELTS Global Warming Essay

This model answer is for an **IELTS global warming essay**.

You are asked in the question to discuss the causes of global warming and possible solutions for individuals and the government.

So you must answer these three things in order to fully answer the question:

1. **What are the causes of global warming?**
2. **What can governments do about it?**
3. **What can individuals do about it?**

This essay has been divided into two paragraphs.

However, you could write a separate paragraph about each of the above points if you wanted.

Take a look at the model answer and examine how it has been organized.

IELTS Global Warming Essay - Model Essay 18

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.

What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

IELTS Global Warming Essay - Model Answer

Probably the most worrying threat to our planet at the present time is global warming. This essay will examine the reasons why global warming is occurring and discuss some possible solutions.

The predominant factors resulting in the warming of the earth are the emissions of CO₂ and deforestation. CO₂, which damages the ozone layer, comes from several sources, but the most problematic are those coming from the burning of fossil fuels from power plants. This releases thousands of tones of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year. Another cause of these emissions is the burning of gasoline for transportation, which continues to increase because of our demand for cars and also our increasing worldwide consumption, resulting in an increasing need to transport goods. Also, forests store large amounts of carbon, so deforestation is causing larger amounts of CO₂ to remain in the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, there are potential ways to solve these problems, or at least reduce the effects. Firstly, governments need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and promote alternatives. Plant-derived plastics, biodiesel, wind power and solar power are all things that are a step in the right direction, but governments need to enforce the limits on CO₂ emissions for the polluting industries in their countries for these to be effective. Also, individuals can play a part by making lifestyle changes. People should try to buy cars with the best fuel economy, and only use their car when really necessary. They can also switch to energy companies that use renewable energy rather than fossil fuels. Finally, small things like buying energy efficient light bulbs, turning off electricity in the house, and planting trees in the garden can help.

To conclude, although global warming is a serious issue, there are steps that governments and individuals can take to reduce its effects. If we are to save our planet, it is important that this is treated as a priority for all concerned.

(320 Words)

IELTS Human Cloning Essay

This is a model answer for a **human cloning** essay.

If you look at the task, the wording is slightly different from the common '**do you agree or disagree**' essay. However, it is essentially asking the same thing.

You are asked if you **agree with human cloning to use their body parts** (in other words, what are the benefits), and **what reservations (concerns) you have** (in other words, what are the disadvantages).

So the best way to answer this human cloning essay is probably to look at both sides of the issue as has been done in the model answer.

As always, you **must read the question carefully** to make sure you answer it fully and do not go off topic.

You are specifically being asked to discuss the issue of creating human clones to then **use their body parts**. If you write about other issues to do with human cloning, you may go off topic.

Human Cloning Essay - Sample 11

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

As people live longer and longer, the idea of cloning human beings in order to provide spare parts is becoming a reality. The idea horrifies most people, yet it is no longer mere science fiction.

To what extent do you agree with such a procedure?

Have you any reservations?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer for Human Cloning Essay

The cloning of animals has been occurring for a number of years now, and this has now opened up the possibility of cloning humans too. Although there are clear benefits to humankind of cloning to provide spare body parts, I believe it raises a number of worrying ethical issues.

Due to breakthroughs in medical science and improved diets, people are living much longer than in the past. This, though, has brought with it problems. As people age, their organs can fail so they need replacing. If humans were cloned, their organs could then be used to replace those of sick people. It is currently the case that there are often not enough organ donors around to fulfil this need, so cloning humans would overcome the issue as there would then be a ready supply.

However, for good reasons, many people view this as a worrying development. Firstly, there are religious arguments against it. It would involve creating another human and then eventually killing it in order to use its organs, which it could be argued is murder. This is obviously a sin according to religious texts. Also, dilemmas would arise over what rights these people have, as surely they would be humans just like the rest of us. Furthermore, if we have the ability to clone humans, it has to be questioned where this cloning will end. Is it then acceptable for people to start cloning relatives or family members who have died?

To conclude, I do not agree with this procedure due to the ethical issues and dilemmas it would create. Cloning animals has been a positive development, but this is where it should end.

(276 words)

Comments

The essay is well-organized, with a clear introduction which introduces the topic:

The cloning of animals has been occurring for a number of years now, and this has now opened up the possibility of cloning humans too.

And it has a thesis statement that makes it clear exactly how the human cloning essay will be structured and what the candidate's opinion is:

Although there are clear benefits to humankind of cloning to provide spare body parts, I believe it raises a number of worrying ethical issues.

The first body paragraph discusses the advantages of cloning humans, and then the second body paragraph looks at the problems associated with this. The change of direction to look at the other side is clearly marked with a transition word ("however") and a topic sentence:

However, for good reasons, many people view this as a worrying development.

Other transition words are used effectively to guide the reader through the ideas in the human cloning essay: Firstly,... Also,... Furthermore,...

The candidate demonstrates that they can use a mix of complex structures. For example:

Due to breakthroughs in medical science and improved diets, people are living much longer than in the past.

It would involve creating another human and then eventually killing it in order to use its organs, **which** it could be argued is murder.

...**if** we have the ability to clone humans, it has to be questioned where this cloning will end.

IELTS Scientific Research Essay

This is an IELTS **scientific research essay**.

For this essay, you need to discuss whether the funding and controlling of scientific research should be the responsibility of the government or private organizations.

This is a fairly complex topic so you may want to do an internet search and do some reading about it before you attempt to write a practice answer.

The model answer below puts forward two ideas **against** private organizations holding such responsibility.

However, there are further arguments around the topic in opposition to this, but with 40 minutes to plan and write your answer you will need to choose carefully which ideas you want to present.

Another way to approach this scientific research essay would be to present ideas for **and** ideas against.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Governments should be responsible for funding and controlling scientific research rather than private organizations.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Scientific Research Essay - Model Answer

Undertaking scientific research is imperative if countries want to progress and compete in a globalized world. However, the funding and controlling of this research remains a contentious issue. In my opinion, the government should have the predominant responsibility for this.

One of the first issues is the knowledge that we gain from research. If governments are responsible then they are driven by the need to make advances in knowledge in order to improve people's lives. This is because they are accountable to the public and the research is paid for by taxes. On the other hand, private organizations are driven by profit. This may mean that some research that could be valuable to society may not begin because there is no monetary gain.

Another disadvantage related to this is the research process. When the funding for research comes from the same organization that can be expected to gain from a favorable outcome, there is a strong potential for biased results. Taking drugs companies as an example, governments usually require rigorous trials for new drugs that can take many years. The companies have large amounts of money invested in such research and the need for positive results is paramount. It is difficult for a scientist to remain impartial in these circumstances. However, if this is controlled and funded by governments, their accountability means that such conflicts of interest are less likely to occur.

On balance, I would argue that although it is not realistic to remove all opportunities for privately funded research, governments should have the main responsibility for the monitoring

and controlling of this. Strong checks and balances need to be in place to ensure future research is ethical and productive.

(281 Words)

Comments

The essay is well organized. The opinion is clearly presented in the introduction and this opinion is then supported in the body paragraphs and summarized again in the conclusion.

There are topic sentences which state clearly what each paragraph is about:

One of the first issues is the knowledge that we gain from research.

Another disadvantage related to this is the research process.

The body paragraphs then go on to develop each idea giving reasons and examples. There is no repetition of ideas.

There is some good use of high level vocabulary phrases and collocations such as "imperative", "contentious", "accountable", "monetary gain", "favorable outcome", "rigorous", "paramount", and "remain impartial".

There is also a good mix of complex sentences with examples of adverbial clauses, relative clauses and noun clauses.

IELTS Sample Essay - Alternative Medicine

This IELTS sample essay tackles the subject of **alternative medicine**.

Here is the question:

Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

When you are asked whether you **agree (or disagree)**, you can look at both sides of the argument if you want.

This shows that you have good academic skills as you are able to see both sides of the issue.

It can also sometimes be a good idea to look at both sides of the argument because it may be easier for you to brainstorm ideas.

If you just look at one side, you may run out of ideas.

In this IELTS sample essay, the writer **disagrees** overall with the opinion presented - that *alternative medicine is ineffective and possibly dangerous*.

However, in the **first body paragraph** the writer discusses what those who agree with this opinion think.

If you are going to put in an opinion that disagrees with your own, it is common to put this argument first. This makes your argument stronger as you can then refute it in the following paragraph.

As you can see, in the **second body paragraph**, the writer gives the reasons why he/she disagrees.

In other words:

Body 1 = the disadvantages of alternative medicine

Body 2 = the advantages of alternative medicine

It is then a good balanced conclusion as the writer states that they are best used together.

IELTS Sample Essay 3

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

IELTS Sample Essay Model Answer

Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world. I am unconvinced that it is dangerous, and feels that both alternative and conventional medicine can be useful.

There are several reasons why the conventional medical community is often dismissive of alternatives. Firstly, there has been little scientific research into such medicine, so there is a scarcity of evidence to support the claims of their supporters. Furthermore, people often try such treatment because of recommendations from friends, and therefore come to the therapist with a very positive attitude, which may be part of the reason for the cure. Moreover, these therapies are

usually only useful for long-term, chronic conditions. Acute medical problems, such as accidental injury, often require more conventional methods.

On the other hand, there remain strong arguments for the use of alternatives. Despite the lack of scientific proof, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to suggest that these therapies work. In addition, far from being dangerous, they often have few or no side effects, so the worst outcome would be no change. One of the strongest arguments for the effectiveness of alternative therapies in the West is that, whilst conventional medicine is available without charge, many people are prepared to pay considerable sums for alternatives. If they were totally unhelpful, it would be surprising if this continued.

I strongly believe that conventional medicine and alternative therapies can and should coexist. They have different strengths, and can both be used effectively to target particular medical problems. The best situation would be for alternative therapies to be used to support and complement conventional medicine.

(280 words)

Comments

The writer in this IELTS sample essay introduces the topic in the introductory paragraph (**Alternative medicine...**) and puts forward a clear view on the issue (**I am unconvinced...and feel...**).

The essay has a well-balanced argument looking at both sides of the issue. The first body paragraph expresses some doubt about alternative therapies (**...little scientific research... only useful for long term...**), but in the second body paragraph the writer takes a different view (**On the other hand...**) and examines the benefits (**...few side effects**).

The writer's concluding paragraph offers a strong opinion (**I strongly believe...**) and sums up the fact that both types of treatment are valid today.

There is also a good range of grammatical structures (**If they were totally unhelpful, it would be...**), and connectors (**despite the fact, in addition, finally**).

Sample IELTS Writing - Arts Spending

This sample IELTS writing is on **the arts**.

A common topic in IELTS is whether you think it is a good idea for government money to be spent on **the arts** i.e. the visual arts (as you see in art galleries), literary arts (books) and the performing arts (music, theatre, dance and film), or whether it should be **spent elsewhere**, usually on other public services such as education, health, policing etc.

In this question, you are given the opinion that spending money on the arts is a waste of money, and it would be better spent on public services.

You then have to say if you agree or disagree. So you would need to decide what you think and give reasons to support your decision.

The sample IELTS writing model answer presented here is a balanced argument that **partly agrees** with this opinion.

This is made clear in the **thesis statement**:

Although I agree that it is important to spend money on public services, I do not think spending on the arts is a waste of money.

So the writer does not think it is a 'waste of money'; however, he/she does think the majority of money should go on public services.

The essay, therefore, needs to explain this, and so is organized as follows:

Body 1: Support for spending most money on public services

Body 2: Support for spending some on the arts

Sample IELTS Writing 6

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Sample IELTS Writing - Model Answer

These days, the government spends a large part of its budget not only on public services, but also the arts. Although I agree that it is important to spend money on public services, I do not think spending on the arts is a waste of money.

There are several reasons for spending a significant amount of the government budget on public services. First and foremost, public services are the things such as hospitals, roads and schools, and these things determine the quality of life that most of us will have. For example, if the government does not spend enough money on hospitals, the health of our society may decline. Similarly, if not enough money is spent on schools, our children may not be properly educated. Also, it will be the poor in our society that will be affected more if we do not spend enough on these things because they are the ones more dependent on such services.

However, this does not mean that the arts should be completely neglected. To begin, it is difficult for many arts institutions to generate much profit, so without some help from the government, many theaters and other such places may have to close. Moreover, the arts also have an important impact on our quality of life. Many people get great pleasure in going to see music and theatre performances so it is important that the government assists such institutions so that they can continue to provide entertainment to the public.

To sum up, there are clear benefits of ensuring a large amount of investment goes into public services as this influences the quality of life for nearly all of us. That said, I do not believe spending money on the arts is a waste of money as this too provides important benefits.

(299 words)

Comments

The essay gives a clear thesis at the beginning. This makes it clear that the writer partly agrees with the statement i.e. it is not a waste of money, but it is if too much is spent on it.

It is also a well-organized essay. The first paragraph sets out why the writer thinks a significant portion of money should go on public services. This is supported with reasons and examples. The second paragraph in this sample IELTS writing then sets out clearly why some money should also go on the arts.

The conclusion then restates the authors opinion.

Model Essay for IELTS - Advertising

A second model essay for IELTS is presented here. This one tackles the subject of **advertising**.

As with model essay 1, this essay is an **agree / disagree** essay.

In these types of essays, you are presented with **one** opinion:

Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society.

To what extent do you agree with this view?

So your options are:

- 1. Agree 100%**
- 2. Disagree 100%**
- 3. Partly agree**

In the answer below, the writer agrees 100% with the opinion.

As you can see, the writers opinion is made clear in the **thesis statement** (the last sentence of the introduction).

All the body paragraphs then explain **why** the writer disagrees. In other words, it discusses the **negative** aspects of advertising.

Model Essay for IELTS 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable

in today's society.

To what extent do you agree with this view?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Essay for IELTS Model Answer

The world that we live in today is dominated by advertising. Adverts are on television, on the World Wide Web, in the street and even on our mobile phones. However, many of the strategies used to sell a product or service can be considered immoral or unacceptable.

To begin with, the fact that we cannot escape from advertising is a significant cause for complaint. Constant images and signs wherever we look can be very intrusive and irritating at times. Take for example advertising on the mobile phone. With the latest technology mobile companies are now able to send advertising messages via SMS to consumer's phones whenever they choose. Although we expect adverts in numerous situations, it now seems that there are very few places we can actually avoid them.

A further aspect of advertising that I would consider unethical is the way that it encourages people to buy products they may not need or cannot afford. Children and young people in particular are influenced by adverts showing the latest toys, clothing or music and this can put enormous pressure on the parents to buy these products.

In addition, the advertising of tobacco products and alcohol has long been a controversial issue, but cigarette adverts have only recently been banned in many countries. It is quite possible that alcohol adverts encourage excessive consumption and underage drinking, yet restrictions have not been placed on this type of advertising in the same way as smoking.

It is certainly true to say that advertising is an everyday feature of our lives. Therefore, people are constantly being encouraged to buy products or services that might be too expensive, unnecessary or even unhealthy. In conclusion, many aspects of advertising do appear to be morally wrong and are not acceptable in today's society.

(296 words)

Comments

This essay for IELTS is well organized as there are five clear paragraphs, each containing ideas that are relevant, well expressed, and related to the topic.

*Focusing on the language and structures in particular, the essay starts with an appropriate introductory sentence. Linking words are used accurately (**However, in addition, Therefore**).*

*Phrases that signal opinions are evident (**A further aspect of advertising that I would consider unethical. ...**) backed up by reasons (...**encourages people to buy products they may not need or cannot afford**) and examples (**Children and young people in particular, are influenced by adverts**).*

*In general, many other useful phrases are used, indicating a good control of language (**It is quite possible... Many people consider. .. It is certainly true to say..**).*

IELTS Writing Example - University Education

This IELTS writing example is on the topic of **university education**.

In this essay, two **opposing opinions** need to be discussed.

This is the first opinion:

The aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs.

This is the second opinion:

There are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

As the prompt suggests, you **MUST** talk about **both sides** of the issue and include **your opinion**.

IELTS Writing Example 4

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

IELTS Writing Example - Model Answer

These days, more and more people are making the choice to go to university. While some people are of the opinion that the only purpose of a university education is to improve job prospects, others think that society and the individual benefit in much broader ways.

It is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job. The majority of people want to improve their future career prospects and attending university is one of the best ways to do this as it increases a person's marketable skills and attractiveness to potential employers. In addition, further education is very expensive for many people, so most would not consider it if it would not provide them with a more secure future and a higher standard of living. Thus job prospects are very important.

However, there are other benefits for individuals and society. Firstly, the independence of living away from home is a benefit because it helps the students develop better social skills and improve as a person. A case in point is that many students will have to leave their families, live in halls of residence and meet new friends. As a result, their maturity and confidence will grow enabling them to live more fulfilling lives. Secondly, society will gain from the contribution that the graduates can make to the economy. We are living in a very competitive world, so countries need educated people in order to compete and prosper.

Therefore, I believe that although a main aim of university education is to get the best job, there are clearly further benefits. If we continue to promote and encourage university attendance, it will lead to a better future for individuals and society.

(279 words)

Comments

*The writer in this IELTS writing example has a clear thesis in the second sentence of the introduction, establishing that two sides of this issue will be discussed (**While some people are of the opinion...others think that...**).*

*Looking at the structure, the topic sentences make it clear when the first opinion is being discussed (**It is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job.**) and when the writer is moving onto the next opinion (**However, there are other benefits for individuals and society.**).*

Connectors (*To begin... Also... Firstly... Secondly*) are used well to introduce each new supporting idea. Further connectors (*For example...A case in point is that...As a result...*) are used to expand on these ideas.

Finally, the writer has demonstrated that they are able to use complex sentence structures (*While...that...in order to...as...*), and has discussed both views and combined this with his/her opinion, thus ensuring the question has been answered.

Sample IELTS Writing - Youth Crime

This sample IELTS writing is on the subject of **youth crime**.

In this essay, you are presented with an issue and asked to discuss the '**reasons**' why it is occurring and suggest '**solutions**'.

Crime is a topic that sometimes arises in IELTS essays and in speaking questions.

Be careful to identify what kind of crime is being referred to - this is specifically **youth crime**.

You need to give some reasons that it is happening and then give some solutions.

Sample IELTS Writing 7

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Levels of youth crime are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world.

What are the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Sample IELTS Writing - Model Answer

Over the last few decades, many cities around the world have seen alarming increases in the levels of youth crime. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and provide some possible solutions.

The first reason is connected with the family. In order for a child to grow up in a balanced way, it is very important that he or she is nurtured well by his or her parents. However, these days, it is often the case that children are neglected. This may be because of the fact that many parents in cities now

both have to work so are often not around to give their children support when needed. Another factor is the increasing levels of poverty around the world. We have seen with globalization the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and this inevitably means that those who are poorer will have to resort to illegal means to get what others have. Of course, this will include the children in the poorer families.

However, there are ways to tackle such problems. Firstly, one of the ways to combat the problem is to have stricter punishments. Although, as discussed above, it can be outside factors that lead to crime, it is still important to have severe punishments to deter teenagers from crime. All too often, because they are young, the courts are too lenient. Parents also have to take more responsibility for their children's actions. They too should be punished if their children commit crime.

To sum up, several factors have led to increases in youth crime, but measures are available to tackle this problem.

(267 words)

Comments

The topic is clearly stated in the general statement of the introduction, and the thesis tells the reader that reasons and solutions will be discussed.

It is organized well, with reasons for youth crime discussed in the first body paragraph and solutions in the next. Each paragraph has two ideas and they are clearly signaled and well supported.

There are some good complex structures (**In order for..., often the case that..., means that...,**) and some good examples of topic related vocabulary (**nurtured..., neglected..., illegal..., severe punishments..., deter..., commit crime...**).

IELTS Traffic Problems Essay

This is a traffic problems essay and the specific topic is the taxing of car drivers in order to reduce these problems.

You are asked to discuss the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of introducing such a policy to tackle the issue.

This question is very clear, and it does not specifically ask you for an opinion.

You just need to look at both sides of the issue.

The logical way to answer it would be to discuss each side in a different paragraph.

Sample IELTS Writing 8

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In order to solve traffic problems, governments should tax private car owners heavily and use the money to improve public transportation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Traffic Problems Essay - Model Answer

Traffic congestion in many cities around the world is severe. One possible solution to this problem is to impose heavy taxes on car drivers and use this money to make public transport better. This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of such a measure.

One of the first benefits of such a measure is that the heavy taxes would discourage car owners from using their cars because it would become very expensive to drive. This would mean that they would begin to make use of public transport instead, thus reducing traffic problems and pollution as well. Another benefit would be that much more use would be made of public transport if it was improved. It is often the case that public transport in cities is very poor. For example, we often see old buses and trains that people would rather not use. High taxes would generate enough money to make the necessary changes.

Nevertheless, there are drawbacks to such a solution. First and foremost, this would be a heavy burden on the car drivers. At present, taxes are already high for a lot of people, and so further taxes would only mean less money at the end of the month for most people who may have no choice but to drive every day. In addition, this type of tax would likely be set at a fixed amount. This would mean that it would hit those with less money harder, whilst the rich could likely afford it. It is therefore not a fair tax.

To conclude, this solution is worth considering to improve the current situation, but there are advantages and disadvantages of introducing such a policy.

(277 words)

Comments

The topic is clearly stated in the general statement of the introduction, and the thesis tells the reader that advantages and disadvantages will be discussed.

It is organized well, with the advantages of such a solution in the first body paragraph and the disadvantages in the next.

Each paragraph has two ideas and they are well signaled and supported.

There are some good uses of tenses to show the writer is discussing the unreal future i.e. something that has not happened (**would discourage car owners..., would be a heavy burden...,**)

IELTS Overpopulation Essay

This model essay is about **overpopulation in cities**.

You specifically have to talk about the **problems** of overpopulation, and suggest some **solutions** to this problem.

Note that this question specifically asks you what **governments** and **individuals** can do.

You **MUST**, therefore, write about what both of these can do in order to fully answer the question.

Note as well that you must talk about **serious** problems.

The easiest way to organize a problems and solutions essay is as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions

In this essay, a separate paragraph has been written about government and individual solutions, so it is organized as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions - Government

Body 3: Solutions - Individuals

Model Essay 9

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

IELTS Overpopulation Essay - Sample Answer

Many countries of the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas, and both governments and individuals have a duty to find ways to overcome these problems.

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding and poor quality housing in many large cities. Poorly heated or damp housing could cause significant health problems, resulting in illness, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Another serious consequence of overcrowding is a rising crime rate as poor living conditions may lead young people in particular to take desperate measures and turn to crime or drugs.

In terms of solutions, I believe the government should be largely responsible. Firstly, it is vital that the state provides essential housing and healthcare for all its citizens. Secondly, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them occupied. Finally, more effective policing of inner city areas would also be beneficial.

Naturally, individuals should also act responsibly to address these problems, and the motivation to do this would hopefully arise if the measures described above are put into place by the government. This is because it will encourage people to have more pride in their own community and improve the situation.

Therefore, it is clear that the problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a collective responsibility, then it may well become possible to offer some solutions.

(254 words)

Animal Rights Essay

This IELTS **animal rights essay** discusses the exploitation of animals by humans.

Take a look at the question:

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Two Opinions

In this essay you are being given **two opposing opinions** to discuss.

This is the first opinion:

Animals should not be exploited by people and they should have the same rights as humans.

This is the second opinion:

Humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

In this type of essay, you must look at both sides. In other words you need to discuss the arguments **FOR** animal rights and **AGAINST**.

You must also ensure you give **YOUR** opinion.

Organizing the Essay

One way to organize an essay like this is to consider both opinions, then give your opinion in a final paragraph or dedicate a whole final paragraph to your opinion .

Another way to write an essay like this is to also make one of the 'for' or 'against' opinions *your* opinion as well.

Look at the model animal rights essay below. The second body paragraph discusses the first opinion, but the topic sentence makes it clear that this paragraph is also representing the writers opinion as well:

However, I do not believe these arguments stand up to scrutiny.

This now means that in two body paragraphs you have covered all three parts of the question from the animal rights essay:

- 1. First opinion**
- 2. Second opinion**
- 3. Your opinion**

The advantage of doing it this way rather than having a separate paragraph is that you do not need to come up with new ideas for a new paragraph.

If you have a separate paragraph with your opinion you may find you cannot think of any new ideas or you may end up repeating the same things as in your previous paragraphs.

IELTS Writing Example 12

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You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Animal Rights Essay - Model Answer

Some people believe that animals should be treated in the same way humans are and have similar rights, whereas others think that it is more important to use them as we desire for food and medical research. This essay will discuss both points of view.

With regard to the exploitation of animals, people believe it is acceptable for several reasons. Firstly, they think that humans are the most important beings on the planet, and everything must be done to ensure human survival. If this means experimenting on animals so that we can fight and find cures for diseases, then this takes priority over animal suffering. Furthermore, it is believed by some that animals do not feel pain or loss as humans do, so if we have to kill animals for food or other uses, then this is morally acceptable.

However, I do not believe these arguments stand up to scrutiny. To begin, it has been shown on numerous occasions by secret filming in laboratories via animal rights groups that animals feel as much pain as humans do, and they suffer when they are kept in cages for long periods. In addition, a substantial amount of animal research is done for cosmetics, not to find cures for diseases, so this is unnecessary. Finally, it has also been proven that humans can get all the nutrients and vitamins that they need from green vegetables and fruit. Therefore, again, having to kill animals for food is not an adequate argument.

To sum up, although some people argue killing animals for research and food is ethical, I would argue there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that this is not the case, and, therefore, steps must be taken to improve the rights of animals.

(Words 290)

IELTS Essay - Old Buildings

This model essay is about **old buildings** and whether they should be protected or not.

It is quite a difficult question, so you will need to brainstorm your ideas carefully.

It is basically an **opinion essay**, as you have to give your opinion on protecting old buildings. However, it does not ask you whether you agree or disagree.

There are two parts to this essay question so you must answer both.

1) How important is it to protect old buildings?

For the first part you have to decide which opinion you have:

Yes, it's very important - reasons why

No, it's unimportant - reasons why

2) Should history stand in the way of progress?

In this part, you need to give your opinion on whether you think history is so important it should take priority over a country's progress.

IELTS Essay 13 - Old Buildings

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many old buildings protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones.

How important is it to maintain old buildings?

Should history stand in the way of progress?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Most nations around the world have at least some, or possibly many, old buildings such as temples, churches and houses in their cities, villages and surrounding areas which have historical significance. In my opinion, it is very important to maintain these, but this does not mean progress should stop.

Preserving certain old buildings is important for several reasons. Firstly, these structures provide an insight into the history of our countries, showing us how people many centuries ago lived their lives. Without them, we could only learn by books, and it would undoubtedly be sad if this were the only way to see them. Many of these buildings are also very beautiful. Take for example the many religious buildings such as churches and temples that we see around the world. Not only this, but on a more practical level, many of these buildings provide important income to a country as many tourists visit them in great numbers.

However, this certainly does not mean that modernization should be discouraged. I believe that old buildings can be protected in tandem with progress. For example, in many circumstances we see old historic buildings being renovated whilst maintaining their original character, and being used for modern purposes. Also, in no way does history hinder progress, and in fact it is the opposite. By studying and learning about our history, we understand more about the world we live in, and this helps us to build a better future.

To conclude, I believe that it is very important to protect and preserve old buildings as we can learn about our history as can others from other countries. Such knowledge can also help us to understand how to modernize our countries in the best way.

Words 287

IELTS Animal Testing Essay

Here you will find an example of an IELTS **animal testing essay**.

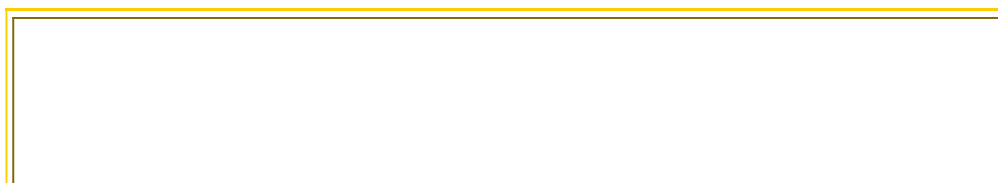
In this essay, you are asked to discuss the arguments **for** and **against** animal testing, and then give **your own conclusions** on the issue.

This means you must look at both sides of the issue and you must also be sure you give your opinion too.

The essay is similar to an essay that says "*Discuss both opinions and then give your opinion*" but it is worded differently.

Take a look at the question and model answer below, and think about how the essay has been organized and how it achieves coherence and cohesion.

Animal Testing Essay - Model 14



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Examine the arguments in favor of and against animal experiments, and come to a conclusion on this issue.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Animals Testing Essay - Model Answer

Issues related to animal experimentation are frequently discussed these days, particularly in the media. It is often said that animals should not be used in testing because it is cruel and unnecessary. This essay will examine the arguments for and against animal testing.

On the one hand, the people who support these experiments say that we must do tests on animals. For instance, many famous lifesaving drugs were invented in this way, and animal experiments may help us to find more cures in the future. Indeed, possibly even a cure for cancer and AIDS. Furthermore, the animals which are used are not usually wild but are bred especially for experiments. Therefore, they believe it is not true that animal experiments are responsible for reducing the number of wild animals on the planet.

On the other hand, others feel that there are good arguments against this. First and foremost, animal experiments are unkind and cause animals a lot of pain. In addition, they feel that many tests are not really important, and in fact animals are not only used to test new medicines but also new cosmetics, which could be tested on humans instead. Another issue is that sometimes an experiment on animals gives us the wrong result because animals' bodies are not exactly the same as our own. As a consequence, this testing may not be providing the safety that its proponents claim. In conclusion, I am of the opinion, on balance, that the benefits do not outweigh the disadvantages, and testing on animals should not continue. Although it may improve the lives of humans, it is not fair that animals should suffer in order to achieve this.

(Words 278)

Comments

This animal testing essay would achieve a high score.

It fully answers all parts of the task explaining the arguments 'for' in the first paragraph and the arguments 'against' in the next. Conclusions are then drawn with the writer giving their opinion in the conclusion.

It is thus very clearly organized, with each body paragraph having a **central idea**.

Ideas are also **extended** and **supported** by the use of *reasons* and some *examples* or *further clarification*. No ideas are left unclear or unexplained.

There is also some good **topic related vocabulary** in the animal testing essay such as '*life saving drugs*' and '*bred*' and a mix of complex sentences , such as adverbial clauses:

'Although it may improve the lives of humans, it is not fair that animals should suffer in order to achieve this'.

Noun clauses:

'...they feel that many tests are not really important'.

And relative clauses:

'...the animals which are used are not usually wild...'

Transitions are also used effectively to ensure there is good **coherence** and **cohesion**. For example, '*On the other hand..*' indicates a change to discuss the contrasting ideas, and '*Therefore...*' and '*As a consequence..*' are used to give results.

Social Interaction and the Internet Essay

Below is an **Internet essay** connected to social interaction.

The IELTS test usually focuses on topical issues, and this certainly falls into this category as you have probably seen this issue discussed on TV and online.

You have to discuss if you think that the Internet is damaging social interaction.

The question also mentions the matter of the Internet opening up communication world-wide, so you should also discuss this in your answer.

Always look at the question carefully and **underline the key points** made in the prompt to ensure you do not miss anything.

Of course you should always do a quick plan for your internet essay, as with any essay, before you start to write.

Model Essay 16 - Internet Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities

world- wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction.

How far do you agree with this opinion?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Internet Essay - Model Answer

It is evident that, at present, people are spending a considerable amount of time on the Internet, and thus spending less time with real people. I strongly agree that although this use of the Internet has greatly increased the level of communication available, it has also had detrimental effects on the amount and type of social interaction that takes place.

The benefits of the Internet in terms of increased communication are clear, with people connected across the globe. In the past, communication was only possible by phone or mail, which entailed time and expense. It also usually meant just keeping in contact with those people already known to you. With the internet, this has changed dramatically. Email and social networking sites such as Facebook and MSN have created online communities that are global in scale, and they have fostered communication between people and countries that we would not have thought possible in the not too distant past.

That said, there is no doubt in my mind that this has had negative impacts on social interaction. People, especially the younger generation, spend hours of their time online, chatting and on forums. Although this can be beneficial, it is certainly not the same as real interaction with human beings and does not involve the same skills. It is important that children have and maintain real friendships in order to develop their own interpersonal skills. Not only this, it can also have negative effects on local communities if people are spending most of their time communicating online and not mixing in their neighborhoods, and possibly lead to feelings of isolation for those individuals who do not have a 'real' person to turn to in times of need.

To conclude, I believe that the internet has undoubtedly been beneficial, but there are good reasons to be concerned about social interaction in our societies. It is therefore important that we maintain a balance between our online life and our contact with real human beings.

(328 Words)

IELTS Airline Tax Sample Essay

The following essay is on the topic of airline tax.

You are asked to decide if you **agree or disagree** with taxing airlines in order to reduce the problems that the increasing amount of air traffic can cause.

It is always a good idea to look at **both sides of the issue**, and this essay does this.

So you need to brainstorm:

1. the reasons **why this would be a good solution**
2. the reasons **why it would not**
3. and of course decide **which side of the argument you agree with.**

Model Essay 19

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Air traffic is increasingly leading to more noise, pollution, and airport construction. One reason for this is the growth in low-cost passenger

flights, often to holiday destinations.

Some people say that government should try to reduce air traffic by taxing it more heavily.

Do you agree or disagree?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Low-cost Airline Tax - Model Answer

Over recent years there has been an enormous increase in the amount of air traffic around the world resulting in various problems, and a major cause of this has been the growth of low-cost airlines. Although some people believe that taxes should be increased for air travel, I disagree.

Those that support taxing airlines believe that this will result in a reduction in this type of travel and thus solve the problems of pollution, noise and construction. This is because a tax would make the cost of travelling more expensive, which will, they claim, lead to a decrease in demand. Proponents of this solution believe that taxes are fair because everyone has to pay them and it is a workable solution that will have the additional bonus of providing an income for the government.

However, there are a number of reasons why this is not the right course of action. Firstly, a tax is not fair because it will adversely affect people on lower incomes. Such a tax would have to be a fixed amount paid equally whether you are rich or poor, which means that those on lower incomes would find it more difficult to travel, but it would likely have little effect on the lives of those with a higher income. In addition, such a tax would not work. For example, we have seen taxes increase in most countries on cars, but this has had little affect, with car use continuing to grow.

To sum up, it is evident that introducing heavy taxes on air travel is not fair or workable. If we continue to explore alternatives, we can continue to enjoy the benefits that air travel offers.

(280 Words)

IELTS Free University Education Essay

The issue of **free university education** is an essay topic that comes up in the IELTS test.

This essay therefore provides you with some of the key arguments about this topic.

The essay is an **agree / disagree essay**, which means you are given **one opinion** and then asked if you agree with it or not.

So remember to make it clear in your essay which side you are on.

Of course you don't have to firmly come down on one side - you could partly agree if there are some aspects of the arguments you agree with but some parts you disagree with.

In this essay, the writer believes free university education is the best policy, so s/he agrees with the opinion. This is made clear in the conclusion (though you can put your opinion in the introduction as well if you wish).

The writer presents **both sides of the argument**. This is a good idea as you may find it more difficult to come up with a lot of ideas for one side of an argument. It also shows you are able to see both sides of the argument - a good academic skill.

Example Essay 20 - Free University Education Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

University education should be free to everyone, regardless of income.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Over recent years, more and more people have been attending university and arguments have persisted as to whether students should pay for this privilege not. Although there are convincing arguments on both sides, I strongly believe that it should be free.

One argument put forward in favour of charging students is that education is becoming more expensive to fund as universities grow in size. Consequently, making students pay may maintain standards and ensure the quality of the teaching. In addition, it is argued that most students benefit from university in terms of higher paid jobs, so it is fair that they pay for at least some of the cost, especially given that the majority of students attending university are from the middle classes. Last but not least, in many countries, there is a shortage of people to do manual jobs such as plumbing and carpentry, so making university more expensive may encourage people to take up these jobs.

However, there are a number of arguments in favour of making university education free for all. Firstly, it will encourage more people to attend and this will benefit society. This is because it will lead to a more productive and educated workforce. Research has generally shown that those countries that have a better educated population via university have higher levels of innovation and productivity. In addition, there is the issue of equality of opportunity. If all students are required to pay, those on a low income may be dissuaded from attending, thus making it unfair. The reason for this is that they will likely not be able to secure financial support from their family so they will be concerned about the debts they will incur in the future.

In conclusion, I am of opinion that all education should remain equally available to all regardless of income. This is not only fair, but will also ensure that countries can prosper and develop into the future with a well-educated workforce.

326 Words

Computer Games Essay

This page analyzes a **computer games essay** and also notes how you can make good use of the question to plan and organize your essay.

Take a look at this IELTS task 2 question:

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

Remember to always analyze the question carefully. The **topic** should be fairly clear:

Computer games

Remember to also look carefully to see if the topic is being **narrowed down** to a particular **aspect** of the topic. In this case it is:

Children

Now you need to check what the **task** is. How many things do you have to write about?

Hopefully you realized there are three things that you can easily turn into brainstorming questions:

1. *What are the positive impacts of computer games on children?*
2. *What are the negative impacts of computer games on children?*
3. *How can the negative impacts be minimized?*

Your answers to these questions will form your computer games essay.

You do not have much time and you have three things to answer, so one or two ideas for each is enough, as remember you will need to explain your ideas and give examples.

Now, take a look at the model answer.

Computer Games Essay Question:

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Computer Games Essay Model Answer:

Access to computers has increased significantly over recent decades, and the number of children playing games on computers has increased too. This essay will consider the positive and negative impacts of this and discuss ways to mitigate against the potential negative effects.

With regards to the positive effects, playing computers games can develop children's cognitive skills. Many popular games require abstract and high level thinking skills in order to win, skills that may not be taught at school. For example, children need to follow instructions, solve complex problems and use logic in many of the games that are currently popular. Such experience will be beneficial to a child's progression into an adult.

However, concerns have been raised about the prolific use of computer games by children, much of this related to the violence they contain. The problem is that in many of the games children are rewarded for being more violent, and this violence is repeated again and again. For instance, many games involve children helping their character to kill, kick, stab and shoot. This may lead to increased aggressive feelings, thoughts, and behaviours.

In order to minimize these negative impacts, parents need to take certain steps. Firstly, some video games are rated according to their content, so parents must check this and ensure their children are not allowed to have access to games that are unsuitable. Parents can also set limits on the length of time games are played. Finally, parents should also take an active interest in the games their children are playing so they can find out how they feel about what they are observing.

To sum up, there are benefits of computer games, but there are disadvantages too. However, if parents take adequate precautions, the severity of these negative impacts can be avoided.

(296 Words)

Comments

This computer games essay is well-organized and it directly answers the question, with each paragraph addressing one of the tasks.

Note how the topic sentences match the tasks (which have been taken from the prompt):

1. ***What are the positive impacts of computer games on children?***

With regards to the positive effects, playing computer games can develop children's cognitive skills.

2. ***What are the negative impacts of computer games on children?***

However, concerns have been raised about the prolific use of computer games by children, much of this related to the violence they contain.

3. ***How can the negative impacts be minimized?***

In order to minimize these negative impacts, parents need to take certain steps.

This is why analyzing the question is so important. This provides you with the basic building blocks with which to write your essay.

Ban Smoking in Public Places Essay

This is a **ban smoking in public places** essay.

It is an example of an essay where you have to give your opinion as to whether you agree or disagree.

The sample answer shows you how you can present the **opposing argument first**, that is **not** your opinion, and then present your opinion in the following paragraph.

It is always a good idea to present a balanced essay which presents both sides of the argument, but you must always make it very clear what **your** opinion is and which side of the argument you support.

Ban Smoking in Public Places Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Smoking not only harms the smoker, but also those who are nearby.
Therefore, smoking should be banned in public places.***

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Medical studies have shown that smoking not only leads to health problems for the smoker, but also for people close by. As a result of this, many believe that smoking should not be allowed in public places. Although there are arguments on both sides, I strongly agree that a ban is the most appropriate course of action.

Opponents of such a ban argue against it for several reasons. Firstly, they say that passive smokers make the choice to breathe in other people's smoke by going to places where it is allowed. If they would prefer not to smoke passively, then they do not need to visit places where smoking is permitted. In addition, they believe a ban would possibly drive many bars and pubs out of business as smokers would not go there anymore. They also argue it is a matter of freedom of choice. Smoking is not against the law, so individuals should have the freedom to smoke where they wish.

However, there are more convincing arguments in favour of a ban. First and foremost, it has been proven that tobacco consists of carcinogenic compounds which cause serious harm to a person's health, not only the smoker. Anyone around them can develop cancers of the lungs, mouth and throat, and other sites in the body. It is simply not fair to impose this upon another person. It is also the case that people's health is more important than businesses. In any case, pubs and restaurants could adapt to a ban by, for example, allowing smoking areas .

In conclusion, it is clear that it should be made illegal to smoke in public places. This would improve the health of thousands of people, and that is most definitely a positive development.

(290 words)

Comments

This essay is well organized and presented.

The introduction is clear - note how it follows the ban smoking in public places essay question - it paraphrases the information in order to introduce the topic and the argument.

The argument against a ban on smoking in public places is presented first. It is made clear that it is not the authors opinion by the topic sentence:

"Opponents of such a ban argue against it for several reasons".

And also by the use of the word 'they' to refer to the opponents.

The writer then clearly shows they are moving on to the other argument which is their own (and it has clearly been stated in the thesis that this is their argument):

"However, there are more convincing arguments in favour of a ban".

In this paragraph, 'they' is dropped because it is now the writers opinion.

IELTS Family Size Essay

Here you will find an IELTS **family size essay** and some advice on how to answer this question.

Take a look at the question below.

As countries have developed there has been a trend towards smaller family sizes.

Why does this happen?

How does this affect society?

You should always analyze the question carefully to see if the topic is **narrowed down** to a particular group of people or place.

In this case, the question says "**As countries have developed...**".

This tells you that you need to write about decreasing family sizes in relation to **countries that are developing**. If you start writing about family size generally with no mention of this then you will not be fully answering the question.

The prompt is very clear, but it is still common for candidates to miss one part. There are **two parts** that need to be answered:

- *Why there is a trend towards smaller family sizes in countries that are developing*
- *How this affects society in those countries*

Again, you must make sure you explain how it is affecting **society**, not just the family itself.

IELTS Family Size Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

As countries have developed there has been a trend towards smaller family sizes.

Why does this happen?

How does this affect society?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Family Size Essay - Model Answer

Many countries around the world are becoming richer as they develop and at the same time these countries are seeing a reduction in the size of the family unit. This essay will discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and examine some of the possible effects it will have on society.

One of the principal reasons for smaller family units is birth control. As a country develops and becomes richer, birth control becomes more readily available. This may be due to a rise in the number of medical clinics or the distribution of free contraception. The result of this is that people can choose family size. Another important factor is the rise in the levels of education that occur as a country develops, which means that women are more educated and more likely to be working. Consequently, many will want to delay having children and so will likely have fewer in the long-term.

This can impact on society in a number of ways. One positive effect is that the population will fall, which will likely result in less poverty as there will be less competition for scarce resources. The parents can also provide a better education to their children as it will cost less, which will benefit society as a whole. A possible negative impact is that there will be fewer younger people in the workforce in the future, thus making the sustainability of future economic growth less certain.

In conclusion, family size has fallen due to birth control and education, and this can impact on debt, access to resources, and economic growth. Regardless of any impacts, this trend is likely to continue as countries around the world develop and become wealthier.

(281 words)

Comments

The family size essay is **well-organized** - the first sentence of the introduction introduces the topic and this is followed by the thesis which clearly states the issues that will be addressed:

- ☐ *Why family size decreases*
- ☐ *How this affects society*

Each paragraph then addresses one of these parts in turn.

The first sentences clearly illustrate the topic of each paragraph:

- ☐ *One of the principal **reasons for smaller family units** is...*
- ☐ *This can **impact on society** in a number of ways.*

The conclusion then repeats the thesis

- ☐ *In conclusion, **family size has fallen** due to birth control and education, and this **can impact** on debt, access to resources, and economic growth.*

The family size essay is well **signposted** with linking words and phrases to lead the reader through the ideas, giving **reasons** and **results**. For example, from body paragraph one:

- ☐ *One of the principal reasons...*
- ☐ *This may be due to...*
- ☐ *The result of this is...*
- ☐ *Another important factor is...*
- ☐ *which means that...*
- ☐ *Consequently,...*

All of the **content** clearly answers the question and the ideas are properly explained so there is no ambiguity.

IELTS Stress Essay

This is a model IELTS **stress essay**. It is about stress in modern society and how to prevent it.

It is a causes and solutions type essay. In other words, you have to identify **what causes stress** and then **suggest solutions**.

This type of essay lends itself to **two body paragraphs** - one explaining the causes and the next discussing some possible solutions.

As is important with any IELTS essay, you must always **read the question carefully**.

The topic is often **narrowed down** to a particular group of people or topic.

Narrowing down the question

Take a look at the stress essay question:

Stress is now a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the factors in modern society that cause this stress, and how can we reduce it?

The key here is that '*modern society*' is mentioned.

If you just talk about stress in general but don't connect it to modern society you may be in danger of **not fully answering the question**.

You need to brainstorm some issues specific to the world we live in today that may result in stress.

What things effect us today that did not (or not too such an extent) 10, 20, 30 years ago?

Using personal pronouns

Also, you may notice that 'we' is used a lot in the stress essay.

Remember an IELTS essay is not quite the same as an academic essay you will normally write. It is can be **more personal** as you only have your own experience to support your answer with.

You should **avoid too many personal pronouns** if possible such as 'I' throughout the essay but you may wish to use this to give your opinion or examples from your own experience at times. This is ok, but don't overdo it.

This question specifically says how can 'we' reduce it. So it is already making it personal. So it is ok to write about what all of us, or 'we', can do.

Model Essay 25: Stress Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Stress is now a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the factors in modern society that cause this stress, and how can we reduce it?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Stress Essay Model Answer

Stress is a problem that can have detrimental effects on many people's lives, and there are various factors in modern society responsible for this. However, there are ways to limit the potential impacts.

The modern world we live in today presents us with many issues that we did not have to cope with in the past. Firstly, there are issues of terrorism that we are constantly confronted with in the media. Whether these are real or not, we are led to believe our lives are in constant danger, be it flying on a plane or travelling on public transport. Climate change is another worry that everyone has to face. The results of a significant rise in temperatures could radically affect our ways of life, and our children's too. There are also more health issues to be concerned about than in the past, with rises in alzheimer's, diabetes, and stroke to name but a few. All of these concerns can result in stress.

Tackling such problems will not be easy, but there are measures that can be taken. Governments and the media could play their part by ensuring that instead of persistently bombarding us with such negative images and information about the world in which we live, we are given more positive stories too. However, given this is unlikely to happen, we need to develop our own strategies to distract us from these influences. Of course exercising regularly is one thing we should do as this has been shown to increase endorphin levels and lead to feelings of happiness. Sleeping enough helps us to recuperate and restore our body. Finally, eating properly can improve our health and result in less worry about potential diseases.

All in all, although there are many factors around us today which lead to stress, we can take steps to reduce it. Given that the strains we face in modern society will likely get worse, ignoring it is not an option for many people.

Words: 327

IELTS Employing Older People Essay

This IELTS **employing older people** essay tackles the issue of whether it is better for employers to hire younger staff rather than those who are older.

This type of topic arises in IELTS writing now again. This is about employing people over 50.

Don't mix it up with essays that ask whether people should be forced to retire at a certain age.

Some of the arguments may be the same i.e. the advantages of someone working when they are older, but the question is different.

IELTS Employing older people essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Employing Older People Essay - Model Answer

Some people believe that due to the rapid changes occurring in modern work places, it is better to employ younger than older people. I do not believe that this is the case.

One argument in support of younger employees is that older employees could be more set in their ways and potentially against any change. To an extent this may be true, but there are many flexible and intelligent workers over 50, while there are inflexible and narrow-minded younger ones. Attitude towards change is a result not of age but of personality type.

That said, physical changes occurring with age could mean certain jobs are more suited to a younger person. For instance, psychologists seem to be in agreement that memory declines with age for people not remaining mentally active. In high-tech industries such as computer programming, where it is so important to be able to work with so much information, numbers and calculations, being younger may be an advantage.

However, older workers have a wide range of other positive attributes that they can bring to their working environment. Generally, they have more work experience than those who are younger. In addition, as can be seen with the trend of many department stores in the UK to take on older people, they are seen to be more reliable and respectful. These are important in any kind of working environment.

In conclusion, therefore, there is not the evidence to support employing young people as opposed to those over 50. It would seem that a mix of the best qualities of old and young is preferential in order to ensure the most productive environment evolves.

(264 words)

Comments

This employing older people essay would achieve a high band score.

It fully answers the task by discussing issues around the young and old working and making some comparisons. A clear opinion is also given - the writer believes a mix of young and old is best.

The essay is well-organized and coherent. Each paragraph has a clear topic and linking words between and within paragraphs are used appropriately.

There are examples of less common lexical (vocabulary items) and the writer clearly knows how to collocate.

There are a mix of simple, compound and complex sentences.

Family Values Essay

This is an IELTS family values essay, centered around the belief that families are not as close as in the past.

If you look at the question carefully, you will see that there are two tasks.

Firstly, you have to explain why (give *reasons*) families are not so close.

The second task is to state whether you think this more of a *negative* or *positive* trend.

So this essay is a mix of **causes**, **advantages** and **disadvantages**.

Be careful in noting that it is partly as **opinion essay** as you have to give your opinion as to whether the advantages outweigh (i.e. more advantages) the disadvantages.

Take a look at the question and the model answer:

IELTS Family Values Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.

Why is this happening?

Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Family Values Essay Model Answer

There has been a trend over recent decades for families to become less close than they were in the past and this situation is largely accepted in society. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and examine the benefits and drawbacks of this development.

One of the first reasons for a decline in the closeness of families is connected to the busy lifestyles that we now lead. Most people are having to work longer hours and often both parents work, so they simply do not have as much time to spend with each other as they did in the past. Another factor is the materialistic and consumer driven culture we now live in, which has led to less value being placed on family relationships. Modern technology also means that people are more interested in their online life than interacting with their family in their free time.

It could be argued that this has benefits. If people are not so close with their family, they are free to pursue their own dreams and aspirations, and to focus on improving their own lifestyle. However, I believe that there are far more negative outcomes. The most important factors leading to a fulfilled and happy life are emotional security and comfort. Without these we are in danger of feeling lost. It is a difficult world we live in and we need the support of people close to us to cope with modern life. We are seeing a rise in mental health problems in many countries and this may well be a factor in this.

To conclude, busy modern lifestyles, changing cultural values and modern technology are causing families to become less close. We should try to halt this trend as it has more negative than positive outcomes.

(294 Words)

Comments

This family values essay would merit a high IELTS score.

The essay is **organized clearly**. The introduction introduces the topic and the thesis clearly sets out the contents of the essay.

Each body paragraph has a **clear central idea** - the first paragraph is about the *reasons* and the second paragraph examines the *advantages and disadvantages*. This paragraph also makes it clear that the writer believes the **drawbacks outweigh the benefits**.

It would also be possible to have presented a separate body paragraph, each with the advantages and disadvantages, but you would need to be careful not to write too much and possibly run out of time.

The conclusion then **summarises the main points** made in the essay and again **clarifies the opinion**.

Paying Attention in Class Essay

This **paying attention in class essay** is a causes and solutions type question.

The issue is about the extent to which children at school concentrate or pay attention in their classes.

There are two ways that you can organize an essay like this. Firstly, you could write a paragraph about the **causes / reasons** and then a paragraph about the possible **solutions**.

This is a good idea when you have general solutions that do not specifically relate to the causes that you have given.

An example of this type of organisation can be seen in this stress essay.

However, if you wish you can put the solution directly after the cause if it is directly related to that cause. So the organisation would be as follows:

Body 1: Cause - Solution

Body 2: Cause - Solution

Now take a look at the question and model answer for the paying attention in class essay.

IELTS Paying Attention in Class Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

These days, many children have difficulty paying attention and concentrating in their classes at school.

What are the reasons for this?

How can it be dealt with?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Teachers are increasingly finding that their pupils do not pay full attention or concentrate properly during class time. This essay will examine the reasons for this and suggest some possible solutions.

One of the reasons for this is that teachers now lack the freedom to discipline children. In the past, teachers could use any methods they felt appropriate to control pupils in their class, even if this meant physical punishment. However, the balance has now changed, with children aware that there are limits to what a teacher can do and without this respect they do not concentrate if they do not want to. There have, for example, been cases where pupils have sued teachers for disciplining them too harshly. Children should of course not be abused, but teachers must be given more power to use the methods that they think appropriate to control the class without fear of recrimination.

Another factor may be the diet of children. Research has widely reported that the additives in a lot of the snacks and carbonated drinks that children drink regularly can cause behavioural changes such as hyperactivity. This may lead to a lack of ability to concentrate in class. To prevent this, schools must make sure that these snacks are not available at the school. Parents have a part to play as well, and they must ensure that their children are not given too much of these types of snacks at home.

To conclude, children may have difficulty paying attention in class because of a lack of discipline in schools and additives from snacks. However, the solutions are to give more power back to teachers and to limit the availability of certain foods.

(280 Words)

Fear of Crime Essay

This **fear of crime essay** is based around the issue of crime prevention - specifically, is it possible to prevent crime or not?

Take a look at the question below.

Many people are too scared to leave their home because of a fear of crime.

Some people think that more should be done to prevent crime, whereas others feel that nothing can be done.

What are your views?

In some essays you are simply asked to give your opinion or views. This leaves it fairly open in how to approach your answer.

However, as is always the case, you must **spend some time analysing the question** to make sure you are very clear about what you are being presented with.

In this fear of crime essay you are given two sides:

- ☐ *More should be done to prevent crime*
- ☐ *Nothing can be done*

You could argue one side throughout your essay, but the best approach is to look at **both sides of the issue** to make sure you are fully answering the question. It is also easier to come up with **more ideas** if you look at both sides.

You should also decide which side you are going to agree with and **make this very clear** in your answer.

In this particular essay, the author's view is that more should be done to prevent crime.

This is presented in the second body paragraph (though another option would be to discuss both sides and present your own opinion only in the introduction and / or conclusion).

Take a look at the model answer below.

IELTS Fear of Crime Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people are too scared to leave their home because of a fear of crime. Some people think that more should be done to prevent crime, whereas others feel that nothing can be done.

What are your views?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Fear of Crime Essay - Model Answer

Over recent decades, there has been an increasing fear of crime in many countries. Although some think that there is little that can be done to reduce the levels of crime, I believe there are measures that can be implemented.

Those that believe that nothing can be done hold this view for several reasons. Firstly, they think that a fear of crime is a state of mind perpetuated by the media. For example, we are constantly bombarded with negative news stories about crime and violence on our streets. Thus the belief is that whatever we do to reduce levels of crime, people will still be scared. Another belief is that crime is caused by wider structural issues in society that are too difficult to tackle, such as the growing income gap between the rich and the poor. Little then can be done about this issue in our capitalist societies.

However, I feel that there are solutions that will ensure people feel safer outside their homes. Governments can increase the numbers of police in local communities and more 'neighbourhood watch' schemes should be encouraged, both of which increase safety and deter crime. The media should also be encouraged to present more positive stories in the news about how crime is being tackled rather than the focus on the negative. In terms of the structural issues, governments should attempt to tackle issues of poverty through better income distribution.

To conclude, there is a widely held view that nothing can be done to prevent crime. In contrast to this opinion, I would argue that there are options available that would help prevent crime and therefore reduce the fear of crime.

(277 Words)

IELTS Sample Writing Task 2: Reducing the Working Week

by Phuong Nhung Nguyen
(Hanoi, Vietnam)

The length of the working week does not reflect modern lifestyle needs. It should be substantially reduced to give people more leisure time and time with their families.

How far do you agree with this statement?

If we carry out a survey about whether the length of current working time is appropriate or not, it is sure that most of people asked will choose the negative answer. Nowadays, people have to work at least eight hours per day and six days per week. The remaining time for other activities is little and this leads to a number of psychological as well as social problems. Therefore I concur with some people who suggest that it is necessary to go down working time.

First of all, the results of studies done by the experts from many countries show that there is a marked increase in psychological disease cases and the causes of those problems involve mainly with work. The diseases can be minor such as headache or more serious like depression and heart attack. People who suffer from those often have such heavy workload and pressured working environment that they cannot spend time for leisure pursuit. They feel exhausted each time they finish work and sometimes a day for pastime is very difficult to arrange.

Besides, I also long to emphasize the social issues due to hectic work. As an example, there is not much time for people and their children to meet and share problems as they go to work from the early morning until the evening. The distance between parents and children is lengthened. Children easily spoil and sometimes might commit crime. In addition to this, busy schedule work may result in the break in family happiness. This is reflected by the fact that the divorce rate have picked up significantly, recently.

To sum up, I thoroughly approve that the decrease in working time is relevant. In the future, this problem should be discussed and legalised by the government to ensure the needs for entertainment and family care of people.

Feedback:

It's a good answer with some good support for your ideas and well organized.

You also have some good grammar and vocab.

=====

Corrected version:

If we carry out a survey about whether the length of the current working week is appropriate or not, it is certain that most people asked will choose the negative answer. Nowadays, people have to work at least eight hours per day and six days per week. The remaining time for other activities is little and this leads to a number of psychological as well as social problems. Therefore, I concur with the people who suggest that it is necessary to reduce working time.

First of all, the results of studies done by the experts from many countries show that there has been a marked increase in cases of physical and mental health problems and the causes of those problems mainly involve work. The illnesses can be minor such as headache or more serious like depression and heart attacks. People who suffer from those often have such heavy workloads and pressured working environments that they cannot spend time on leisure pursuits. They feel exhausted each time they finish work and sometimes a day for pastimes is very difficult to arrange.

Besides, social issues also arise due to hectic work. As an example, there is not much time for people and their children to meet and share problems as they go to work from the early morning until the evening. As a result, the distance between parents and children is increasing. Children are easily spoiled and sometimes might commit crime. In addition to this, busy work schedules may result in a breakdown in family happiness. This is reflected by the fact that the divorce rate has picked up significantly recently.

To sum up, I thoroughly agree that a decrease in working time is important. In the future, this problem should be discussed and legislation passed by the government to ensure the needs for entertainment and family care are ensured.

FURTHER COMMENTS:

Grammar

"there has been a marked increase" = use present perfect for something that started in the past and is still happening now.

Using the Correct 'Voice'

"I also long to emphasize..." = Try to avoid using "I" except when giving your opinion in the introduction / conclusion, or maybe if you are giving an example about yourself to support an idea.

Vocabulary

Your first paragraph is a bit mixed up because you refer to **'psychological problems'** in the topic sentence but then you talk about **'physical problems'** i.e. headache and heart attack. You need to be careful about the differences. The first are to do with the mind and the others the body.

Diseases = we don't tend to use the word for mental health problems. It is usually used for physical problems with the body.

Approve = signify satisfaction or acceptance. It can't be used in this context. Check some sample sentences on the internet.

"this problem should be discussed and legalized" = you have said here that we should 'legalize this problem'. You can't legalize a problem. "To legalize" means to make something illegal legal, so it does not apply here.

I think you mean **"the government should pass legislation to make working weeks shorter"**.

Some people think that schools should select students according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have students with different abilities studying together. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.

Some people contend that mixed ability classes are more beneficial for children's development than streaming them on the basis of judgement about their academic abilities. However, from my perspective, I disagree with this contention.

Admittedly, mixed ability classes provide a better environment for children's all-round development. In such classes, children with different abilities study together and in turn they can learn from one another. For example, a student, who is good at academic study but weak in dancing or painting, can learn how to dance or paint from his peers. In this sense, mixed ability classes allow students to develop their abilities in different subjects instead of only academic abilities.

Despite the argument above, I believe streaming students brings more benefits to teachers and students. As for teachers, separating children with better academic abilities from others facilitates effective teaching. This practice helps teachers to control their students more conveniently and easily. Compared with mixed ability in which teacher should consider students' differences when they are using teaching methodologies, streaming makes this situation simpler. To be more specific, students are at the same level of academic ability in a class, and in turn teachers can use the same methodologies for them all. In this way, the narrower the spread of ability in the class, the more convenient the teaching can be.

On top of this, streaming enables students to learn in an effective way. According to students' different abilities, they are taught in different ways that are more suitable for them. In the top streams, students use more difficult materials, therefore, they can learn more. In sharp contrast, teachers can explain the material more slowly to those in bottom streams. Under this circumstance, students with different academic abilities can study effectively and efficiently.

In the final analysis, mixed ability classes are beneficial for students' versatile development, but in my opinion, segregating students based on different academic ability is better for both teachers and students.

The writer presented a balanced discussion of the topic, effortlessly delivered in a form of a fluent, well-written IELTS essay. The arguments and reasoning are laid out in a coherent,

logical way. A wide range of vocabulary is used in this work. There are very few spelling errors that could have been caught in an additional round of proofreading (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows corrections). Keep up the good work! Overall, this essay seems worthy of IELTS Band 8.

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In many countries children are engaged in different kinds of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it a valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What is your opinion?

The issue of whether or not children should be engaged in some paid work has sparked a heated debate. While some argue that having some employment experience is conducive to a child's learning and development, I contend that it would bring harm to the child's health and learning.

First of all, a workplace designed for adults is normally short of child-friendly facilities. Desks and chairs are too high for a child; the light switches are installed on the walls unreachable by children; also emergency training and facilities such as phones are only provided to adults. Furthermore, various hazards such as polluted air and chemical fumes are still produced in factories and farms. Undoubtedly young people would suffer in such workplaces.

Also, children would find it frustrating when they are not properly inducted before starting a job. A child working in a cement factory would feel a setback when he could not get immediate support while struggling with the procedures of recording different raw materials that is required by the job. Further, without sufficient support, a child's misunderstanding or inappropriately communicating with adults would only disappoint him and prevents him from active learning and interacting with other people.

To conclude, a child's paid employment experience would lead to a negative impact on their health and active learning. However, recognizing the importance of children's learning and their awareness of responsibility, it is advisable to encourage them to be involved in some volunteering opportunities where they can meaningfully learn and interact with other people with sufficient care and support in place for such jobs.

This is a good essay. There are only a few errors (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows corrections), but otherwise this work seems worthy of Band 7.5 or 8. Remember to always proofread your essay before submitting it. Keep up the good work!

When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Nowadays, technological advances and their rapid and wide applications are having a significant impact on a nation's traditional skills and ways of life. Some argue that such impact is so extraordinary that it would make conventional skills and life styles obsolete. However, I believe they would continue to thrive by providing alternatives to modern ways of life, and innovative ideas for modern technologies.

First of all, traditional skills and ways of life are becoming an alternative solution to the problems caused by "mainstreamed" ways of life which are greatly influenced by modern technologies. For instance, a cozy restaurant where traditional, home-brewed beer is served, offers another experience to people who are bored with branded beers that have the same flavor and come out of mass production with new technologies. It is in such a venue where traditional skills are preserved, people become relaxed and educated. Providing diversity and thus enriching modern ways of life, such traditional skills and ways of life would continue to have their place.

Furthermore, conventional skills provide innovative ideas to the development of modern technologies. For example, sparked by how the word "Love" is traditionally knitted into a sweater by some ethnic minority women in some parts of Asia, some business managers from textile industry have developed some production lines by applying the traditional skills to Computer-Aided Designs (CAD). The products have boosted the companies' sales which in turn have increased their investment in preserving traditional skills for further developing their technologies.

To conclude, traditional skills and life styles are increasingly becoming a useful alternative to the homogeneity brought by global applications of modern technologies. However, the evolution of technologies is a selection process, whereby some would become obsolete, but there is no doubt that some would thrive when their roles are appreciated.

This is a good essay. The requirements of the task statement are covered, the arguments make sense and are presented in a coherent, easy to follow way, the range of vocabulary is wide enough and the writer shows fluency and flexibility. There are only a few errors (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows suggested corrections). Overall this looks like an IELTS Band 8 essay.

When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Nowadays, technological advances and their rapid and wide applications are having a significant impact on a nation's traditional skills and ways of life. Some argue that such impact is so extraordinary that it would make conventional skills and life styles obsolete. However, I believe they would continue to thrive by providing alternatives to modern ways of life, and innovative ideas for modern technologies.

First of all, traditional skills and ways of life are becoming an alternative solution to the problems caused by "mainstreamed" ways of life which are greatly influenced by modern technologies. For instance, a cozy restaurant where traditional, home-brewed beer is served, offers another experience to people who are bored with branded beers that have the same flavor and come out of mass production with new technologies. It is in such a venue where traditional skills are preserved, people become relaxed and educated. Providing diversity and thus enriching modern ways of life, such traditional skills and ways of life would continue to have their place.

Furthermore, conventional skills provide innovative ideas to the development of modern technologies. For example, sparked by how the word "Love" is traditionally knitted into a sweater by some ethnic minority women in some parts of Asia, some business managers from textile industry have developed some production lines by applying the traditional skills to Computer-Aided Designs (CAD). The products have boosted the companies' sales which in turn have increased their investment in preserving traditional skills for further developing their technologies.

To conclude, traditional skills and life styles are increasingly becoming a useful alternative to the homogeneity brought by global applications of modern technologies. However, the evolution of technologies is a selection process, whereby some would become obsolete, but there is no doubt that some would thrive when their roles are appreciated.

This is a good essay. The requirements of the task statement are covered, the arguments make sense and are presented in a coherent, easy to follow way, the range of vocabulary is wide enough and the writer shows fluency and flexibility. There are only a few errors (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows suggested corrections). Overall this looks like an IELTS Band 8 essay.

Modern children are suffering from the diseases that were once considered to be meant for adults only. Obesity is a major disease prevalent among children. What are its causes and what solutions can be offered?

Nowadays, the increasing rate of overweight children and adults is a worldwide health issue. Obesity is a major problem which is increasing day by day in school going children. There are various reasons behind it. This essay will discuss the causes of obesity and offer some solutions.

The first cause of obesity is junk food. It is often seen that mostly children are fond of burgers, pizzas, noodles and coke. These types of foods are easily available to them in school canteens. Children love to purchase chips, chocolates, - ice-cream for lunch. Moreover, in this modern era, parents are working and they do not have time to cook at home. Parents often buy dinner for their children instead of preparing food at home. This calorie-rich diet is making children obese. This problem can be solved by teaching children to cook healthy foods for themselves and banning junk foods and fizzy drinks in schools. This diet can be replaced by milk, juice and fruits for lunch.

The second cause of obesity is sedentary life style. It is true that the use of computers and television is increasing in children. They spend most of their time watching television or playing video games on a computer. This technological advancement has reduced the level of physical activity in this specific age group. This issue can be resolved by encouraging children to do physical exercises. Parents can take their children to park to encourage playing with friends. Furthermore, schools can add sports in their curriculum to maintain physical fitness in their students.

To sum up, it is clear that main causes of obesity are unhealthy eating and not enough physical activities. This ailment can be prevented and treated by healthy eating habits and physical exercises.

This is a good essay. There are only a few minor errors that could have been easily prevented by proofreading this essay one last time before submission (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows corrections). Overall, this work seems worthy of IELTS Band 8. Keep up the good work!

Many offenders commit more crimes after serving the first punishment. Why is this happening, and what measures can be taken to tackle this problem?

It is true that some criminals commit crimes again after they have been punished. While there are several reasons for this alarming trend, some effective measures can be taken by governments to tackle this problem.

There are two main reasons for re-offenders. Firstly, the prison system can make the situation worse. Criminals put together in prison and they make friends with other offenders. While they are locked up in prison, they do not have much to do there, and they would exchange information about what they have done before they came to the prison or they may plan crimes with other inmates. Secondly, offenders often do not have any other means of earning money. They are poor, uneducated and lacking skills needed to maintain a job. Also, a criminal record makes finding a job difficult as people usually avoid hiring ex-convict.

To solve this problem, governments should focus on rehabilitation of criminals rather than punishment. Above all, prisons need vocational training which makes inmates to prepare for life outside the prison. They can learn practical skills such as computer programming, car maintenance and graphic design. In this way, they can be hired for a position that requires this certain knowledge and skills. Community service is another way to reform offenders. Rather than being locked up in prison with other inmates, offenders can help society and become useful to their local community, and these activities would eliminate the negative influence that prisons can have.

In conclusion, it is true the re-offenders are one of the problems in our community; it can be solved by focusing rehabilitation rather than punishment itself.

This is a good essay. The requirements of the task statement are covered, the reasoning is logical and presented in a coherent, easy to follow way, the range of vocabulary is wide enough and the writer shows fluency and flexibility. Some minor errors in this essay include word choice and preposition errors (mouse over the words underlined in blue shows suggested corrections). Overall this looks like an IELTS Band 8 essay.

Even though globalization affects the world's economies in a positive way, its negative side should not be forgotten. Discuss.

In the present age, globalization is playing an increasingly important role in our lives. But in the meantime whether it is a blessing or a curse has sparked a heated debate. Some people argue that globalization has a fundamentally beneficial influence on our lives, while many others contend that it has a detrimental effect as well.

A convincing argument can be made about globalization not only playing a pivotal role in the development of technology and economy, but also promoting the cultural exchange between different countries. To start with, it is the globalization that impelled many corporate to become international groups, thereby making a contribution to the local technology and employment. Specifically, when a multinational group establish a factory in a developing country, the new equipment, the new management skills and the job vacancies are all in the best interest of the local society. Moreover, people worldwide can get to know each other better through globalization. It is easy to see that more and more Hollywood blockbusters show cultures different from American, some recent examples are 'Kungfu Panda' and 'The Mummy'.

Admittedly, the profit driven side of globalization has severely affected young people. Today, in the metropolises in different countries, it is very common to see teenagers wearing NIKE T-shirts and Adidas footwear, playing Hip-Hop music on Apple iPods and eating at KFC. The culture that took a thousand years to form just seems similar in these cities; it seems as though you can only distinguish them by their language. Meanwhile, in some developing countries, sweat workshops are always a concerning issue. For instance, reports show that some teenagers employed by NIKE's contractors work in smelly factories over 14 hours a day, but are only paid fifty cents per hour.

To sum up, I would concede that globalization does come with some adverse effects. Despite that fact, benefits created by it far outweigh the disadvantages. Overall, I am convinced that we should further promote globalization and meanwhile the local government should take measures to combat culture assimilation and sweat workshops.

This essay is extremely long (338 words instead of the advised 250-265). It has a sound structure, your position is clearly expressed, the information is well-organized, and structure-wise the sentences are fine. The vocabulary is impressive and there were only a few grammatical errors (see comments underlined in blue). Overall, this seems to be a band 7.5 + essay.

People now have the freedom to work and live anywhere in the world due to the development of communication technology and transportation.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

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

Write at least 250 words.

These days many people choose to live or work in other countries, which has been made possible because of the convenience of air travel and modern communications. I believe that this has more benefits than drawbacks.

The disadvantage of this development is the distance that is put between family members. If a person moves away it is true that air travel and devices such as skype mean that communication and contact can be maintained. However, it is likely that a person will only be able to return one or two times a year during holidays, and speaking on skype or via email is not the same as face- to-face contact.

Despite this, there are significant advantages it can bring to people's lives. Firstly, it means that people have the opportunity to see other parts of the world and the way people live. For example, people from the West often go to work in Asia or the Middle East and visa-versa. This enriches many people's lives as they get to learn about other languages, traditions, cultures and different ways of working from their own country.

In addition to this, on a wider level it may also benefit other countries. If someone moves abroad for work, it is usually because their skill is required there. To illustrate, nurses and Doctors often move to work in hospitals in other countries when there is a shortage, so this is very valuable to the place they move to.

I would therefore argue that although there are disadvantages of the current trend to live and work abroad, they are outweighed by the advantages. It can enrich people's lives and lives of the people in the countries that they move to.

(283 Words)