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Exam 1

Task 1: The table below shows the percentage of the population by age groups in one town who rode bicycles in 2011.

Age group	Female	Male
0-9	51.3	50.3
10-17	42.2	24.6
18-39	17.1	9.7
40-59	12.3	8.0
60+	18.5	13.2

Report Plan:

Paraphrase: shows>compares; percentage>proportion; rode bicycles>cycled

Overview paragraph: (1) a higher percentage of females - all ages - than males rode bicycles (2) between 18 and 59, the figures for cyclists - both genders - were lower than for other age groups.

Paragraph 3: compare proportions of males and females who cycled in the age groups 0-9 and 10-17.

Paragraph 4: compare declining percentages of males and females who rode bicycles in the 18-59 age groups.

Paragraph 5: contrast the rise in the figures for cyclists aged 60+.

Report:

The table compares the proportion of the population of one town who cycled in 2011, according to five age groups.

Overall, it is clear that in all the age groups, the percentage of female cyclists was higher than male cyclists. However, for both genders, the proportion of the population who rode bicycles was lowest between the ages of 18 and 59.

Just over half of all females and males rode bicycles in the age group 0-9, and this proportion remained high among 10-17 year old girls, at about 42%. However, among boys aged 10-17, the percentage who cycled declined by over half to less than 25%.

The figures for the 18-39 and 40-59 year olds are much lower. In the former age group, only about 17% of women cycled, compared with just under 10% of men. Between the ages of 40 and 59, the figures fell further, to a little over 12% for women and 8 per cent for men.

However, the percentage of those over 60 who rode bicycles then rose significantly, reaching 18.5% for women compared with around 13% for men.

183 words

Task 2: Scientific research should be carried out and controlled by the governments rather than private companies. Do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

Introduction: (1) refer to the statement (2) opinion: recognize the arguments for the opposing view, but agree with the statement

Paragraph 2: two dangers of private conduct of research (1) results may be flawed, due to profit motive - example, thalidomide (malformed births) (2) ethical - social consequences of research are not prioritized - example, GM crops.

Paragraph 3: governments should control research (1) universities can conduct high-quality research and share knowledge (2) expenditure on areas of research can be prioritized - example: renewable energy.

Conclusion: agree with the statement.

Essay:

At present, scientific research across the world is carried out and controlled sometimes by governments, sometimes by private companies. While there are some arguments in favour of scientific research by corporations, I agree with the view that this should be funded and supervised by the state.

The private sector argues that it is willing to undertake scientific research, but there are two significant dangers in this. In terms of the quality and objectivity of the research itself, corporations which carry this out may be tempted to manipulate results in order to **maximize profits.** There have been numerous scandals as a result of new products being introduced hurriedly after inadequate trials. For example thalidomide, developed by a German drug

company, resulted in the birth of thousands of malformed children. From an ethical perspective, leaving research into areas such as **genetic engineering** in the hands of corporations may have profound social consequences -such as **GM crops,** with **unproven effects** which may **destroy whole ecosystems** as a result of **meddling with nature.**

Although governments have **to allocate resources to** many areas of public spending, it is essential that they be responsible for scientific research. Firstly, the highest standards can be set by **providing funding for** university departments to carry out high-quality research designed to benefit society, not **to break into new markets** or to **gain a competitive edge.** Knowledge thus gained can be shared worldwide throughout the academic community. Secondly, **government-decision making** is the best way **to prioritize expenditure on** specific areas of research, taking into consideration the needs of society, both present and future. One example is the development of **renewable energy** to meet growing demands.

In conclusion, I agree strongly with the view that governments should bear sole responsibility for scientific research.

291 words

Vocabulary:

Business and money:

- **to maximize profits**

Meaning: to increase profits to the highest possible level

Example: The company has hired a marketing consultant to recommend how **to**

maximize profits next year.

- **to break into new markets**

Meaning: to enter new markets that are difficult to enter

Example: It is difficult **to break into new markets** for designer sportswear,

because there is too much competition for leading markets like ***Nike.***

- **to gain a competitive edge**

Meaning: to achieve an advantage over another company or organization, often by providing goods or services at a lower price.

Example: The high quality of *vw* cars has enabled the company **to gain a competitive edge** over all its rivals in world markets.

Genetic Engineering:

- **genetic engineering**

Meaning: the science of changing how a living creature or plant develops by changing the information in its genes.

Example: Scientists have used **genetic engineering** to protect tomatoes against the effect of freezing temperatures.

- **genetically-modified (GM) crops**

Meaning: plants used in agriculture, the DNA of which has been changed by using genetic engineering techniques.

Example: There is a scientific consensus that currently-available food derived from **GM crops** poses no greater risk to human health than conventional food.

- **unproven effects**

Meaning: effects which have not been tested or shown to be true Example: Critics of GM crops argue that the **unproven effects** of this technology may have disastrous results in the future.

- **to damage ecosystems**

Meaning: to harm the physical environment in which all the plants and animals living in a particular area are able to survive.

Example: Genetic applications in agriculture have many unknown effects, one of which is that they may **damage ecosystems** and threaten many species.

- **to meddle with nature**

Meaning: to try to change or to have an influence on the environment, especially by acting in a way that is not scientific.

Example: Some scientists have said that GM crops mean more plentiful food, but opponents argue that we do not know the consequences of **meddling with nature.**

Government:

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something.

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

- **to provide funding for**

Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done

Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.

- **government decision-making**

Meaning: the process of deciding about something official Example: Pressure groups are sometimes able to influence **government decision making.**

- **to prioritize expenditure on**

Meaning: to put the need to spend money on certain things first.

Example: **I** believe that it is important **to prioritize expenditure on** medical research in order to save lives.

The Environment:

- **renewable energy**

Meaning: energy is renewable when its source, like the sun or wind, cannot be exhausted or can easily be replaced (like wood, as we can plant trees for energy).

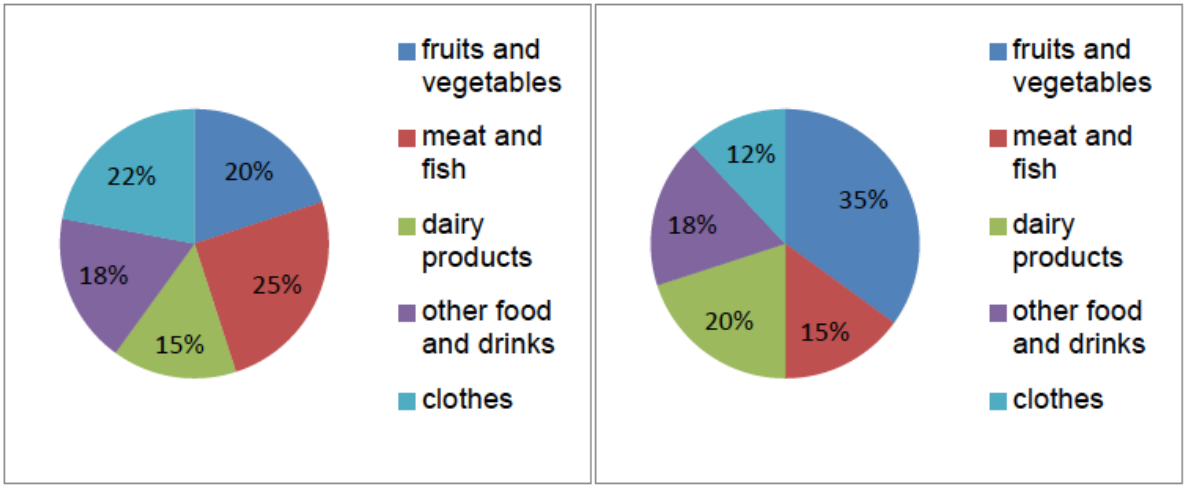
Example: More money is required from government funds to help companies to develop **renewable energy,** such as companies which produce solar panels for buildings.

Exam 2

Task 1: The information below gives details about household income and spending on food and clothes by an average family in one UK city in 2010 and 2013.

	2010	2013

Total income	£29,000	£25,000
Spending on food and clothes	£14,000	£15,000



2010 2013

Report Plan:

Paraphrase: gives details about>shows, illustrates; spending>expenditure. Write one sentence for each type of diagram.

Summary/overview paragraph: (1) total family income fell (2) percentage spent on fruits and vegetables rose significantly in 2013.

Paragraph 3: total household income fell; proportion spent on food and clothes rose (see the table).

Paragraph 4: Compare spending on clothes (% falls) with spending on fruits and vegetables/dairy products (% increases).

Paragraph 5: Compare spending on 'other food and drink' (stable) and meat and fish *(%* decreases).

Report:

The table shows total family income per household in a UK city in 2010 and 2013, together with specific expenditure on food and clothes. The pie chart illustrates how spending on food and clothes was broken down into 5 categories.

Overall, it is clear that total income fell in 2013, whereas spending on food and clothes increased from the 2010 figure. The proportion spent on fruits and vegetables rose sharply in 2013.

Total household income saw a significant fall, from £29,000 in 2010 to £25,000 in 2013. Despite this overall decline, expenditure on food and clothes rose by £1000, to reach £15,000 by 2013

Taking this expenditure on food and clothes, the proportion spent on clothes decreased from 22% in 2010 to 12% in 2013. In terms of spending on food, there was a notable increase in the figure for fruits and vegetables, from 20% to 35%. The proportion spent on dairy products also rose, reaching 20% in 2013.

In contrast, while the percentage spent on other food and drink remained the same at 18%, the figure for spending on meat and fish fell significantly from 25% in 2010 to 15% in 2013.

193 words

Task 2: The only way to improve road safety is to give much stricter punishments on driving offenses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

Introduction: stricter punishments are necessary. They are not the only way to improve road safety - there are other effective measures. So, disagree with the statement.

Paragraph 2: stricter punishments will be effective - motoring offenses are crimes. Non-custodial sentences - heavy fines, driving bans. Prison sentences - serious offences e.g. drinking and driving (UK example).

Paragraph 3: additional measures (1) install speed cameras (2) traffic calming (3) vehicle inspections.

Conclusion: repeat opinion that harsher penalties and other measures are necessary.

Essay:

It is true that stricter punishments will deter many motorists from driving dangerously or carelessly on the roads. However, I strongly disagree that this is the only way to improve road safety, because there are alternative measures which would also be effective.

Stricter punishments will undoubtedly **act as a deterrent,** so that motorists will think twice before committing traffic offenses. It is often forgotten that motoring offenses are, in fact, crimes. **The full weight of the law** should be applied in imposing a range of **non-custodial sentences,** such as heavy fines, and the confiscation of driving licences. **The letter of the law** must be strictly implemented, banning offenders from the roads so they will no longer pose a danger to other road-users, including pedestrians. Those who **drive while intoxicated** should **serve a prison sentence,** as is sometimes imposed in the UK, because they endanger innocent lives.

While harsh penalties for offenders should be **high on the government agenda,** there are other steps which **national and local authorities** should take to improve road safety. Firstly, **installing speed cameras** has made drivers aware of the need **to adhere to** speed limits. Many authorities around the world have adopted this very cost-effective measure. Secondly, **traffic calming** measures have succeeded in reducing the number of accidents,

especially in built-up areas. Finally, it is necessary to adopt a policy of **conducting regular vehicle inspections,** at authorised centres, to avoid accidents caused by mechanical failures.

In conclusion, in order to improve road safety, it is not enough **to be tough on traffic crimes** by punishing more harshly those who violate the law. A range of road safety measures should accompany harsher driving penalties.

277 words

Vocabulary:

Crime:

- **to act as a deterrent**

Meaning: to act in a way that makes somebody less likely to commit some crime. Example: Longer prison sentences would **act as a deterrent** and would be one useful measure to tackle crime.

- **the full weight of the law**

Meaning: all the strictest punishments available according to the laws of a country.

Example: In order to deter crime, **the full weight of the law** must be imposed for serious offenses.

- **a non-custodial sentence**

Meaning: a sentence which is not served in prison.

Example: There is a wide range of non-custodial sentences which a court may give to offenders, including fines, probation orders or community service orders.

- **the letter of the law**

Meaning: the exact wording of the law, without any excuses

Example: **I** believe that the courts must apply **the strict letter of the law** and

impose the harshest possible sentences on criminals.

- **to serve a prison sentence**

Meaning: to be confined in a prison as a punishment for some crime.

Example: They are **serving long prison sentences** for their part in the murder.

- **to be tough on crime** Meaning: to punish crime severely

Example: The crime rate is likely to fall if governments take strong measures **to be tough on crime.**

Transport:

- **driving while intoxicated**

Meaning: the crime of driving a vehicle after drinking too much alcohol.

Example: **Driving while intoxicated** is a serious crime, and those who drive while under the influence of drink must be severely punished.

- **to install speed cameras**

Meaning: to put cameras on certain roads to check that cars are obeying the speed limits.

Example: Local authorities must **install speed cameras** near all schools and hospitals to limit the speed at which vehicles are allowed to travel.

- **traffic calming**

Meaning: building raised areas on roads, as a way of making sure that cars go more slowly.

Example: **Traffic calming** measures in towns and cities would make the roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

- **to conduct regular vehicle inspections**

Meaning: to inspect all cars, buses and trucks at regular intervals to check that they are in good condition and safe to drive.

Example: Every town and city should have centres which **conduct regular vehicle inspections.**

Government:

- **high on the agenda**

Meaning: something which is among the first things in the list of actions to take
Example: The rehabilitation of prisoners must be **high on the agenda** of prison authorities everywhere.

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area.

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities.**

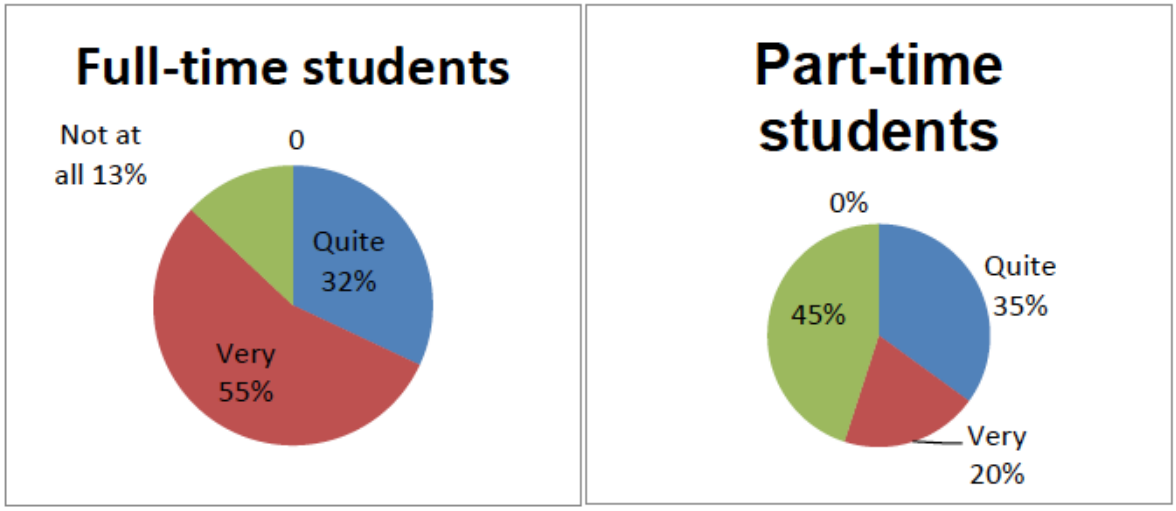
- **to adhere to**

Meaning: to behave according to a particular law, rule or set of instructions.
Example: Governments which fail **to adhere to** their election promises generally become unpopular very quickly.

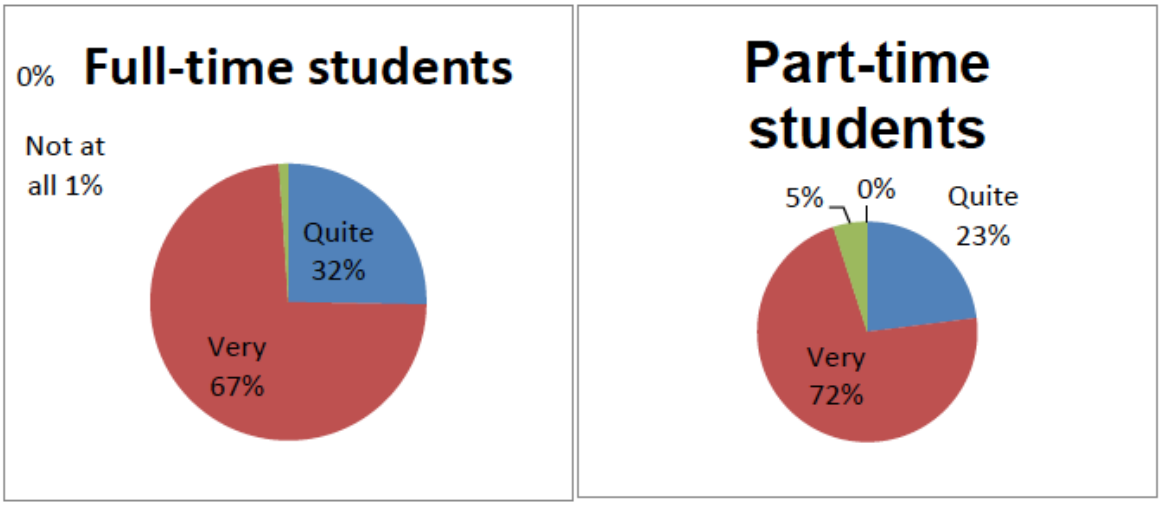
Exam 3

Task 1: The charts below show the results of a survey conducted by a university library to find out the opinions of full-time and part-time students about its services.

How happy are you with the IT support offered?



How happy are you with our current opening hours?



Report Plan:

Paraphrase: show>illustrate; conducted> carried out; services> IT support and opening hours.

Summary/overview paragraph: (1) IT support - more full-time students happy than part-time students (2) opening hours - great majority of students were satisfied.

Paragraph 3: compare percentages of students happy with IT support.

Paragraph 4: compare percentages happy with opening hours.

Report:

The pie charts illustrate the responses of students to a survey carried out by a university library about its IT support and opening hours.

Overall, it is clear that a larger proportion of full-time students were satisfied with the IT support than in the case of part-time students. However, the great majority of students were happy with the library opening hours.

In terms of IT support, almost the same percentage of full-time and part-time students were quite happy with this service, at 32% and 35% respectively. However, only 20% of part-time students said they were very satisfied compared with 55% of full-time students. While only 13% of full-time students were not at all happy with the IT support, this figure was almost half (45%) for part-time students.

Most students were very happy with the opening hours, 67% and 72% for full-time and part-time students, respectively. 32% of full-time students stated that they were quite happy with these hours, compared with 23% of part-time students. Finally, only a small minority of students were not at all satisfied - just 5% or less.

180 words.

Task 2: The tradition that the family gets together to eat meals is disappearing. What are the reasons? What are the impacts?

Essay Plan:

Introduction: comment on the statement, state that you will discuss some reasons and impacts.

Paragraph 2: reasons (1) children eat in front of the TV (2) close-knit family is disappearing - so no regular mealtimes.

Paragraph 3: impacts **(1)** on family life - stability of family routine impacts on upbringing of children (2) on children's health - they develop unhealthy eating habits, leading to disorders.

Conclusion: some reasons can be identified and the impacts are serious.

Essay:

It is true that the traditional family mealtime is becoming a thing of the past. There are some reasons which can be put forward to explain this changing **pattern of behaviour,** and there are significant impacts on family life and health.

There are two obvious reasons why families no longer share mealtimes as they used to do in the past. Firstly, children are often too impatient to eat at the table, and parents sometimes allow them to have their meal in front of the TV or sitting in front of the computer. Secondly, the **close-knit family** is disappearing in the face of economic pressures. In **single-parent households,** or in families with **working mothers,** it can be almost impossible to arrange regular times for meals when all the family is together.

The consequences for family life and for children's health are serious. From the perspective of the family, meals taken together are an important feature of a stable **family background.** This stability of family routine is a essential factor in **shaping children's personality** during their **formative years.** Family mealtimes are a time to share news, give guidance and to make plans together. In terms of children's health, family meals were an opportunity **to provide all the family members with a healthier diet,** based on wholesome **home-made food.** Without this routine, children are sometimes left **to have snacks,** or to eat **junk food** at **fast food chains.** Health consequences such as obesity and **hyperactivity** often result when youngsters fail **to eat a balanced diet,** such as used to be provided at family mealtimes.

In conclusion, some reasons can be identified for the decline in shared family meals and the impacts are **overwhelmingly** negative.

281 words.

Vocabulary:

Family and children:

- **patterns of behaviour**

Meaning: ways of acting and doing things (either positive or negative).

Example: **Patterns of behaviour** copied from parents often influence the way that children grow up.

- **a close-knit family**

Meaning: a family having strong relationships with each other, helping with problems and enjoying a lot of time together.

Example: Children who come from **a close-knit family** generally perform well at school and enjoy a happy childhood.

- **a single-parent household**

Meaning:a family in which one parent takes care of the children without the help of a husband, wife or partner.

Example: As a result of changes in society, **single-parent households** are no longer considered unusual.

- **working mothers**

Meaning: women who have a job and also have to take care of their children.
Example: As more and more women have entered the workforce, **working mothers** have to balance the demands of home and work.

- **family background**

Meaning: the details of a person's family life

Example: Criminals sometimes have a bad **family background,** neglected or abused by parents.

- **to shape a child's personality**

Meaning: to decide or influence the form of a child's personality.

Example: Parents are very influential in shaping their children's personality through the example that they set.

- **formative years**

Meaning: A period of a person's life, usually childhood, that has a big influence on the person that they become later in life.

Example: UNICEF states that the early childhood years from birth through age 8 are **formative years** in terms of intelligence, personality and social behaviour.

Food and diet:

- **to provide somebody with a healthier diet**

Meaning: to give somebody a diet which is more healthy than that which they have at present.

Example: Eating only fresh fruit and vegetables **provides people with a healthier diet.**

- **home-made food**

Meaning: food which is prepared at home using individual ingredients.

Example: In developed countries, the young generation must rediscover the art of preparing **home-made food,** as part of a healthy lifestyle.

- **to have a snack**

Meaning: to eat a small amount of food between main meals.

Example: Unless people are doing vigorous exercise, it is a bad habit **to have a snack** between meals.

- **junk food**

Meaning: food that is quick and easy to prepare and eat, but that is thought to be bad for your health.

Example: The consumption of too much **junk food** is a major factor in the increase in childhood obesity.

- **fast food chains**

Meaning: groups of shops owned by the same company, serving food to the public.

Example: Healthy eating means avoiding eating out at **fast food chains** like McDonald's or Pizza Hut.

- **to eat a balanced diet**

Meaning: to eat the correct types and amounts of food.

Example: The health benefits of **eating a balanced diet** are obvious.

Other vocabulary:

- **hyperactivity (noun)_**

Meaning: a state in which a person, usually a child, is only able to keep quiet and still for a short period.

Examples: Children who show signs of **hyperactivity** cause problems for teachers and parents.

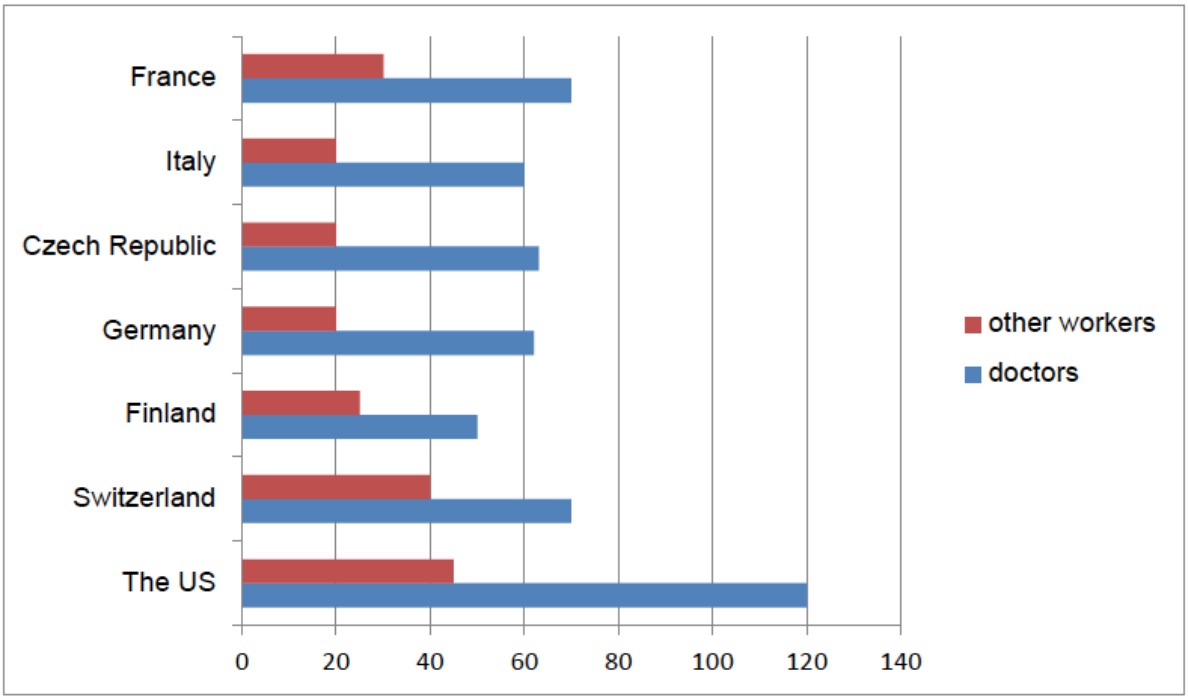
• overwhelmingly (adverb)

Meaning: in a way that is very great or very strong.

Example: they voted **overwhelmingly** against the plan to raise taxes.

Exam 4

Task 1: The chart below shows the annual pay (thousands of US dollars) for doctors and other workers in seven countries in 2004.



Report Plan:

Paraphrase: shows>compares; annual>yearly; pay>salary; seven countries> several countries

Summary/Overview paragraph:(1) pay of US doctors higher than in the other countries (2) doctors earned more than other workers

Paragraph 3: doctors: contrast US (highest earnings) and Finland (lowest earnings). France & Switzerland - same salary - higher than Italy, Czech Republic, Germany.

Paragraph 4: other workers: lower pay than doctors. Compare the US and Switzerland (highest), next France and Finland, then Italy, Czech Republic and Germany with the same figure.

Report:

The bar chart compares the yearly salary of doctors and other workers in several countries in the year 2004.

Overall, it is clear that the pay of US doctors was much higher than that of doctors in the other countries. In each country, the annual salary of doctors was far higher than that of other workers.

The annual pay of doctors in the US was $120,000, whereas in Finland doctors received a comparatively low yearly salary of $50,000. In France, and Switzerland doctors earned $70,000 per year, compared with around $60,000 annually in Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic.

In contrast, the annual wages of other workers were much lower, at about $45,000 and $40,000 in the US and Switzerland, respectively. Other workers in France earned $30,000, a little more than other workers in Finland, who had an annual salary of $25,000. The lowest annual earnings were for other workers in Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic, at exactly $20,000.

160 words.

Task 2: Some people think that newly built houses should follow the style of the old houses in the local areas, while others think that people should have freedom to build houses of their own styles. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Essay Plan:

Introduction: refer to both views. Agree with the first view.

Paragraph 2: modem view: **(1)** individuals should choose their modem house style if they wish (2) costs of traditional construction make old style housing too expensive.

Paragraph 3: traditional view: (1) preserve cultural heritage (2) mixing modem architectural styles is an eyesore.

Conclusion: modem housing developments must respect the existing architecture of an area.

Essay:

While some people believe that new houses should be constructed in the same style as the more traditional houses in the locality, others contend that everyone should be free to choose their own style of house. I agree with the view that new housing should follow the traditional architecture of the area.

On the one hand, there are some who argue that it is essential **to welcome change** and allow individuals to have the right to live in a modem style of house, if they so wish, irrespective of the locality. They also tend **to dismiss traditional ideas** on terms of building costs. **Traditional construction materials,** like natural stone from local quarries, are difficult to obtain and very expensive even if they are available, whereas new houses are built using more affordable materials. **The maintenance costs** of houses constructed in the old way also tend to be higher compared with their **modern counterparts.** Wood, for example, is nowadays commonly replaced by aluminum or plastic materials in house construction.

On the other hand, there are strong arguments that new houses should adopt the existing architectural style of a local area. In terms of the **tangible cultural heritage** of a small town or village, traditional houses **possess character** and they give **a strong sense of identity** to the locality. Buildings which **have historical significance provide a link to our roots,** while a modem estate designed by **property developers** is certain **to be incompatible with** historical connections. From an architectural perspective, modem houses alongside traditional dwellings **are an eyesore.** They fail **to blend in with** the housing which has grown organically, perhaps during centuries.

In conclusion, though it may be costlier, the traditional architecture of localities should be respected by modem housing developments.

291 words

Vocabulary:

Traditional versus modern:

• to welcome change

Meaning: to accept change with enthusiasm

Example: While it is important **to welcome change,** the public must try to preserve all that is worthwhile from the past.

- **to dismiss traditional ideas**

Meaning: to decide that traditional ideas are not important and not worth considering any more.

Example: Although the views of older people may sometimes seem unhelpful in today's world, we should not **dismiss all traditional ideas** as irrelevant.

- **to possess character**

Meaning: to have an interesting or unusual quality.

Example: Whereas most modem buildings look similar, the architecture that has survived from the past **possesses character.**

- **a strong sense of identity**

Meaning: the feelings or customs of people which distinguish them from others.
Example: Small village communities often have **a strong sense of identity,** due to their shared customs and beliefs.

- **to provide a link to our roots**

Meaning: to connect with previous generations or traditions.

Example: Traditional skills **provide a link to our roots,** and they are part of our shared heritage.

- **to be incompatible with**

Meaning: not able to exist/be next to another thing or person because of basic differences.

Example: The way of life of indigenous people **is incompatible with** modern cultures.

Housing and architecture:

- **traditional construction materials**

Meaning: materials like stone or wood that have been used for building purposes for hundreds of years.

Example: The new theatre was built using **traditional construction materials** in order to blend in with the architecture of the old part of the city.

- **maintenance costs**

Meaning: the costs associated with keeping a building in good condition by regularly repairing it.

Example: The **maintenance costs** of old houses are comparatively very high.

- **modern counterparts**

Meaning: modem buildings which have the same function as the older ones that they replace.

Example: Old buildings are gradually being replaced by their **modern counterparts** in the centre of London.

- **tangible cultural heritage**

Meaning: refers to physical objects produced and maintained for generations within a society.

Example: **Tangible cultural heritage** includes buildings and historic places, monuments, craft objects etc which are worth preserving for the future.

- **to have historical significance**

Meaning: to be important in terms of history.

Example: Although new buildings may not **have historical significance,** they are important to meet housing or business needs.

- **property developers**

Meaning: people who buy land or buildings, and then make improvements in order to sell them for more money.

Example: City planning cannot be left in the hands of **property developers,** who are only interested in making money.

- **to be an eyesore**

Meaning: to be ugly to look at.

Example: The new multi-storey car park in the city centre **is a real eyesore.**

- **to blend in with**

Meaning: to be similar to or to match the things around.

Example: The traditional architecture of the art gallery in the park **blends in with** _the peaceful greenery which surrounds it.

Exam 5

Task 1: The table shows the amount of money given in aid of technology of developing countries by charities in the US, EU and other countries from 2006 to 2010.

	Billions of US dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
The US	9.7	10.5	13.5	18	22.7
EU countries	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.7	4.0
Other countries	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.6	3.3
Total	15.7	16.8	20.4	24.3	30

Report Plan:

Paraphrase: shows>illustrates; the amount of money>how much money; given>donated; from 2006 to 2010>in the period 2006 to 2010.

Summary/overview paragraph: (1) total aid increased (2) US charities gave most money.

Paragraph 3: trend for total aid; share of total aid from US charities.

Paragraph 4: compare trends for aid from EU and other Countries.

Report:

The table illustrates how much money was donated to developing countries in the period 2006-2010, by US and EU charities, to support technological development.

Overall, it is clear that total aid increased during this period. US aid was considerably higher than that from other donor countries.

There was a significant increase in the total aid given, from $15.7 billion in 2006 to $24.3 billion in 2009, rising sharply to $30 billion in the following year. US charities provided most of this money, with a rise in aid each year from $9.7 billion in 2006 to reach a peak of $22.7 billion in 2010.

However, contributions from other charities also increased. In EU countries, charities gave $3.3 billion in 2006 and then aid grew slowly to $3.8 billion in 2008, followed by a slight fall in the next year, before rising again to reach $4 billion at the end of the period. Charities in other countries also provided increasing aid. Despite a similar fluctuation to EU charities in the amount given each year, donations went up from $2.7 billion in 2006 to reach $3.3 billion in 2010.

186 words.

Task 2: When designing a building, the most important factor is intended use of the building rather than its outward appearance. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

Introduction: refer to the statement - many people believe this. Disagree.

Paragraph 2: function is important. **(1)** shops - big glass windows are ugly, but they are necessary to attract customers (2) housing - high-rise apartments are ugly, but they are the only solution to provide housing in city centres.

Paragraph 3: outward appearance can be combined with function in some cases. **(1)** Sometimes it is not possible (e.g. multi-storey car parks). (2) historic buildings show, however, that it is often possible to combine function and beauty - eg. Paris.

Conclusion: in design, the function and appearance of buildings is equally important.

Essay:

Many people consider that the function of a building should be the primary consideration at the design stage. The appearance of the building from the

outside is a relatively unimportant factor. While a building must serve its intended purpose, I disagree that this is necessarily the most important factor in the design.

The intended purpose of a building is, of course, very important. In terms of commercial design, most **shop facades,** for example, have large glass windows, so that passers-by will be attracted by the goods on display. This is essential for the purpose of sales, although these shop fronts **are an eyesore,** and do not **blend in with the conservation of historic buildings** of which they often form an ugly part. From the perspective of housing design, the **population density** in many cities is extremely high, and **exorbitant rents** are charged for land. In order to make city living affordable, **hideous high-rise buildings** are the only solution to provide apartments for **urban dwellers.**

The design of buildings to serve a specific function, however, does not mean that their **aesthetic qualities** should be ignored. In some countries, there has been a recent **revival of interest in** the architectural design of buildings. Although the construction of ugly **utilitarian** structures like **multi-storey** car parks is **an inevitable consequence** of modem living, new or renovated houses, shops and offices can combine pleasing design with their useful function. The centres of cities like Paris show that it is possible for historic buildings **to possess character,** which **is not incompatible with** their commercial purposes as stores, offices and apartments.

In conclusion, I believe that the outward appearance is just as important for planners and architects to consider as the function of buildings.

287 words.

Vocabulary:

Housing and architecture:

- **shop facades**

Meaning: the front of shops.

Example: The **shop facades,** with their enormous glass windows and attractive displays, entice shoppers to go in and browse.

- **to be an eyesore**

Meaning: to be ugly to look at.

Example: The modem high-rise apartment blocks in the city centre **are an eyesore.**

- **to blend in with**

Meaning: to be similar to or to match the things around.

Example: The new hotel does not **blend in with** the historic buildings which surround it.

- **high-rise buildings**

Meaning: tall, modern buildings, such as offices or apartments.

Example: The centre of my city is now full of **high-rise buildings,** mainly offices and apartments, and the city has lost its old charm.

- **multi-storey**

Meaning: a large building with several floors.

Example: In my opinion, **multi-storey** car parks are ugly, noisy places, while at night they are deserted and dangerous.

Traditional versus modern:

- **to conserve historic buildings**

Meaning: to protect important old buildings and prevent them from being damaged or destroyed.

Example: It is important **to conserve historic buildings** because of their beauty and cultural significance.

- **a revival of interest in**

Meaning: the process of something becoming more popular again.

Example: There has recently been **a revival of interest in** traditional music and songs.

- **an inevitable consequence**

Meaning: certain to happen and unable to be avoided or prevented.

Example: Some people believe that the loss of traditional cultures is **an inevitable consequence** of globalisation.

- **to possess character**

Meaning: to have an interesting or unusual quality.

Example: Whereas most modem buildings look very similar, the architecture that has survived from the past **possesses character.**

- **to be incompatible with**

Meaning: not able to exist along with another thing because of basic differences.
Example: The way of life of indigenous peoples **is incompatible with** modem cultures.

Cities:

- **population density**

Meaning: the number of people in a place when compared with the size of the place.

Example: Tokyo is a city which has one of the highest **population densities** in the world.

- **exorbitant rents**

Meaning: rents that are much too high and which people can only pay with difficulty.

Example: One factor in city life which migrants experience are the **exorbitant rents** which they have to pay for a flat or house.

- **urban dwellers**

Meaning: people who live in a city or town.

Example: The main reason that prevents **urban dwellers** from making friends with their neighbours is fear of strangers.

Art:

- **the aesthetic qualities of something**

Meaning: the qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.

Example: One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate **the aesthetic qualities of** paintings, music or literature.

Other vocabulary:

- **hideous [adjective]**

Meaning: very ugly.

Example: **I** think that most modern buildings are **hideous.**

- **utilitarian [adjective]**

Meaning: designed to be useful and practical, not attractive.

Example: The beautiful old church was demolished, and replaced by a **utilitarian** block of offices.

Exam 6

Task 2: Some people think that a huge amount of time and money is spent on the protection of wild animals, and that this money could be better spent on the human population. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the statement - a dilemma. Disagree with the opinion.

- **Paragraph 2:** the protection of wild animals is a priority. (1) wildlife extinction results in an ecological crisis, which affects human survival. Example: whaling and fish stocks. (2) protecting wild animals = preserving habitats. Example: rainforests and wetlands. These affect climate. Destroy these and endanger food production.

- **Paragraph 3:** protecting wildlife benefits human communities - it promotes ecotourism. Example: Serengeti National Park in Africa. Tourism creates local jobs.

- **Conclusion:** disagree with the statement - we must protect wildlife and this can help people, too.

Essay:

While there is so much human suffering, the spending of resources to protect wild animals presents an **ethical dilemma.** However, **I** disagree with the

opinion given, because it is possible **to allocate resources** intelligently to benefit both the animal and the human population.

The protection of wild animals must **be high on the agenda** of every individual citizen and government. Firstly, the red list of **endangered species** in increasing every year. If wildlife extinction continues, then humans may face an **ecological crisis** which impacts on their own survival. For example, if **the practice of whaling** is not halted, the **ecosystems** of our oceans will be altered forever, and this may affect fish stocks on which so many communities depend for a living. Secondly, protecting wild animals means protecting the habitats in which they live, such as rainforests and wetlands. If **habitat destruction** is permitted, climate change will affect our capacity to produce food to sustain the growing human population.

The formation of **wildlife reserves** not only protects wildlife, it also brings benefits to communities. In order to generate revenue for their management and **to eliminate poaching,** responsible **ecotourism** to observe animals **in the wild** can be developed further. This has been shown to create jobs in such places as the Serengeti National Park in Africa. The result is increased prosperity when local communities, especially in developing countries, are involved in the **running** of **wildlife safaris,** which attract visitors to the reserves. Thus, the application of intelligent strategies brings benefits for humans and wildlife.

In conclusion, I disagree with the view expressed in the statement. It is in the interest of everyone to protect wildlife, and creative solutions have shown that this need not **be a drain on** scarce resources.

285 words

Vocabulary:

Animals and animal rights:

- **an ethical dilemma**

Meaning: a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different things, relating to beliefs about what is morally right and wrong Example: Governments are facing **an ethical dilemma** over the use of animals in laboratory testing for drugs and cosmetics.

- **the practice of whaling**

Meaning: the activity of hunting and killing whales

Example: In order to protect these beautiful creatures, **the practice of whaling** should be banned completely.

- **wildlife reserves**

Meaning: protected areas for wild animals

Example: The creation of **wildlife reserves** is essential to save animals such as tigers from extinction.

- **in the wild**

Meaning: in a natural environment not controlled by people Example: Animals **in the wild** are able to exhibit their natural behaviour.

Government:

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport,

this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

- **to be high on the agenda**

Meaning: to be among the first things in the list of actions to be taken

Example: The security of its citizens must **be high on the agenda** of governments

everywhere.

Environment:

- **endangered species**

Meaning: plants or animals that exist in only very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever

Example: One example of an **endangered species** is the lowland gorilla, which has almost disappeared as the result of the destruction of its forest habitat.

- **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or population changes in a way that threatens its continued survival_

Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** which threatens our existence.

- **habitat destruction**

Meaning: the process that occurs when a natural habitat, like a forest or wetland, is changed so dramatically by humans that the plants and animals which live there can no longer survive.

Example: The elephant population in the world is declining because of **habitat destruction** caused by human exploitation of the environment.

- **to eliminate poaching**

Meaning: to stop all illegal hunting of wild animals

Example: In wildlife reserves, guards should be employed **to eliminate poaching** and to protect endangered species of wild animals.

Tourism:

- **ecotourism**

Meaning: organised holidays which are designed so that tourists damage the environment as little as possible

Example: **Ecotourism** will become increasingly popular in the future, as more and more people become aware of the need to protect the environment.

- **wildlife safaris**

Meaning: holidays (often in Africa) to see wild animals Example: The company organises **wildlife safaris** in Africa to see lions and elephants in their natural habitats.

Other vocabulary:

- **an ecosystem [noun]**

Meaning: all the plants and creatures living in an area, considered in relation to their environment

Example: Marine pollution is damaging **ecosystems** in oceans across the world.

- **running [noun]**

Meaning: the action of operating or managing something

Example: As a shop manager, she is involved in the day-to-day **running** of the business.

• to be a drain on [expression]

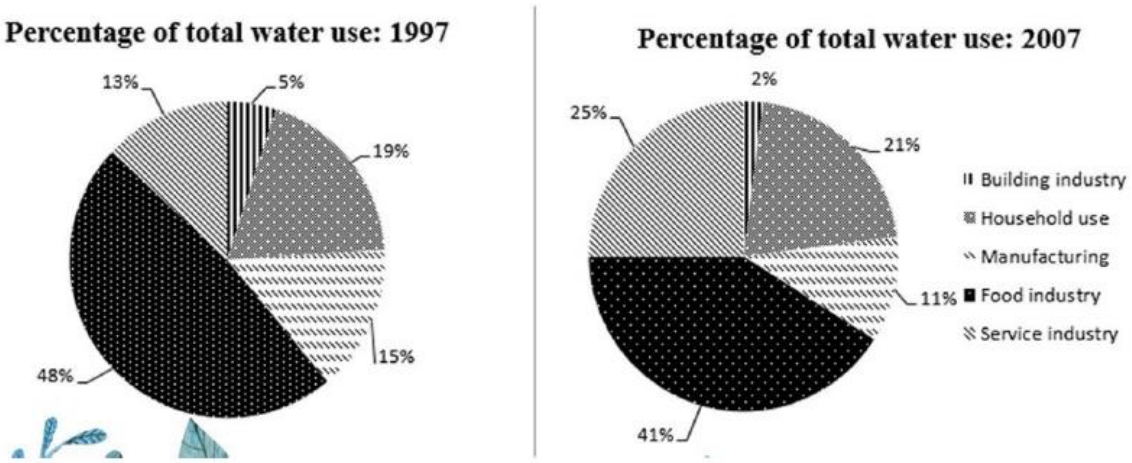
Meaning: a thing that uses a lot of time, money or energy

Example: Military spending **is a drain on** the resources of the country, and the money could be better used to provide a good health service.

Exam 7

The charts below show the percentage of water used by different sectors in Sydney, Australia, in 1997 and 2007.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Task 1: Water usage in Sydney

Report Plan:

• Paraphrase: show>compare; water used>water usage; different>various

- **Summary/overview paragraph: (1) highest percentage - food industry (2) service industry - percentage of total water use almost doubled**

- **Paragraph 3: decline of water use in 3 sectors - compare the food industry, manufacturing and building, give figures**

- **Paragraph 4: contrast the increase in water use in the other sectors - households and service industry, give figures.**

Report:

The pie charts compare the water usage of various sectors of the economy in Sydney, in two years - 1997 and 2007.

Overall, it is clear that the sector which used the highest percentage of water was the food industry. The percentage of total water use by the service industry sector in 2007 was almost double the figure for 1997.

The proportion of total water use fell in three sectors in 2007, compared with the year 1997. The food industry accounted for 48% of all water usage in 1997, but only 41% in 2007. Manufacturing and the building industry also witnessed a decrease in the percentage of water used, falling to 11% and 2%, respectively, of total water usage in 2007.

By contrast, there was an increase in the proportion of total water use in the other two sectors. The water used by the service sector rose from 13% in 1997 to ***25%*** of the total in 2007. Household use increased slightly to reach 21% of the total in 2007.

169 words

Task 2: The media should include more stories which report good news. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction: refer to the opinion. Partly agree.**

- **Paragraph 2: agree with more reporting of good news. Positive impact on public morale - example, new cancer treatments**

- **Paragraph 3: tragic news must still be fully covered by the media. (1) people should know about civil wars, natural disasters (2) e.g. environmental issues -there is more bad news to report than good news. Media must act as a watchdog.**

- **Conclusion: more publicity for positive messages; full coverage must continue for reporting bad news.**

Essay:

It is sometimes argued that **news coverage** should focus more on good news. While **I** partly agree with this view, I also consider that bad news should continue to be reported when necessary.

There is a good case for believing that good news is under-reported. It is rare to read a positive story which **makes front page headlines.** Yet it is surely essential that the public are kept informed about some of the good things which are happening in the world. In recent years, for example, **breakthroughs** have been achieved in the treatment of certain types of cancer. It should form part of **editorial policy to carry stories** such as these, because they have a positive impact on public morale.

However, it would be misguided **to introduce restrictions on** the reporting of tragic news events. Civil wars and natural disasters, for example, may sadden viewers and readers, but they are an unfortunate reality of the world today. While **sensational journalism** may at times exaggerate, it is important for the public **to keep abreast of** these happenings in order to have some informed knowledge of contemporary issues. Sadly, for instance, there is relatively little good news to report on the **host of** environmental issues facing the world. If these problems are ignored by the media, in the interests of reporting cheerful news, then the chances will surely increase of **an ecological crisis.** The media must act as **watchdogs** in the fight against **climate change** and **environmental degradation.**

In conclusion, while I agree that important positive messages should be given more publicity, it is also necessary for the media to continue reporting all the significant bad news in the world today.

279 words

Vocabulary:

Media and advertising:

- **news coverage**

Meaning: the reporting of news in newspapers, on the TV, the internet or the radio.

Example: The **US** presidential elections usually receive global **news coverage,** as the results are of interest to many people worldwide.

- **to make front page headlines**

Meaning: to be an important item of news in the media

Example: It seems that every insignificant event in the lives of celebrities **makes front page headlines.**

- **editorial policy**

Meaning: the policy of a newspaper, TV or radio station, as decided by the person in charge of producing the newspaper or programme

Example: The **editorial policy** of a newspaper determines whether serious news items are reported in a responsible way.

- **to carry a story**

Meaning: to include an item in a news report

Example: The media today **carries too many stories** about celebrities, such as pop stars or footballers.

- **sensational journalism**

Meaning: reporting which tries to get your interest by presenting facts or events as more shocking or worse than they are

Example: Unfortunately, **sensational journalism** has resulted in much public distrust of the media.

Government:

- **to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public

places.

Communication and personality:

- **to keep abreast of**

Meaning: to have the most recent information about something

Example: The new website helps doctors **to keep abreast of** the latest available

treatments.

Environment:

- **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that endangers its continued survival Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** that threatens our existence.

- **climate change**

Meaning: changes in climate patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and winds

Example: Unless we consume fewer of the Earth's natural resources, it will be impossible to fight **climate change** and safeguard our future.

• environmental degradation

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which **environmental degradation** is evident in

the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

Other vocabulary:

- **breakthrough [noun]**

Meaning: a new and important discovery

Example: The work of Charles Darwin was a **breakthrough** in our understanding of how evolution has taken place.

- **a host of [expression]**

Meaning: a large number of

Example: When deciding on a subject to study at university, young people today can choose from **a host of** possibilities.

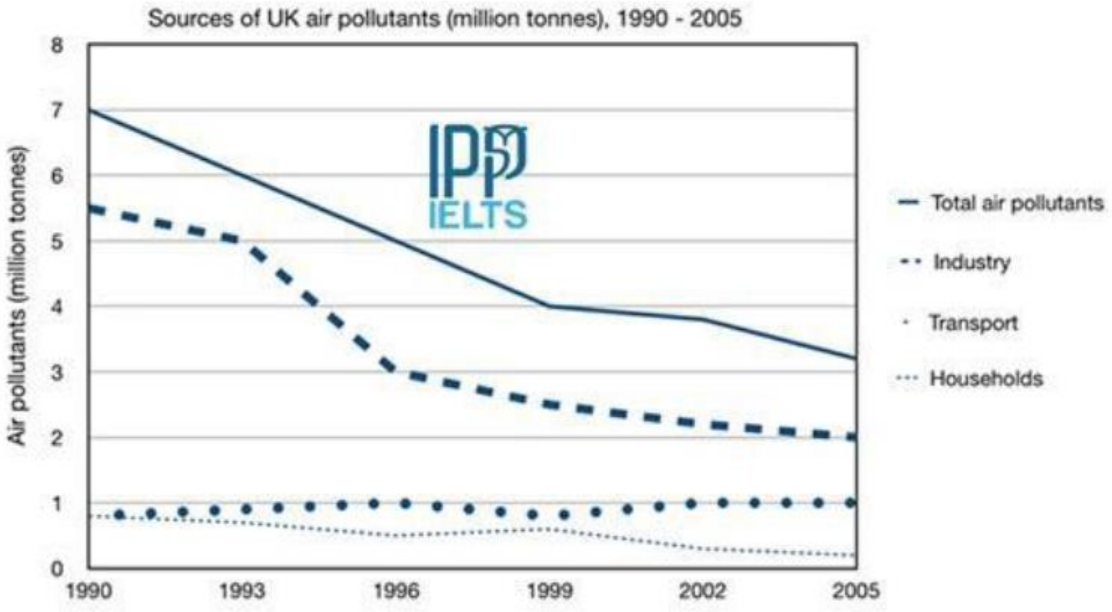
- **watchdog [noun]**

Meaning: a person or group of people whose job is to check that everything is being done legally and in the interests of the general public Example: The organisation acts as a **watchdog** to protect consumer interests by exposing the activities of companies which are cheating the public.

Exam 8

Task 1: Air pollutants in UK

The graph below shows different sources of air pollutants in the UK from 1990 to 2005. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Report Plan:

Paraphrase paragraph: shows>illustrates; different>3 sources; from 1990 to 2005>during the period 1990 to 2005.

Summary/overview paragraph: (1) the total amount of air pollutants fell (2) the most significant fall was from industry

Paragraph 3: describe total trend -figures for 1990,1999 and 2005 Paragraph 4: compares figures from the 3 sources, giving figures for 1990,2005.

Report:

The line graph illustrates data on 3 sources of air pollutants in the UK during the period 1990 to 2005.

Overall, it is clear that the total amount of pollutants in the air decreased between these years. The decline in air pollutants from industrial sources was particularly significant.

In 1990, the total amount of air pollutants in the UK was 7 million tonnes. This figure fell sharply to 4 million tonnes in 1999, and then continued to decline to just over 3 million tonnes by the end of the period.

Industry accounted for 5.5 million tonnes of air pollutants in 1990. There was then a decrease throughout this period to a figure of 2 million tonnes by 2005, with a particularly sharp fall between 1993 and 1996. In contrast, the amount of air pollutants was much lower from transport and household sources. Air pollution from transport remained relatively constant at about 1 million tonnes from 1990 to 2005, whereas air pollutants from households saw a decrease from almost 1 million tonnes in 1990 to approximately 0.1 million tonnes by 2005.

180 words

Task 2: Many university students live with their families, while others live away from home because their universities are in different places. What are the advantages and disadvantages of both situations?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction: refer to the statement, state that there are advantages and disadvantages.**

- **Paragraph 2: living with families (1) advantage - economize on accommodation (2) advantage - enjoy family support: meals, heating costs, room-sharing (3) disadvantage - too many distractions may harm studies**

- **Paragraph 3: (1) disadvantage - high cost of accommodation (2) advantage -easier to make study routines and to interact with fellow students.**

- **Conclusion: personal circumstances differ, but we can identify advantages and disadvantages of both situations.**

Essay:

It is true that, although some university students are able to live with their families while studying in their home town, others are forced to live away from home in order **to pursue their studies.** There are advantages and disadvantages of both these situations.

If university students are able to live with their families, there are both benefits and drawbacks. Firstly, one major advantage is that they are able **to economize,** since they do not have to pay for accommodation. Secondly, they enjoy family support in terms of sharing meals, heating costs, possibly even sharing a room with a brother or sister. However, the home situation may also have its disadvantages. Family routines are often **disruptive** for students who have to concentrate on their studies in a quiet atmosphere. Without a **dedicated** space in which to study, for example in the evenings or at weekends, it is hard **to keep up with** a study schedule.

On the other hand, when students live away from home, they also **face challenges.** One disadvantage is having to find accommodation. Universities are often located in major urban centres, where rents are high if students have to find a room with even the basic **facilities.** However, there are benefits of learning to study independently in another city. Students are able to escape the **distractions** of family life, and thereby establish study routines and **form friendships** with other students who find themselves in the same situation. These factors may help them in their studies.

In conclusion, while there will clearly be differences in the personal **circumstances** of individual university students, some potential advantages and disadvantages of living at home or away from home can be identified.

280 words

Vocabulary:

- **to pursue their studies** [expression]:

Meaning: to continue studying

Example: Peter and Mary have got jobs at McDonald's, but they plan **to continue their studies** part-time.

- **to economize** [verb]:

Meaning: to use less money than you normally use

Example: Japan has introduced hydrogen cars to reduce air pollution and **to economize** on fuel costs.

- **disruptive** [adjective]:

Meaning: causing problems, such as noise, so that something cannot continue normally

Example: The librarian had to warn some **disruptive** students who were talking too loudly in the library.

- **dedicated** [adjective]:

Meaning: used for one particular purpose only

Example: In the USA, some TV channels are **dedicated** to 24-hour news.

- **to keep up with** [expression]:

Meaning: to make progress at the same rate as something

Example: The teacher spoke so quickly that it was hard for me **to keep up with**

all the information she gave us.

- **to face challenges** [expression]:

Meaning: to have to deal with situations which may be difficult

Example: Children from poor families **face many challenges** if they want to go to

university.

- **facilities** [noun]:

Meaning: equipment provided for a particular purpose

Example: The library has excellent **facilities** for users to access the internet.

- **distractions** [noun]:

Meaning: things that take your attention away from what you are doing
Example: **I** find it hard to work at home because there are too many **distractions.**

- **to form friendships** [expressions]:

Meaning: to start to create and develop friendships

Example: She **formed many close friendships** at university, particularly in the subjects that she was studying.

• **circumstances** [noun]:

Meaning: the facts and conditions which affect a situation

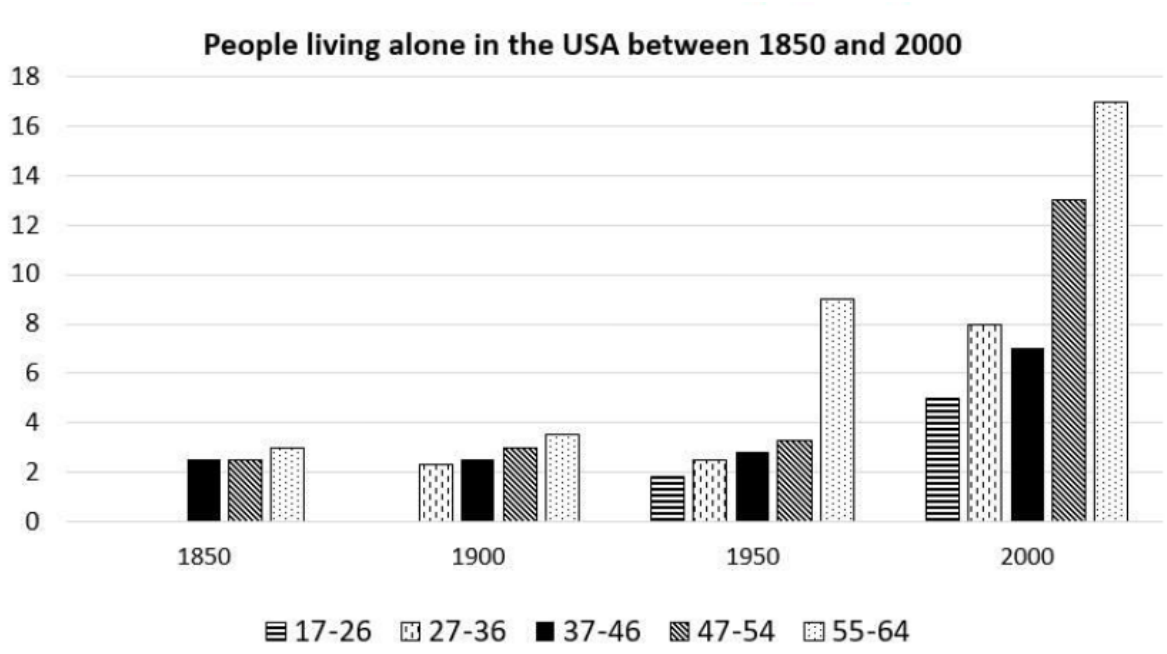
Example: Police said that there were no suspicious **circumstances** surrounding

the death of the President.

Exam 9

Task 1: People living alone in the USA

The bar chart below shows the percentage of people living alone in 5 different age groups in the USA between 1850 and 2000.



Report Plan:

Paraphrase paragraph: shows>compares; percentage>proportion; people in the USA>US citizens; between...and...>from....to.....; different>various

Overview/summary paragraph: (1) % increased in all age groups over this period (2) the highest percentage in the 55-64 age group

Paragraph 3: compare the percentages in 1850 and 1900, give some supporting figures

Paragraph 4: 1950: the percentages rise according to age group. (Give no figures). 2000: compare final figures for each age group (give all figures).

Report:

The chart compares the proportion of US citizens living alone from 1850 to 2000 in terms of various age groups.

Overall, it is clear that the percentage of the US population living alone increased over the period in all age groups. The highest proportion of those who lived alone was among the 55-64 year-olds.

In 1850, figures for three age groups are given. Just over 2% of those aged 37-46 and those aged 47-54 lived alone, slightly less than 3% for the 55-64 age group. In 1900 the proportion of those living alone in the 37-46 category remained stable, but there were small increases in the figures for the 47-54 and 55-64 year-olds, compared with only 2% of those aged 17-26.

A new pattern emerged in 1950, with the percentage of those living alone increasing according to age. The year 2000 then saw a rise in the proportions of people living alone, with the percentage of the 55 -64 year olds almost doubling to 17%, ahead of the 47-54 and 27-36 age groups with 13% and 8% respectively. While 5% of the 17-26 group lived alone, the figure was higher among the 37-46 year-olds at 7%.

197 words

Task 2: Some people say that economic growth is the only way to end hunger and poverty, while others say that economic growth is damaging the environment so it must be stopped. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Essay Plan:

Introduction: (1) refer to the first view (2) refer to the second view (3) my opinion -completely agree with the second view.

Paragraph 2: the first view - one main argument: progress and economic development is the only way to cure hunger and poverty, because the wealth from profits will find its way into the pockets of the poor. The argument made for imperialism.

Paragraph 3: the second view - many examples to support it. (1) Deforestation to produce cash crops for export (2) fossil fuels used for economic growth....global warming....sea level rise....homeless poor in Bangladesh.

Conclusion: economic growth which is not sustainable must be stopped.

Production for human need, not profits, is the way forward.

Essay:

It is true that some people **contend** that economic growth is the only solution to the global problems of hunger and poverty. Others, however, argue for an end to economic growth in order to conserve our environment. I agree completely with this second view.

Those who see economic growth alone as the sole cure for the **tragedy** of world hunger and poverty propose one major argument. Only the growth of the economies of the developing countries will provide the poor with the wealth to afford **the basic necessities of life.** The profits made by corporations who are responsible for this economic growth will **trickle down** in the form of financial benefits to be enjoyed by the starving and needy. This view has justified the age of imperialism and the destruction of the **livelihood** of millions **in the name of** progress.

On the other hand, there are **countless** examples to support the opposing view that economic growth results in environmental destruction. Firstly, this is true for developing countries, where lowland rainforests have been cleared and **unsustainable** agricultural practices introduced to produce **cash crops,** often for export. Secondly, it is also true for

developed economies. For example, the continued use of fossil fuels, which provide the energy for growing industrialisation, is causing global warming. This is leading to a rise in sea levels, which will eventually make tens of millions of poor people in Bangladesh homeless.

In conclusion, economic growth which is not sustainable must be stopped. If it is not based on meeting human needs rather than **generating** profits, such

growth will only create more poverty and lead to more hunger in the world by destroying natural resources.

277 words.

Vocabulary

- **to contend** [verb]:

Meaning: to say that something is true (especially in an argument)

Example: Although Brazil did not win the World Cup, my friend **contends** that they were the best team.

- **tragedy** [noun]:

Meaning: a very sad event or situation

Example: It is a **tragedy** that many children die of starvation in the world today.

- **the basic necessities of life [expression]:**

Meaning: the things which you must have in order to live and survive Example: Many people cannot afford **the basic necessities of life,** such as food and clothing.

- **to trickle down** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to spread money from rich people to poor people, through the economic system of a country

Example: Although the corporation made a lot of money last year, none of this **trickled down** to its employees.

- **livelihood** [noun]:

Meaning: means of earning money in order to live

Example: Communities on the island depend on fishing for their livelihood.

- **in the name of** [expression]:

Meaning: used to give a reason for doing something, often when what you are doing is wrong

Example: Many wars have been fought **in the name of** religion.

- **countless** [adjective]:

Meaning: very many (too many to be counted)

Example: I've told John **countless** times, but he still doesn't remember my phone number.

- **unsustainable** [adjective]:

Meaning: that cannot be continued at the same rate or level

Example: The use of oil at the present rate is **unsustainable** - there are reserves

only for 20 or 30 more years.

- **cash crops** [noun]:

Meaning: crops grown for selling, not for use by the person who grows them
Example: The best land in the country is using for growing **cash crops** like pineapples for export to Europe.

- **to generate** [verb]:

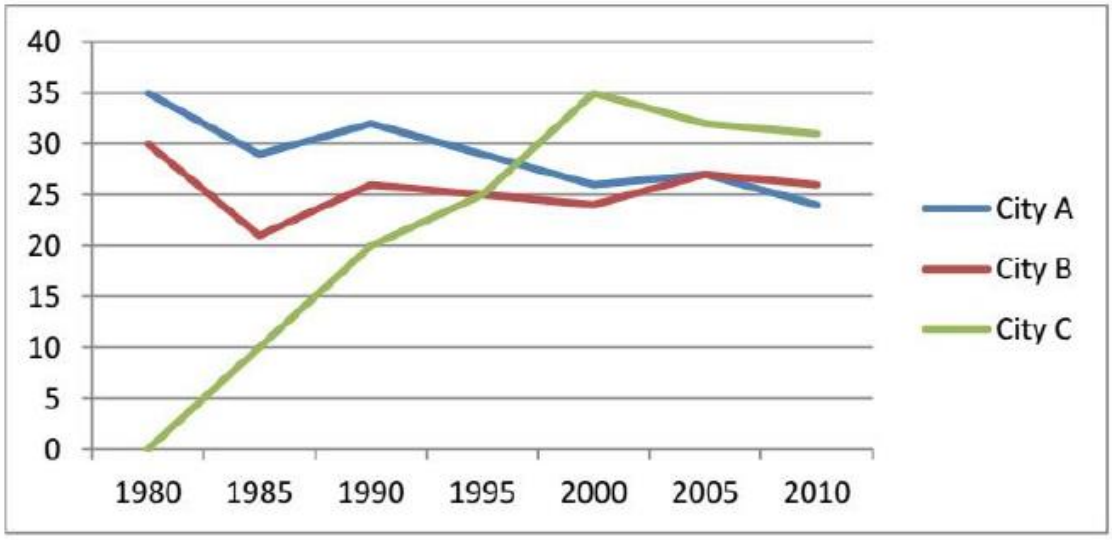
Meaning: to produce or create something

Example: In order **to generate** more electricity, the government is providing funding for wind farms.

Exam 10

Task 1: International conferences in 3 cities (line)

The graph shows the information about international conferences in three capital cities in 1980 - 2010



Report Plan:

Paraphrase: shows>compares; in terms of; hosted; between 1980 and 2010.

Overview/summary paragraph: (1) the number of conferences declined in Cities A and B (2) contrast rapid increase in the figures for City c.

Paragraph 3: City A and City B: compare 1980 numbers; give numbers for 2005, when both cities hosted the same number of international conferences; compare final numbers in 2010.

Paragraph 4: contrast City c trend and numbers, giving figures for 1980,1990,

2000 and 2010.

Report:

The line graph compares three capital cities in terms of the number of international conferences hosted between 1980 and 2010.

Overall, it is clear that the number of international conferences in City A and City B declined over this period. In contrast, in City c the number of such conferences saw a rapid increase until the year 2000.

In 1980, there were 35 international conferences in City A, compared with 30 in City B. Despite similar fluctuations, these figures then decreased overall, until in 2005 both cities hosted 27 conferences. By 2010, conferences in City B had overtaken the number in City

A, with 26 and 24 international conferences respectively.

City c held no international conferences in 1980. However, it was the venue for 20 conferences in 1990, and by the year 2000 this figure had risen dramatically to 35. The number then remained higher than in the other two cities, although it fell slightly to 31 conferences by the end of the period.

164 words.

Task 2: In the modern world it is possible to shop, work and communicate with people via the internet and live without any face-to-face contact with others. Is this a positive or negative development?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction: (1) refer to the statement in the question (2) state that you think there are both positive and negative aspects of this trend**

- **Paragraph 2: the internet is useful (1) friends - easy to keep in touch (2) shopping - save time and petrol, look for bargains online (3) work - own working hours, avoid commuting**

- **Paragraph 3: people need face-to-face contact (1) false virtual friendships -e.g. paedophiles (2) clothes, books - better to buy in shops (3) work - personal contact with colleagues - creativity, avoid misunderstandings**

- **Conclusion: there are both positive and negative aspects.**

Essay:

It is true that in contemporary life people in many parts of the world are able to do their shopping, work and communicate with each other via the internet. While there are clear positive aspects of this trend, there are also negative aspects of having less face-to-face contact with other people.

On the one hand, the internet can be very handy in many ways. Many people use it to keep in touch with friends and family, using Facebook, Skype or What's App to send instant messages or to enjoy a quick chat. Many also use the internet for online shopping, thus saving time and petrol on trips to the supermarket as well as hunting around different sites for bargains. **However,** it is in terms of work that the internet offers the most potential benefits. More and more people are working or even studying from home, at hours which suit their

own schedules. Many hours are saved each week by eliminating the daily commute and the stress of coping with the rush hour.

On the other hand, as social beings, people need personal contacts. **Firstly,** virtual friendships which are formed online may not be genuine. The media carries many horror stories of youngsters who have fallen prey to paedophiles, for example. **Secondly,** online shopping is not always appropriate, depending on the item. It is best, for instance, to try on clothes before buying, and while a bookworm can find almost any book title that they want online, they will certainly miss browsing the shelves of bookstores. **Finally,** personal interaction with work colleagues can generate ideas and avoid misunderstandings.

In conclusion, although there are positive aspects of this trend, there are also aspects of face-to-face contact which it would be a shame to lose.

292 words.

Vocabulary:

- **contemporary** [adjective]:

Meaning: belonging to the present time

Example: Life in **contemporary** Britain is much easier now than it was for previous generations.

- **handy** [adjective]:

Meaning: convenient

Example: **I** live next door to a supermarket, so it's very **handy** if **I** need to do some shopping.

- **to keep in touch with** [expression]:

Meaning: to communicte with somebody regularly

Example: **I keep in touch with** my sister by Skype or sending e-mails.

- **to hunt around** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to look for something that is difficult to find

Example: They have been **hunting around** for a flat for at least six months.

- **bargain** [noun]:

Meaning: a thing bought for less than the usual price

Example: These shoes were half-price in the shop, and I bought them because they were such a **bargain.**

- **schedule** [noun]:

Meaning: a list of things that you have to do at certain times

Example: Even people who work from home need to follow a **schedule** to

complete all the tasks that they need to do.

- **to eliminate** [verb]:

Meaning: to remove or get rid of something

Example: People with diabetes must **eliminate** sugar from their diet.

- **to cope with** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to deal successfully with something

Example: It is difficult to cope with a job and to study at the same time.

- the **rush hour** [noun]:

Meaning: the time (usually twice a day) when the roads are full of traffic and the trains and buses are crowded, because people are travelling to and from work. Example: In Paris, it is impossible to find a seat on the Metro during **the rush hour.**

- **social beings** [noun]:

Meaning: people who like to be in the company of others

Example: As **social beings,** we find it difficult to live in isolation for long periods of time.

- **to fall prey to** [expression]:

Meaning: to be harmed or affected by something bad

Example: Unemployed and homeless, he **fell prey to** drinking heavily.

- **paedophile** [noun]:

Meaning: a person who sexually abuses children

Example: Parents must warn their children that **paedophiles** on the internet often adopt a false identity.

- **to try on** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to test a piece of clothing to see if it fits

Example: These shoes look very smart - **try them on** to see if they are the right size for you.

- **bookworm** [noun]:

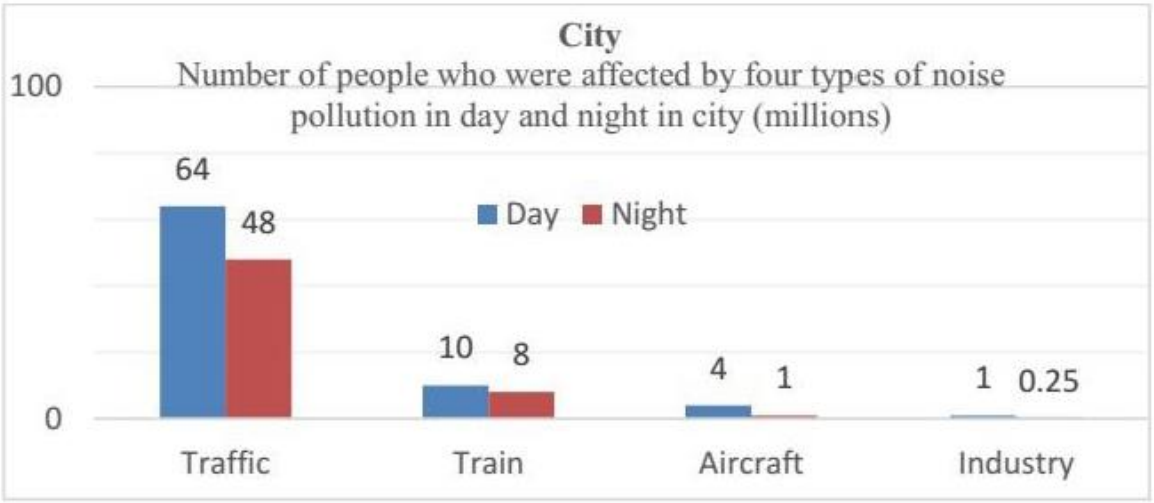
Meaning: a person who likes reading very much

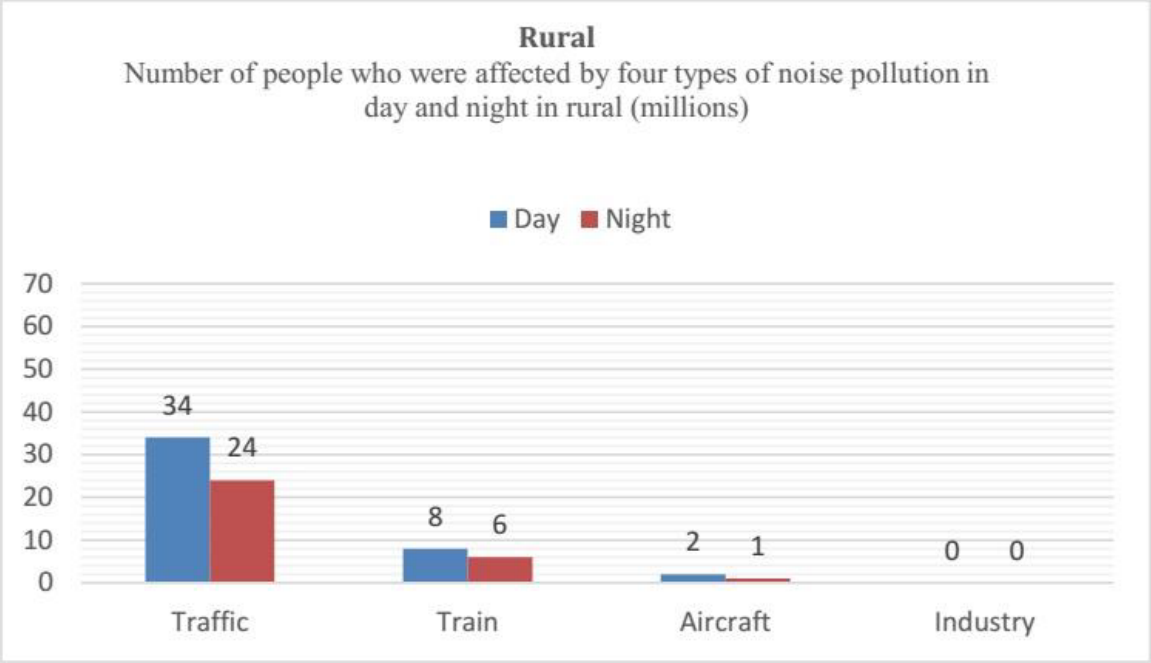
Example: Sarah is a real **bookworm,** and **I** never see her without a book in her hand.

Exam 11

Task 1: Noise pollution in cities and rural areas (bar)

The charts illustrate the number of people who were affected by four types of noise pollution in day and night in cities and rural areas in 2007.





Report Plan:

Paraphrase: illustrate>compare; number of people>how many people; cities>urban areas; four types>four sources

Overall/summary paragraph: (1) people in cities affected more by noise (2) traffic the main source of noise pollution

Paragraph 3: compare traffic noise day and night in cities and rural areas. Then compare train noise. Give figures.

Paragraph 4: compare aircraft noise day and night in cities and rural areas. Then compare noise from industry. Give figures.

Report:

The bar charts compare how many people in urban and rural areas were affected by noise pollution from four sources during daytime and nightime in 2007.

Overall, it is clear that more people in cities experienced all types of noise pollution compared with rural areas. In both charts, traffic was the main source of noise pollution at all times.

Daytime noise from traffic affected 64 million people in cities and 34 million in rural areas. At night, traffic noise affected 48 million city residents, double the figure for rural areas. Noise pollution caused by trains affected slightly more

people in cities compared with rural areas, at 10 million and 8 million respectively during the daytime, and 8 million and 6 million respectively at night.

The remaining two sources of noise pollution were less significant. In cities, daytime aircraft noise affected 4 million people and half that number in rural areas. The figure at night for cities and rural areas was 1 million. Those living in rural areas were not

affected by noise from industry. However, 1 million city residents experienced industrial noise pollution in the daytime, four times the number affected at night.

193 words

Task 2: For school children, their teachers have more influence on their intelligence and social development than their parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction: (1) refer to the task question (2) my opinion - teachers have more influence on intelligence, parents have more influence on social development**

- **Paragraph 2: (1) teachers are trained to impart knowledge to children and stimulate their intelligence - example - dedicated teachers who inspire youngsters (2) parents may play a supporting role**

- **Paragraph 3: parents have more influence than teachers on the social development of their children. (1) parents spend more time with their children than children spend in school (2) parents can be role models for their children in a wide range of social situations - give examples**

- **Conclusion: re-state opinion given in the introduction, paraphrasing some words.**

Essay:

It is true that school children are at an impressionable age, and two strong influences on their intelligence and social development are teachers and parents. **While I accept that** teachers may have more influence on the intelligence of their pupils, I would argue that parents probably exert a greater influence on the social development of their children.

In terms of encouraging the intellectual development and stimulating the intelligence of school children, I believe that teachers play the major role. While not all teachers are capable of inspiring their students, they are trained to impart their knowledge of their subject areas in challenging and imaginative ways. **For example,** some students owe their lifelong love of a subject to dedicated teachers who taught this discipline in secondary school. Of course, at home parents may also reinforce this passion by

encouraging study habits during the formative years of their children. Such support is vital for academic achievement.

From the perspective of social development, I think that parents are mainly responsible for guiding their children. **Firstly,** they spend far more time with their children than any individual teacher is able to do. They can therefore monitor the activities of children outside school hours, at weekends and during holidays. **Secondly,** parents are able to provide role models in a whole range of situations. These might include showing respect towards elders, choice of friends, or proper behaviour in public when eating out in restaurants.

In conclusion, although teachers probably have a greater effect in stimulating the intelligence of school children, parental influences on the development of children are stronger in social situations.

266 words

Vocabulary:

- **impressionable** [adjective]:

Meaning: easily influenced or affected by somebody or something Example: Advertising is often targeted at **impressionable** age groups, such as children and adolescents.

- **to exert influence on** [expression]:

Meaning: to use one's power to affect somebody or something

Example: Rock music **exerted a strong influence on** me when **I** was a teenager.

- **to impart their knowledge** [expression]:

Meaning: to pass knowledge to other people

Example: Good teachers are inspired **to impart their knowledge** of their subject to their students.

- **dedicated** [adjective]:

Meaning: working very hard at something, because it is important to you
Example: John is a very **dedicated** student, so he deserves to be successful.

- **discipline** [noun]:

Meaning: a subject that people study or are taught

Example: The school has excellent teachers in various scientific **disciplines,** such as physics and chemistry.

- **to reinforce** [verb]:

Meaning: to make a feeling or an idea stronger

Example: In order **to reinforce** her understanding of mathematics, Ann is taking a course at night school.

- **formative years** [expression];

Meaning: having an important and lasting influence on the development of something or of somebody's character

Example: Parents should supervise their children closely during the **formative years** of their adolescence.

- **to monitor** [verb]:

Meaning: to watch and check something over a period of time

Example: As a security guard, his job is **to monitor** who comes into the building.

- **elders** [noun]:

Meaning: people of greater age, experience or authority

Example: When we were children, our parents taught US to respect our **elders,**

because they were older and wiser than US.

- **to eat out** [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to have a meal in a restaurant, not at home

Example: Last night, Caroline and **I ate out** at a Chinese restaurant.

- **parental** [adjective]:

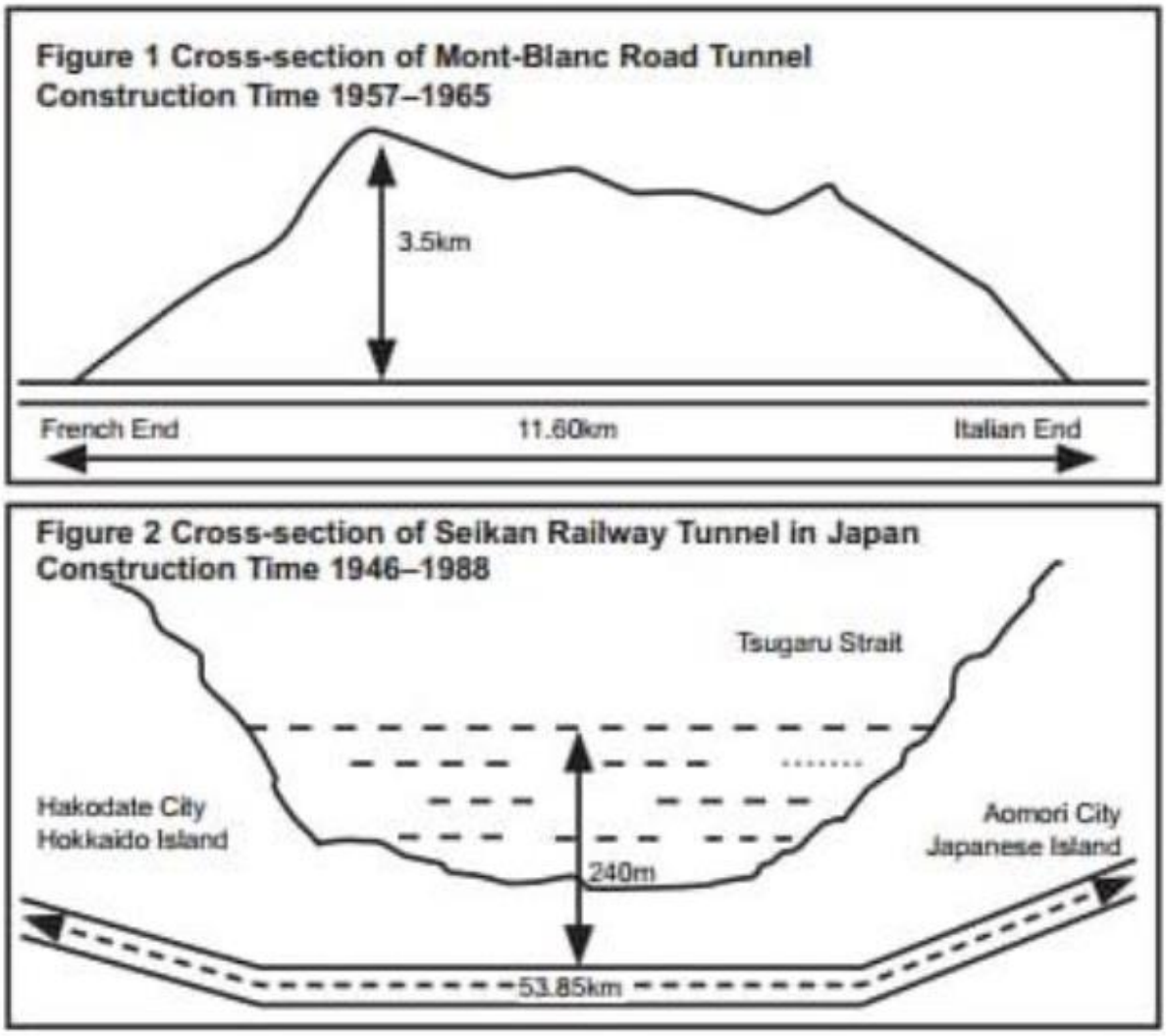
Meaning: connected with a parent or parents

Example: They don't want to have children, because they think that they are too young to accept **parental** responsibilities.

Exam 12

Task 1: Two tunnels (diagrams)

The diagrams show the cross-sections of two tunnels, one joining France and Italy and the other joining two Japanese islands.



Report Plan:

Paraphrase: diagrams/figures; show/compare: illustrate; joining/linking.

Overview/summary: (1) the railway tunnel is longer (2) it took longer to build than the road tunnel.

Paragraph 3: compare the (maximum) depths of the tunnels. Contrast the lengths of the tunnels.

Paragraph 4: Compare the Japanese railway tunnel construction dates with those of the Mont Blanc tunnel. Note that the Japanese tunnel was built under the sea -the tunnel linking France and Italy was built under a mountain.

Report:

The figures compare the cross-sections of two tunnels. Figure 1 illustrates a road tunnel joining two European countries, while Figure 2 shows a railway tunnel linking two islands in Japan.

Overall, it is clear that the railway tunnel in Japan is much longer than the tunnel under Mont Blanc. Also, the Seikan Railway Tunnel took much longer to build than the Mont Blanc Road Tunnel.

The depth of the Mont Blanc Tunnel is 3.5 km at its maximum, compared with only 240m for the Seikan Tunnel. However, whereas the length of the Mont Blanc Tunnel connecting Italy and France is only 11.6 km, the Seikan Tunnel is much longer, at 53.85 km.

The construction times of the two tunnels were markedly different. The railway tunnel was built under the sea, connecting two Japanese islands, and its construction took 42 years to complete, starting in 1946 and finishing in 1988. The road tunnel under Mont Blanc, however, was completed in just 8 years, between 1957 and 1965.

166 words

Task 2: In countries where there is high unemployment, most pupils should be offered only primary education. There is no point in offering secondary education to those who will have no hope of finding a job. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction: (1) refer to the task question (2) my opinion: this argument is too narrow -1 completely disagree**

- **Paragraph 2: 1st reason for my opinion: the job market is unpredictable -example: technology replaces jobs but also creates new employment opportunities**

- **Paragraph 3: 2nd reason: the real aim of education is to help people to think critically- this produces informed and responsible citizens**

- **Conclusion: the job market is volatile, and the real role of education cannot be neglected - to develop critical skills**

Essay:

It is true that in countries which are suffering from high rates of unemployment, it seems hardly worthwhile to offer education beyond primary level to most pupils. **While I accept that** this appears logical, I believe that this is a very narrow perspective, and I completely disagree with the statement.

Firstly, the prediction of upturns and downturns in the job market is extremely difficult. At one period there may be a demand for workers in many sectors of a country's economy. Wages are high, and the education system needs to prepare large numbers of students up to and beyond secondary school level, with the skills to meet the needs of employers. **For example,** while technology is replacing many traditional jobs in such areas as agriculture, transport and heavy industry, it is also creating new jobs in other sectors. Thus, **in economic terms,** it is almost impossible to say how many highly-educated young people will be required for a nation's workforce.

Secondly, I contend that the purpose of education is much more fundamental than simply to prepare young people for the world of work. Education is nothing less than the acquisition of lifelong skills in thinking critically about all aspects of life. At its best, secondary education plays an essential part of helping young people to develop these critical skills. If the citizens of a country are informed and enlightened, problems **such as** a welfare system or the distribution of wealth can be intelligently debated. Without mass education to this level, a country can have no responsible citizens.

In conclusion, although in today's volatile global economy, any country's employment situation is subject to rapid changes, the intangible but real objectives of education dictate that young people should be educated to at least secondary level.

294 words

Vocabulary:

- **worthwhile** [adjective]:

Meaning: important and worth spending time, effort or money on doing
Example: The high price of dental treatment makes it **worthwhile** to look after your teeth by brushing them regularly.

- **upturns and downturns [nouns]:**

Meaning: a situation in which things either improve or get worse over a period of time

Example: They have supported Real Madrid through all the **upturns and downturns in** the club's fortunes.

- **the job market** [expression]:

Meaning: the number of jobs that are available

Example: Why don't you do a degree in engineering? **I** hear that **the job market** in this field is very good at the moment.

- **to meet the needs of** [expression]:

Meaning: the things that somebody requires for a particular purpose

Example: The course is designed **to meet the needs of** students who have hearing

difficulties.

- **heavy industry [noun]:**

Meaning: the production of goods using heavy and powerful machines
Example: The UK no longer has **heavy industries,** such as shipbuilding or steelmaking.

- **workforce** [noun]:

Meaning: the people who work for companies or organisations

Example: In Germany in 1932, almost 44% of the **workforce** were unemployed.

- **the world of work** [expression]:

Meaning: employment in general

Example: She decided to leave school at the age of 16 and enter **the world of** work_to support her parents.

- **to be nothing less than** [expression]:

Meaning: used to emphasise how great or extreme something is Example: The decision to ignore global warming **is nothing less than** irresponsible and dangerous.

- **acquisition** [noun]:

Meaning: the act of getting something, such as knowledge or skills Example: She is studying the **acquisition** of language by young children as part of her course.

- **critical skills [noun]:**

Meaning: the ability to make careful judgments about the good and bad qualities of something

Example: Students are encouraged to develop **critical skills,** not simply to accept the ideas of others.

- **welfare system [noun]:**

Meaning: a system by which a government provides a range of free services to people who need them

Example: Sweden has a **welfare system** which includes care for the elderly, free medical services and financial support for the unemployed.

- **the distribution of wealth [expression]:**

Meaning: the way that goods or money is shared among a particular group of people.

Example: In the USA, **the distribution of wealth** is resulting in a small section of the population owning most of the property.

- **citizenship** [noun]:

Meaning: the state of being a citizen of a country and accepting the responsibilities of a citizen

Example: Schools should provide the type of education that prepares young people for the responsibilities of **citizenship.**

- **volatile** [adjective]:

Meaning: unstable and likely to change suddenly

Example: The economic crisis caused a **volatile** political situation, with riots in the streets.

- **to be subject to** [expression]:

Meaning: to be likely to experience something

Example: Japan **is particularly subject to** storms in the autumn.

- **intangible** [adjective]:

Meaning: that exists, but is difficult to describe or measure

Explain: The forest had an **intangible** atmosphere of danger, perhaps because it was so dark.