

IELTS WRITING TASK 2 ACTUAL TESTS

2015 - 2016 - 2017

SAMPLE ANSWERS

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IELTS WRITING TASK 2 ACTUAL TESTS (2015- 2016 – 2017)

& SAMPLE ANSWERS

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Preface

"IELTS Writing Recent Actual Tests (Task 2) in 2015, 2016, 2017 & Sample Answers" provides both IELTS learners and trainers with an extensive collection of writing task two topics.

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IELTS Writing Recent Actual Tests (Task 2) 2015

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2015

Leaders and directors in an organization are normally older people. Some people think younger leader would be better. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that higher positions are prevalently held by aged members in many organizations these days. While some people believe younger people would demonstrate better leadership, it is in my opinion that senior managers possess more advantages over the young in leading a company.

To begin with, it is usually difficult for the young to compete with the old in terms of experience. Those who have gained adequate experience can more effectively manage to lead the individuals of an organization than those who do not. The reason for this is that business matters often require the people in charge to have not only the knowledge of coping with problematic situations but also strong nerves to calmly find a feasible solution. As a result, years of experience in a relevant position tend to make the elderly better candidates than those who are relatively young and new to the tasks.

Another advantage belonging to aged people is that they are likely to receive more support from the people in an organization. As the time spent working with the staff of the senior is often longer, they can understand their colleagues better, achieving more popularity. It is interpersonal communication skills and approval of other people that can tremendously affect the success of a leader. Younger members, on the other hand, will need more time to make contributions over time to prove themselves worthy.

In conclusion, I believe that critical positions of authority should be given to senior staff members for the certain reasons mentioned rather than the young.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions

- **Prevalent (adj):** existing very commonly or happening often

Health problems such as obesity and diabetes are prevalent amongst young people in developing countries today.

- **To demonstrate sth(v):** to show or make something clear

The problems of unsatisfactory productivity which Vietnamese workers are facing demonstrate the importance of enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in tertiary education.

- **Senior (adj):** older

Senior family members are expected to set an example to the younger children in order that these junior members can adopt good manners in their adulthood.

- **Leadership (n):** the set of characteristics that make a good leader

The lack of leadership in young and inexperienced directors can sometimes put the company in jeopardy.

- **Problematic (adj)**: difficult to deal with or to understand; full of problems; not certain to be successful

Despite acknowledging the dangers of fast food, many consumers find it problematic to switch to a healthier food choice.

- **Feasible (adj)**: that is possible and likely to be achieved

With the public support of abandoning polluting vehicles, the prospect of the improved air quality seems more feasible.

Sample 02:

People have different views about whether older or younger people are more suitable for important positions in organisations. While I accept that old individuals have significantly important qualities, I believe younger ones are more likely to become good leaders.

On the one hand, elderly people can be good leaders for some reasons. Firstly, as old people have worked for many years, they have accumulated much more work experience compared to younger workers. This might allow them to make wiser decisions and bring success to the company they work for. Secondly, older people are often more respected by others. Therefore, they can have a more powerful voice within the company, and people are more likely to listen to them. If leaders are young, they might find it hard to influence other employees.

On the other hand, I believe it will be better if young people take up important positions. The first reason is that since young individuals tend to be physically stronger, they can handle big responsibilities and much work. Being a leader requires people to work with much pressure, and old people are often not capable of doing that. Additionally, younger people are usually more creative, so they are more likely to find newer and better

improvements which benefit the entire organisation. For example, a young manager can come up with a new advertising strategy for a product, which contributes to the increasing sales of the company.

In conclusion, while I accept that old individuals can be good leaders of an organisation, I believe these important positions should be given to younger people.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions

- **accumulate:** to gradually get more and more of something over a period of time.

Example: Children gradually accumulate knowledge as they grow up.

- **wise:** sensible.

Example: a wise decision

- **handle:** to deal with a situation, a person, an area of work or a strong.

Example: A new man was appointed to handle the crisis.

- **capable of doing something:** having the ability or qualities necessary for doing something.

Example: He was barely capable of writing his own name.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2015

Some people think that there should be some strict controls about noise. Others think that they could just make as much noise as they want. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Sample 01:

People have different views about whether noise should be limited. While some individuals believe the level of noise being created should be strictly controlled, I would argue that people should have the right to produce noise if they want to.

On the one hand, there are several reasons why the government should control the amount of noise produced. The first reason is that too much noise can significantly affect people's health. Living in a place that is too noisy can cause problems such as headaches, which can decrease the health levels of people, especially old ones. Additionally, noise can disturb

people's work or study. For example, a university student will not be able to concentrate on his preparation for exams if his neighbours keep singing too loud.

However, I believe people should be allowed make as much noise as they want because of some reasons. Firstly, producing noise is sometimes considered a type of recreational activities. For instance, singing or cheering for a football club can be relaxing, and everyone has the right to do those things. Secondly, as the world is becoming more modern, people have found ways to deal with the problem of noise. Scientists have invented walls and windows that can block out the noise, which allows individuals to focus on their work without being disturbed. Therefore, the problem of noise can be reduced and there is no need for people to keep quiet.

In conclusion, while many people believe there should be controls about noise, I believe we have the right to create noise when we want to.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions

- **disturb:** to interrupt somebody when they are trying to work, sleep, etc

If you get up early, try not to disturb everyone else.

- **concentrate:** to give all your attention to something and not think about anything else

We're concentrating even harder on giving quality service this year.

- **recreational:** connected with activities that people do for enjoyment when they are not working (*recreational activities/facilities**)***

Sample 02:

People hold different views about whether people should have the freedom to produce noise or comply with some regulations of it. In my view, it is important that noise making be put under control.

On the one hand, it is understandable why some people believe in their rights to generate noise freely. As people these days often have to suffer from considerable stress at work or school, they tend to find an effective way to relieve it. In some cases, recreational activities such as karaoke singing or party holding can bring a certain amount of relaxation, mitigating stressful situations for everyone. If too strictly imposed, any restriction of noise may deter people from gaining access to one of the useful methods of relaxing.

However, I can understand the arguments against noise makers. Firstly, excessive levels of noise can cause serious disturbance to the nearby residents who also have the rights to take a proper rest after a tiring day. Those who are affected by the loud sounds from their neighbours may not only be unable to relax but also have their levels of discomfort increased. In the long term, this will definitely have a negative impact on their quality of life. Another reason for this opinion is that too much noise can produce detrimental effects on the health of the unintentional hearers. For example, constant exposure to high pitch noise can result in auditory problems, for example hearing loss. Hearing-impaired individuals are very likely to experience difficulty in their daily life.

In conclusion, although there are good reasons why people should be allowed to make as much noise as they wish, in my opinion some appropriate controls are necessary.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions

- **To comply with sth (verb phrase):** to act according to an order, set of rules, regulations or request.

Example: There should be serious pelnaties for failure to comply with the regulations of treating hazardous waste.

- **To put sth under control/ To be put under control (prep phrase):** to be deal with or limit sth successfully

Example: The effort of reducing overpopulation in urban cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh would require the migration of people from other areas to be put under control.

- **Recreational (adj):** connected with activities that people do for enjoyment when they are not working

Example: The large cities in Vietnam are widely perceived to offer a range of recreational activities and facilities which draw a number of domestic holiday makers from the neighbouring regions to relax during holiday periods.

- **To impose sth on sth (verb phrase):** to officially force a rule, law or something to be obeyed and received.

Example: One methods to deter alcohol consumption is imposing very high taxes on any purchases and heavy fines for illegal trades of alcohol.

- **To deter sth from sth (v):** to prevent someone from doing something or to make them less enthusiastic about doing it by making it more difficult for them to do it or threatening bad results if they do it.

Example: Teenage gang members can be deterred from committing crimes by means of strict punishments for all young delinquents to make an example of them.

- **To gain access to sth (verb phrase):** to have the right or opportunity to use something

  Example: The concentration of prestigious universities and colleges in a few metropolisises is responsible for the mass annual migration of students from rural areas and smaller cities who seek access to more quality education and more widely recognised degrees.

- **Excessive (adj):** too much

Example: The excessive consumption of fast food with a view to saving the cooking time is prone to chronic health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

- **Detrimental (adj):** causing harm and damage

Example: Prolonged lack of sleep due to an overly busy timetable is known to have harmful side-effects apart from difficulty in concentration and temporary loss of memory.

- **Unintentional (adj):** not planned or intended

Example: Some harmful habits of parents such as reckless driving and smoking, although (they are) unintentional, can lead the children to adopt these habits when they become adults.

- **Exposure to sth (noun phrase)/ To be exposed to sth (adjective phrase):** the fact of experiencing sth or being affected by it

Example: The residents who live permanently in urban cities usually suffer from continuous exposure to polluted air caused by vehicle emissions; as a result, they are prone to respiratory diseases such as asthma.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2015

It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environment, such as the South Pole. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Sample 01:

As technology has developed, people can now travel to remote natural areas. While this trend is beneficial to some extent, I would argue that its disadvantages are more significant.

On the one hand, visiting isolated natural places has some benefits. Firstly, this is a newer and more interesting type of travelling. Since going to other cities or countries has been too common for most people, it might be more exciting for them to explore new places such as the South Pole or the Amazon rainforest. This gives them valuable experiences and unforgettable memories. Secondly, when visiting remote areas, people, especially scientists, might acquire more knowledge about the natural habitat. For example, when coming to the North Pole, scientists can learn about the life of polar bears which live far away from humans.

On the other hand, I believe this development has far more drawbacks. The first one is that travelling to remote natural areas can be risky if the travellers are not sufficiently prepared. For instance, the temperature at the South Pole is usually very low, which adversely affects people's health. Travelling to forests can also be dangerous as people have to face the risk of being attacked by animals. Also, since visiting isolated places often requires a large amount of investment in researching and ensuring the safety of travellers, the costs of travelling tend to be high. Therefore, it seems like only scientists and rich people can afford this activity, so this development is likely to benefit only a small group of individuals.

In conclusion, I believe the disadvantages of people being able to travel to remote areas outweigh its advantages.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **isolated:** far away from any others

Example: isolated rural areas

- **common:** happening often, existing in large numbers or in many

Example: Jackson is a common English name.

- **adverse:** negative and unpleasant

Example: Lack of money will have an adverse effect on our research program.

- **ensure:** to make sure that something happens or is definite

Example: The book ensured his success.

Sample 02:

It is true that humans can now set foot in wild regions far away from civilisation. While I accept that this development can have certain benefits for the human race, I believe that it is likely to have a harmful impact on nature.

On the one hand, undertaking expeditions to the wilderness can be valuable in terms of both science and recreation. There are a considerable number of undiscovered secrets that can be tremendously useful for researchers to conduct their studies. For instance, environmental scientists can analyse the data about the thickness of ice layers over millions of years in both hemispheres to predict the possible changes in global temperatures. Such findings are crucial for the governments to develop appropriate plans to alleviate global warming. Furthermore, the untouched beauty of these areas is usually appealing to travellers, providing people with an attractive option of holiday destination or excursion.

However, I would argue that these positive aspects are outweighed by the drawbacks. When people are given full and easy access to the distant and unpopulated areas, there are likely to be more moving there to reside or start their business. It has been shown that substantial damage has been done to nature such as massive deforestation or water contamination due to humans' lack of environmental awareness. If there is inadequate protection of the environment from this type of action, wild regions in the world will no longer exist, unspeakably affecting not only the overall ecology but also the lives of other people.

In conclusion, it seems to me that the potential dangers of travelling to wild environments are more significant than the possible benefits for the mentioned reasons.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Appealing (adj):** attractive or interesting

Example: Overseas students who are offered an appealing salary and position in a foreign company are usually unable to resist the offer and choose to remain in the country instead of returning to their native land.

- **Distant (adj):** far away

Example: The appilication of technology in the form of electric household appliances has facilitate the enjoyment of people's life to a great extent..

- **Unpopulated (adj):** having no inhabitants

Example: Jackson is a common English name.

- **Reside (v):** to live, have your home, or stay in a place

Example: The huge waves of immigrants from poorer countries flocking to wealthier nations can threaten to take the jobs of those who have resided in their countries for a long time by accepting to work for a much lower pay.

- **Substantial (adj):** large in size, value or importance

Example: By respecting the substantial differences between the older and the younger generations, the mutual understanding between them can be greatly enhanced.

- **Massive deforestation (noun phrase):** the destruction of forests by people on a large scale

Example: Massive deforestation is largely attributable to massive deforestation because there are not enough trees to help to hold the flood water.

- **Contamination (n):** the action of making something less pure or poisonous.

Example: In many rural villages in China and Vietnam, the supply of underground water which has been in use for hundreds of years is now incapable of meeting the growing demand of the expanding population, threatening the health of the people with using water which has not been tested for contamination.

- **Environmental awareness (noun phrase):** the understanding that the environment needs to be protected

Example: The first step to environmental protection is concerned with raising the environmental awareness of individuals.

- **Ecology (n):** the relationships between the air, land, water, animals, etc

Example: Oil spills cause terrible damage to the fragile ecology of the sea.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2015

Some people say that too much attention and too many resources are given in the protection of wild animals and birds. Do you agree or disagree about this opinion?

The protection of wildlife has become a frequent subject of debate with strong arguments for and against. Personally, I believe that humans are paying too much attention and allocating too many resources to this issue, as will now be explained.

Firstly, if we allow any species to disappear, this is actually not a disaster. Some people may argue that the biology will be seriously affected if birds and wild animals are on the verge of extinction, but this is an exaggeration. Fossil evidence suggests that the mass disappearance of the dinosaur did not cause any harm to other species on the Earth but

merely triggered the emergence of others such as the mammal. Therefore, we should not devote too much attention to the protection of wildlife.

Secondly, public money is limited. This means that the national budget should be allocated to more urgent issues rather than expending too much in the conservation of wild animals and birds. For example, more resources should be diverted to medical research to find out remedies for fatal diseases such as HIV and cancer, which may help to save thousands of lives in society.

Finally, the government can simply protect wildlife by continuing campaigns to raise public awareness of the protection of wildlife habitats, or impose stricter punishments on activities that may harm wild animals. Any individual who hunts wildlife for food or for pleasure should be given a heavy fine, and this may discourage them from threatening the life of wild animals.

In conclusion, while I do not refute the argument for the conservation of wildlife, I believe that it should attract less attention and fewer resources from the public.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **wildlife**: animals, birds, insects, etc. that are wild and live in a natural environment.

Example: Development of the area would endanger wildlife.

- **on the verge of extinction:**

Example: Today, many animals are on the verge of extinction.

- **exaggeration**: a statement or description that makes something seem larger, better, worse or more important than it really is; the act of making a statement like this

Example: There was a degree of exaggeration in his description of events.

- **To devote smth to smth:** to give an amount of time, attention, etc. to

Example: I could only devote two hours a day to the work.

- **To expend smth:** to use or spend a lot of time, money, energy,

Example: She expended all her efforts on the care of home and children.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in Febuary 2015

Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists but not local people. Why is this the case and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

There are a number of factors that explain why many museums and historical sites fail to attract the attention of the locals. However, this issue can be resolved by adopting a number of solutions, as will now be discussed.

Perhaps the primary reason is that local inhabitants often do not have interest in visiting these places as they tend not to be attracted by places and objects that are familiar to their cultural backgrounds. For example, many museums in Ho Chi Minh City welcome thousands of travelers from Hanoi annually, in contrast to the number of local residents who visit the museums and historical sites here in my home city of Hanoi.

Another reason stems from historical attractions themselves. They are often poorly conserved due to a low budget for operation while the authority does not make an attempt to improve the situation. Take the Air Defense museum in Hanoi as an example. For years, there has been no change for the better, at least visually, to attract the locals, and this is the reason why most of its visitors are tourists.

However, a range of available options can be taken to tackle the problem. The simplest one is that the authority should continue campaigns aiming at encouraging local people to visit these attractions. They could also consider rearranging and redecorating historical places to make them more interesting and attractive for all visitors. To achieve this, the government ought to allocate more public money to the conservation of these places.

In conclusion, various measures need to be taken to gain back local residents' interest in museums and historical sites.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To stem from**

Example: Most people's insecurities stem from something that happened in their childhood.

- **To allocate smth to smth**: to give something officially to somebody/something for a particular purpose

Example: More funds will now be allocated to charitable organizations.

- **To gain someone's interest back**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in Febuary 2015

Some people think that the best way to increase road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some individuals believe raising the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes is the most effective method of increasing road safety. While I accept that this policy is good to some extent, I believe it is not the best because there are much better measures to reduce traffic accidents.

It might be a good idea to increase the minimum age required for driving because of some reasons. Firstly, since younger people are usually less mature and less responsible with their manners, they might not be aware of the importance of following the rules. Therefore, it is reasonable to ban them from travelling on the street to prevent them from breaking the law and causing accidents. Secondly, as older people are more experienced, they can know how to react quickly to handle dangerous situations on the road, while younger ones might not be able to. To illustrate, if the brakes of a car suddenly stop working, a young driver might panic, and accidents are more likely to occur.

However, I would argue that there are much better methods of ensuring road safety. The first one is to have stricter punishments for driving offenders. For example, people who break traffic rules should be required to pay huge fines or be banned permanently from commuting on the street. This makes commuters more likely to respect the law, and traffic accidents can be limited. Another solution is to encourage people to use public transport rather than private vehicles. This can be done by reducing the price and increasing the frequency of buses and tubes to make it more convenient for users.

In conclusion, I believe apart from increasing the legal age for driving, there are more effective ways to make sure that travelling on the street is safe for everyone.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **panic:** to suddenly feel frightened so that you cannot think clearly and you say or do something stupid, dangerous

Example: I panicked when I saw smoke coming out of the engine.

- **occur:** to happen

Example: When exactly did the incident occur?

- **commute:** to travel regularly by bus, train, car, etc. between your place of work and your home

Example: She commutes from Oxford to London every day.

- **tube:** the underground railway system

Example: a tube station

IELTS Writing Task 2 in Febuary 2015

The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places so mobile phone should be banned like smoking. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It has been claimed that like smoking, mobile phones should be banned in some places due to their harmful effects. While I accept that the use of mobile phones is antisocial in some ways, I believe it has more benefits and therefore should not be prohibited.

On the one hand, I agree that the use of mobile phones can sometimes be antisocial. Firstly, these devices might disturb people's work or study in some cases. For example, the sound from a mobile phone can interrupt a lecture, which affects the concentration of students. Secondly, the use of mobile phones also adversely impacts communication between people. Since individuals currently tend to spend too much time using mobile phones, they seem to have less time to interact with others.

On the other hand, I disagree that mobile phones should be banned because of some reasons. The first one is that since they allow people who live far away from each other to speak or send messages, they help people keep in touch more easily. For instance, students who study abroad can use mobile phones to make phone calls or even video calls with their family. The second reason is that mobile phones often provide users with many useful applications such as maps and weather forecast, which can make people's lives become easier. Additionally, using mobile phones is not as bad as smoking as some people think. While smoking directly affects people's health and leads to health problems, the negative influences of mobile phones are less serious.

In conclusion, while I agree that mobile phones are sometimes antisocial, I believe they should not be banned.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **harmful:** causing damage or injury to sb/sth, especially to a person's health or to the environment

Example: the harmful effects of alcohol)

- **prohibit:** to stop sth from being done or used especially by law

Example: Soviet citizens were prohibited from travelling abroad.

- **interrupt:** to stop sth for a short time

Example: The game was interrupted several times by rain.

- **keep in touch**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in Febuary 2015

Some students take a year off between school and university, to work or to travel. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

It is true these days that many high school leavers choose to start their work or take a trip before going to university. While a gap year can bring some immediate drawbacks, I am convinced that it is more likely to have long-term benefits for their lives.

On the one hand, young students are very likely to encounter several difficulties when delaying their university study. One of these problems is the delay in academic progress caused by spending one year off school. It is understandably almost impossible for young people to enjoy their experiences in doing a job or travelling to a new place but still arrange a certain amount of time for revision. As a result, gap-year takers may have to face the challenge of becoming familiar with the knowledge at school again, receiving more pressure of catching up with their peers. Besides, the life out of university campus may prove to be mentally and physically overwhelming for inexperienced school leavers. They, for instance, may be at risk of being exploited in an exhausting job or face potential dangers on their trips to a new country. If not well prepared for such possible obstacles, young high school graduates can suffer from unintended consequences.

On the other hand, I would argue that these disadvantages are outweighed by the positive effects. A gap year is an ideal opportunity for students to learn about what is not taught at university. Working with other people who are experts in a particular field can give these newcomers not only understanding of the job but also valuable practical lessons to help them become more mature. When it comes to applying for a position in a company, employers tend to favourably consider applicants who possess extensive experience in life and the occupation. Furthermore, in terms of recreation, having a year to relax can be advantageous as students can have a chance to relieve stress in study. With a comfortable and willing attitude, undergraduates can acquire knowledge more effectively in comparison with those who go to university straightaway.

In conclusion, despite some negative aspects, it seems to me that the benefits of a gap year are more significant for the reasons mentioned.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Long-term (adj):** continuing for a long time into the future

Example: The longterm effect of education should not be neglected.

- **To encounter sth (v):** to experience something, especially something unpleasant
  Example: Young graduates commonly have to encounter great difficulty in seeking employment.
- **Progress (n):** movement to an improved or more developed state

Example: By adequately rewarding the students who have made significant progress in study, the school administration can recognise the achievements of these diligent students to others, encouraging many more students to devote more effort to study to obtain similar rewards.

- **Peer (n):** a person who is the same age, or has the same social position or the same abilities as other people in a group.

Example: In some developing Asian countries such as Vietnam, baby girls are usually less appreciated than their peers due to the remnants of feudalism that favoured men more than women.

- **Overwhelming (adj):** too great or large for somebody

Example: High school students in Vietnam, ranging from primary to high school ones, are obliged to learn an overwhelming amount of knowledge at school, not to mention loads of homework and other extra classes.

- **Inexperienced (adj):** having little knowledge or experience

Example: Many companies, for fear of arising expenses on training inexperienced new employees, tend to refuse the applicants who have just graduated.

- **Extensive (adj):** having a great range

Example: Society certainly benefits from the intellectual workforce who possess extensive knowledge in scientific areas.

- **Occupation (n):** a person's job

Example: On the other hand, manual occupations are of fundamental importance to society.

- **Advantageous (adj):** giving advantages or helping to make you more successful

Example: The ability to speak foreign languages fluently can prove to be very advantageous for job seekers in the competitive job market.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2015

Nowadays, many families have both parents working. Some working parents believe other family members like grandparents can take care of their children, while others think childcare centres provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Currently, many parents tend to be busy working, and they need to rely on someone else to take care of their offspring. While some people think childcare organisations can offer the best care, I would argue that it is better for children to be looked after by their grandparents.

On the one hand, it is believed that youngsters should be sent to childcare centres for some reasons. The first one is that since those centres are professional organisations, their staff are often well trained and therefore have good babysitting skills. For example, when a child falls over and gets himself injured, a staff can react quickly and give him first aid. Furthermore, children can have a chance to make friends with their peers when coming there, which might increase their communication and language abilities. If they are looked after by their family at home, they might feel a bit lonely.

On the other hand, I believe it is a better idea for grandparents to take care of their grandchildren. Firstly, as grandparents have lived for many years and have brought up their own offspring, they have much experience in raising children. For instance, they might know how to calm the baby down when he cries. Secondly, grandparents are family members, so they love their grandchildren more than other people do. As a result, they tend

to spend much more time and effort caring for their grandchildren compared to a childcare staff member. Finally, youngsters looked after by their grandparents are likely to become more family-oriented and appreciate the value of a happy family.

In conclusion, while there are some benefits of children being sent to childcare centres, I believe they should be raised by their own grandparents.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **peer:** a person who is the same age or who has the same social status as you

Example: Children are worried about failing in front of their peers.

- **effort:** the physical or mental energy that you need to do sth (nỗ lực). *Example: You should put more effort into your work.*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2015

Some people think that famous people can help international aid organizations to draw attention to important problems. Others believe that the celebrities can make the problems seem less important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Essay 01:

From the perspective of some people, aid agencies can take advantage of celebrities' fame to raise public awareness towards certain matters of importance. Others, however, hold the view that such method may only bring counterproductive results. Personally, I find the latter more convincing. Those who support the idea of using famed individuals' assistance have their own justifications. First of all, people who are considered role models apparently have a considerable amount of influence on the public. Emma Watson, for instance, being a prominent actress, is currently the goodwill ambassador for the United Nations, promoting gender equality and undoubtedly drawing a great deal of attention from her admirers. Furthermore, a wider range of population can be reached if an organisation's campaign is represented by a popular star. In many parts of the world, some film stars are even more well-known to the locals than the organisation itself owing to their appearance in familiar cinematic products. Therefore the introduction of a humanitarian campaign can be further facilitated thanks to the artists.

Nevertheless, I can understand why other people are against inviting celebrities for assistance. When relying on the fame of some people to attract more public attention, an aid programme can also be affected by their scandals. Mass public disapproval may arise from a representative receiving a speeding ticket or getting caught using illegal drugs, undervaluing the significance of the aid programme. Another foreseeable drawback is that the public might take the presence of famous entertainers as a mere publicity stunt. Without the evidence of real actions taken to mitigate a problem such as participating in a voluntary team to help the people in need, famous people may fail to draw the attention of people to the situation.

In conclusion, while some people have reasons to believe in the success of celebrities in getting people to pay attention, I tend to think that such approach might not prove to be effective for aid organisations as expected.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Counterproductive (adj):** having an effect that is opposite to the one intended or wanted

Example: Improved traffic infrastructures such as broadened roads can be counterproductive as they encourage people to drive faster.

- **Role model (noun phrase):** a person who is admired and whose behaviour is copied

Example: Many sports stars are the role models for thousands of young people.

- **Prominent (adj):** very well-known and important

Example: Many prominient inventors in history had their ability imprecisely evaluated such as Thomas Edison and Eistein.

- **To undervalue (v):** to consider something less important or valuable than they really are

Example: It is very likely for employees who feel undervalued to leave the company and seek the appreciation of their worth somewhere else.

- **Significance (n):** importance

Example: The discovery of the new drug is of great significance to people suffering from heat disease.

- **Foreseeable (adj):** can be known or guessed before it happens

Example: The deterioration of humans' health is foreseeable if the destruction of the environment persists at the current rate.

Essay 02:

There has been much debate regarding the role of famous people in raising public awareness of major issues. While celebrities can attract people's attention to the problems, I would argue that they are likely to make the problems become less crucial.

To begin with, well-known people can assist international aid organisations in raising people's awareness of social issues. Firstly, celebrities can communicate information about big problems to a large audience around the world. For example, by taking part in the Ice Bucket Challenge in 2014, various celebrities such as Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg have helped the ALS Organisation to let millions of people know about a disease called ALS. Secondly, since people tend to listen to the ones they admire, famous people are much more likely to be able to ask their fans to take appropriate actions. For instance, a well-known football player can ask people to donate money to help homeless individuals.

However, I believe famous people might make the problems become less important. The first reason is that individuals tend to only pay attention to what celebrities do and say rather than what messages they want to convey. In the aforementioned example about the Ice Bucket Challenge, many people watched the videos of celebrities taking up the challenge without actually learning anything about the ALS disease. This makes little contribution to solving the problem compared to the large number of famous people involved. Furthermore, in order to attract viewers, wellknown people usually try to deliver their messages in a funny and entertaining way, which might lead to the problems becoming less serious.

In conclusion, while celebrities can contribute greatly to tackling social problems, I believe they are more likely to make these problems seem less important.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **convey = deliver:** to make ideas, feelings, etc. known to sb

Example: Colours like red convey a sense of energy and strength.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2015

Some people think that the increasing use of computers and mobile phones in communication has negative effects on young people's reading and writing skills. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Such technological equipment as mobile phones and computers have acquired their significance in the modern-day communication of the young. Personally, I believe that this has both positive and negative effects on their reading and writing skills.

On the one hand, I agree that excessive reliance on these devices is responsible for the young generation's poor performance in reading and writing. Firstly, many people have a strong preference for computer software when composing text documents due to its convenient functions. For example, Microsoft Word provides users with the ability to modify or erase a piece of text without effort, simultaneously slowing down the writing speed of the users. In addition, young people who spend much time playing with their phones and computers are likely to have insufficient time for reading activities. Gradually, the lack of practice may impair their reading competence in the long term.

On the other hand, it is also true that the proper use of electronic devices can have a positive effect on reading and writing skills. The Internet has now been made accessible through both mobile phones and computers, allowing young readers to gain knowledge from a wider range of sources. Online English newspapers, as an example, are useful for English learners to enrich their vocabulary. Using computers to write blogs is also a good way to enhance the writing skill. Today, the availability of Internet infrastructure can enable bloggers to update their stories at their convenience. By writing regularly, the writing ability of a person is certain to improve.

In conclusion, it seems to me that the use of electronic equipment items can have both advantages and drawbacks for the reading and writing skills of users, depending on the way they are used.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Preference (n):** the fact that you like something more than another thing.

Example: In the countries where homosexual relationships have not been legalised and accepted, many homosexuals are still facing social discrimination because of their sexual preference.

- **To modify (v):** to change something slightly to improve it or make it more acceptable.

Example: Instead of administering punishments on first time law offenders, the legal system should encourage them to modify their behaviour.

- **Without effort (prep phrase):** in an easy way.

Example: The government should send more teachers to remote areas in order that the people there can access get access to education without effort.

- **Simultaneously (adv):** at the same time.

Example: University students should find part time jobs to accumulate more experience, simultaneously earning some money to cover their daily expenses.

- **Insufficient (adj):** not enough

Example: There is usually insufficient time left for doctors to allocate for their personal life after they have finished work at the hospital.

- **Gradually (adv):** slowly over a period of time or a distance.

Example: Gradually, constant exposure to polluted air will cause people to suffer from respiratory diseases.

- **To impair (v):** to spoil something or make it weaker so that it is less effective

Example: When people are exposed to constant high pitch noise, their hearing is likely to be impaired.

- **Competence (n):** the ability to do something well

Example: It may take years for learners to reach a reasonable level of competence in English.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2015

Nowadays, more and more older people who need employment compete with the younger people for the same jobs. What problems this causes? What are solutions?

It is true that there has been increasingly more competition between the young and the old who are in search of the same job. Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, steps can be taken to mitigate these potential problems.

As more elderly applicants have to compete with the younger ones for a job, several related problems can be anticipated. The main issue is that this will obviously pose more challenges for the young who are struggling to find a place in the labour market. Older people, understandably, are usually given more favourable consideration by recruiters due

to their vast experience in comparison with the young generation, which can lead to a shortage of work for younger people, increasing the rates of unemployment. Furthermore, when being unemployed and lacking a stable source of income, people are likely to commit crimes such as robbery to feed themselves and their family. As a result, not only will the citizens' quality of life diminish, but their safety will also be threatened.

However, there are several actions that governments could take to solve the problems described above. Firstly, decreasing the legal retirement age can alleviate the pressure of competition the young have to take. Secondly, increasing the state pension is also an ideal option for this issue because some retirees who find their pension sufficient for living will not have to return to work. Finally, governments can create more available jobs by attracting international organizations to invest with additional incentives.

In conclusion, various measures can be taken to tackle the problems that are certain to arise as older people are competing with the young for the same job.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To struggle**: to give something officially to somebody/something for a particular purpose

Example: They struggled just to pay their bills.

- **To commit crime**: to do something wrong or illegal

Example: Most crimes are committed by young men.

- **To diminish smth:** to become or to make something become smaller, weaker, etc. *Example: The world's resources are rapidly diminishing.*
- **Incentive**: something that encourages you to do something. *Example: There is no incentive for people to save fuel.*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2015

Some people think that schools should reward students who show the best academic results, while others believe that it is more important to reward students who show improvements. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Giving encouragement is a necessary practice in every education system. In some countries, a form of awards is often given to those who achieve the highest level of academic attainment, but this is not the most desirable solution, as will now be discussed.

There are those who argue that students with the best academic results should be rewarded. The core of this argument is that this may encourage students to study hard for the best grade, and that those who excel at academic performances should be praised for their efforts. However, only some students who are very smart can be able to come top in formal exams while normal students may think that they are incapable of competing with more intelligent students at all. Therefore, slow students might feel reluctant to bury themselves in study to achieve higher scores.

However, I side with those who believe that schools should reward those who endeavour to study and make great improvements in the educational environment. For example, when I was a child, I often received a small gift from my parents once I scored higher than I did in the previous exam. I still remember that this did make significant contributions to my study and helped me to progress fast in the classroom. Thus, it is suggested that schools take the same action to encourage students to learn. For instance, teachers can simply pay a compliment as the recognition of the efforts that students make during the semester.

In conclusion, it seems to me that schools should reward those who make academic improvements rather than those who score highest in the exam.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Attainment**: something that you achieved

Example: a young woman of impressive educational attainments.

- **To excel at smth:** to be very good at doing something

Example: She has always excelled in foreign languages.

- **To be incapable of doing smth**
- **To endeavour:** to try very hard to do something

Example: The buyer should always endeavour to negotiate terms.

- **To pay a compliment**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2015

Young people who commit crimes should be treated in the same as as adults who commit crimes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

There is an opinion that young offenders should be held accountable for their actions just as adults. While I find this viewpoint of some people justifiable to some extent, I also argue that treating both young and mature lawbreakers equally may prove to have adverse effects.

On the one hand, I can understand why young age should be no deterrent to the way of dealing with criminals. If these juvenile delinquents were easily pardoned in place of receiving strict punishments as adults, they would not become fully aware of the serious consequences of their crimes. Therefore imposing appropriate punishments could prevent them from conducting illegal actions in the future. Besides, young perpetrators usually receive lighter sentences that they deserve, which is apparently an injustice to the victims. In Vietnam, there was a well-known case in which a teenager murdered almost every member of a family deliberately, escaping the death sentence due to being a few months under the responsible age.

On the other hand, I am convinced that it is better for juvenile criminals to be tried in a different court from that for adults. Firstly, children are proven not to have sufficient intellectual or moral capacity to understand the outcomes of their misdeeds, so they lack the necessary conditions to be trial defendants as grown-up people. Secondly, when given a second chance, these underage convicts can have an opportunity to successfully rehabilitate and learn a valuable lesson. Thirdly, children can be negatively influenced by some bad role models, which should also be taken into consideration to give them a fair trial.

In conclusion, breakers of laws should not be spared of punishments, but I believe young offenders should be dealt with differently from adults.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Accountable:** responsible for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked

Example: The state spends taxpayers' money and should be held accountable.

- **Deterrent to smth:** a thing that makes somebody less likely to do something

Example: There is no effective deterrent for these young criminals.

- **Perpetrator:** a person who commits a crime or does something that is wrong or evil

Example: We will do everything in our power to bring the perpetrators to justice.

- **Deliberately**: done in a way that was planned, not by chance

Example: I suspected that he was being deliberately ambiguous.

- **juvenile criminals**

Example: Finding ways to deal with juvenile criminals is a perplexing problem.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2015

Development in technology has brought various environmental problems. Some believe that people need to live simpler lives to solve environmental problems. Others, however, believe technology is the way to solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

The improvements in technology currently bring about harmful effects on the environment. While some people believe having simpler lives is the only solution, I would argue that technological advances can help to tackle these environmental problems.

On the one hand, it is believed that individuals need to live simple lives and rely less on technology. The first suggestion is that people should walk or cycle rather than drive cars. This is because the current number of cars being manufactured and used is increasing, which causes high levels of exhaust fumes and makes air pollution become serious. Additionally, people should try to reduce their consumption of electricity so that the exploitation of natural resources such as fossil fuels or nuclear power can be minimised. An example of this idea is the annual event called Earth Hour where everyone is asked to turn their lights off for sixty minutes.

On the other hand, I believe the developments of technology can greatly contribute to environmental protection. Firstly, because of those improvements, people are able to come up with ways to recycle materials such as paper or glass, which reduces the problem of waste disposal. Secondly, technology can also help to create electricity using renewable resources. For example, many countries in the world have built plants that utilise solar energy to generate power. As a result, it is not necessary to rely on non-renewable resources, and people can create electricity without significantly damaging the environment.

In conclusion, while some people think that they should live simpler lives to prevent environmental issues, I would argue that these problems can be dealt with by technological improvements.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **exploitation:** the use of land, oil, minerals, etc

Example: commercial exploitation of the mineral resources in Antarctica

- **waste disposal:** the act of getting rid of sth
- **plant:** a factory

Example: a chemical plant

- **utilise:** to use something, especially for a practical purpose

Example: The Romans were the first to utilise concrete as a building material.

- **solar energy**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2015

Many people argue that in order to improve educational quality, high school students are encouraged to make comments or even criticism on their teachers. Others think it will lead to loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Finding ways to improve educational quality is often one of the top priorities in every education system. In some cultures, high school students are encouraged to give their opinions about teachers, but I believe that this can also give rise to lack of respect and discipline in the classroom.

On the one hand, it is true that feedback from learners may contribute to an improvement in educational quality. In many cases, the level of comprehension of students relies very much not on the content of the lesson but on the way teachers conduct it. If, for example, the class is slow, it will be ineffective for teachers to teach too fast so that most students fail to retain the information. Without the comments of students, it would be difficult to know whether the speed of the lesson is appropriate for the class, which may eventually impair the quality of the lesson.

However, there are several drawbacks of allowing students to make comments and criticism on their teachers. Firstly, teachers can be vulnerable to the negative words of students. Many will feel that their efforts in delivering the lesson deserve praise rather than criticism or any form of feedback. This idea is commonly shared by teachers in the education systems of many Asian countries. Secondly, the classroom may be in chaos due to massive numbers of comments. Opinions vary from students to students, and it would be impractical for teachers to work out a way of teaching that can satisfy all students.

In conclusion, it seems to me that encouraging high school students to comment about their teachers does not necessarily mean an improvement in education quality.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **to retain smth:** to keep something; to continue to have something

Example: She has a good memory and finds it easy to retain facts.

- **To impair smth**: to damage something or make something worse.

Example: His age impaired his chances of finding a new job.

- **To be vulnerable to smth:** weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally

Example: Old people are particularly vulnerable to the flu.

- **chaos:** a state of complete confusion and lack of order

Example: The house was in chaos after the party.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2015

Nowadays, more and more people decide to have children later in their life. What are the reasons? What are the effects on society and family life?
Essay 01:

Many people currently decide not to have babies when they are young and wait until they get older instead. There are some reasons for this tendency, and it could have some impacts on family life as well as society.

To begin with, there are several reasons why a number of individuals want to have children later in their life. Firstly, this choice allows them to have more time to enjoy life when they are young. For instance, it is easier for a young couple to travel when they do not have a baby to nurture. Secondly, people who are at the early stage of their career usually have lower income compared to when they are older. Therefore, many people decide to start raising a family after having accumulated enough money to ensure a better life for their children.

However, this tendency might bring about some negative effects on both family life and society. The first impact is that having children later will cause a significant age gap between two generations. This makes it harder for parents to understand and communicate with their offspring. Additionally, if people give birth when they are too old, the babies

being born might be less physically healthy. This might adversely affect the quality of the future workforce if too many people decide to follow this trend.

In conclusion, there are some reasons why many people prefer to have children later in their life, and this tendency can result in some negative impacts on both family life and society.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **nurture:** to care for and protect sb/sth while they are growing and developing

Example: children nurtured by loving parents

- **give birth**

Essay 02:

It is not until middle age that married couples in today's society are delaying having their babies. This trend is attributable to many factors in life, and it certainly will have great impacts on society in general and family life in particular.

Looking more closely into the matter, there are some possible causes of people's avoidance of being parents. A prominent reason could be that married couples, especially young ones are becoming more independent in their decisions in contrast to their predecessors. As a result of their freedom of choice, they tend to spend more time advancing the career or pursuing higher education before finally having any newborn family members. In addition, many prospective parents could avoid pregnancy owing to the fact that they are unable to support their family financially, and raising a baby is sometimes too costly for parents to afford. Therefore couples are likely to wait until they have earned more income in preparation for their babies to appear.

As more people are hesitating to have children, both society and domestic life are subject to many negative impacts. Firstly, the increasing age of pregnancy usually entails higher health risks for the mother as well as the baby, as suggested by some researchers, which will undoubtedly adversely affect family life. Secondly, the older parents are, the more likely that the generation gap will widen. By the time the late babies are grown up, they might encounter difficulty adapting to their parents' ways of life. Thirdly, the reduction in the rates of birth can lead to a shortage of the labour force nationwide, hindering the development of the national economy.

In conclusion, people these days have many reasons to have children at an older age, and the rise of such a trend will produce some certain negative effects on not only society but also family. *(303 words – by Bảo Nguyễn)*

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **attributable to somebody/something**: probably caused by the thing mentioned

Example: Their illnesses are attributable to a poor diet.

- **pregnancy**: the state of being pregnant

Example: Many women experience sickness during pregnancy.

- **To be subject to smth:** likely to be affected by something, especially something bad. *Example: Flights are subject to delay because of the fog.*
- **The generation gap**

Example: Conflicts occur due to the generation gap.

- **To hinder something:** to make it difficult for somebody to do something or for something to happen.

Example: There are factors that might help or hinder a child's progress at school.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2015

Many people believe that international tourism is a bad thing for their country. What are the reasons? Solutions to change negative attitudes?

There are several reasons why many people have a negative attitude towards international tourism. However, this can be handled by adopting possible solutions, as will now be discussed.

Firstly, the influx of foreign travelers is often associated with an increase in the level of environmental pollution. Many tourists throw rubbish into the surroundings irresponsibly, which contributes to air, water and soil contamination. In addition, there might be a growing demand for transport, decreasing the air quality at the tourist destination.

Secondly, international tourism increases the odds of spreading infectious diseases into the local community. Viruses such as Ebola and H5N1 can become a threat to the locals if an infected traveler visits their country. In Vietnam, for example, many people died after a

visitor from Hong Kong carried the H5N1 virus to the country in 2003. This example makes it clear why many people are still against the development of international tourism.

However, there are a range of options that can be taken to improve the situation. One measure would be that the government should continue campaigns to raise the awareness of tourists when they pay a visit to a new land. Travellers should be encouraged to put waste into the right place or to use public transport if possible. Another remedy is that there should be medical checks at airports and borders. This is to guarantee that infected visitors should be quarantined to halt the spread of the disease.

In conclusion, negative feelings about global tourism still are common in society. However, this can be resolved by taking the above suggestions.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **The influx of smb/smth**: the fact of a lot of people, money or things arriving somewhere

Example: a massive/sudden influx of visitors.

- **To be associated with smth:** having a connection between people or things in your mind

Example: I always associate the smell of baking with my childhood.

- **The odds of something:** the degree to which something is likely to happen

Example: The odds are that (= it is likely that) she'll win.

- **To pay a visit to somewhere**
- **To halt something:** to stop; to make somebody/something stop

Example: We are failing to halt the destruction of the rainforest.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2015

Accommodation and transport problems are increasing in many large cities. Businesses are encouraged to move to rural areas. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?

The movement of organizations from urban areas to less-developed provinces is a solution to various municipal problems, but we cannot turn a blind eye to the shortcomings of this

trend. The essay will clarify both sides of the coin, and demonstrate my view that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

On the one hand, it is absurd to say that an organization can easily move from a major city to the countryside without suffering any losses. A change in terms of position may cost a firm, for example, a reduction in the quality of its workforce. Not every employee is willing to resettle down in a faraway province, and they prefer seeking another career in the metropolis to maintain their current living standards. The enterprise, to handle such risk of brain drain, would have to hire local workers who are normally less competent. The expenses for their prerequisite training courses are significant, but an improvement in their professional performance would still not be guaranteed.

On the other hand, I believe that the advantages of this scenario are more important. Firstly, such relocation of organizations can reduce the population density in the urban areas. As a result, the influx of workers traveling in rush hours which causes traffic congestion would disappear. Secondly, the movement of companies' headquarters makes way for the construction of more residential areas, so the citizens would no longer have to live in narrow houses and apartments anymore. Finally, factories carry along with them modern production lines to the suburban areas, hence the rural population might have access to such cutting-edge technological advancements, which have been by no means close to them ever.

In conclusion, I believe that governments should encourage companies to move to rural areas because of the mentioned considerable benefits.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Municipal**: Relating to a town or district or its governing body

Example: national and municipal elections, municipal offices.

- **Shortcoming**: A fault or failure to meet a certain standard, typically in a person's character, a plan, or a system

Example: he discussed the shortcomings of his wife.

- **Metropolis**: The capital or chief city of a country or region, a very large and busy city

Example: he preferred the peaceful life of the countryside to the bustle of the metropolis.

- **Brain drain**: The emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country

Example: a leading British team of chemists has joined the brain drain to the US

- **Competent**: Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully

Example: a highly competent surgeon

- **Prerequisite**: Required as a prior condition

Example: the student must have the prerequisite skills.

- **Density**: The degree of compactness of a substance
- **Influx**: An arrivial or entry of large numbers of people or things

Example: *a massive influx of tourists.*

- **Cutting-edge**: Highly advanced and pioneering

Example: cutting-edge technology.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2015

People today do not feel safe either at home or when they are out. What are the causes? What are the solutions?

Essay 01

People today have a sense that their safety is threatened both outside and inside their house. The reasons for this vary, and the problem should be tackled in particular ways.

There are common risks that every individual has to confront as they walk out the door. One particularly salient example for this should be traffic accidents. High population density puts pressure on the transportation system, and a rise in the number of commuting vehicles means that people now are more likely to get involved in a car crash than they were in the past.

In addition, our individual safety is not guaranteed even when we stay at home. Food poisoning is a general concern today, as manufacturers are willing to trade the well-being of their customers for profits. Toxic substances are injected into many products to maintain the food's freshness for a longer time, and this is why state hospitals are now filled with cancer and heart-disease patients.

To tackle this problem, I would like to propose several measures. Firstly, the food market has to be better managed. The government should examine more carefully which

ingredients are contained in pre-prepared meals sold to the public and ban those with high levels of preservatives. Secondly, education campaigns about the benefits of public transport should reach every resident. For example, Hanoi Urban Transport Operation Centre has recently run a programme called "Travel by Bus every Friday" on Facebook. This encourages the local people to put a limit on the use of their personal vehicles, thus the frequency of traffic accidents would also be reduced in the long-term.

In conclusion, I believe that the mentioned remedies can certainly help people lead a safer life.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Confront**: Face up to and deal with (a problem or difficulty)

Example: we knew we couldn't ignore the race issue and decided we'd confront it head on

- **population density**: The quantity of people or things in a given area or space

Example: areas of low population density

- **pressure**: Continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it

Example: the gate was buckling under the pressure of the crowd outside

- **commute**: Travel some distance between one's home and place of work on a regular basis

Example: he commuted from Corby to Kentish Town

- **food poisoning**: Illness caused by bacteria or other toxins in food, typically with vomiting and diarrhea

Example: I had a very bad case of food poisoning salmonella food poisoning

- **frequency**: The rate at which something occurs over a particular period of time or in a given sample

Example: an increase in the frequency of accidents due to increased overtime)

Essay 02:

People currently feel unsafe either when they stay at home or go out on the streets. This problem is caused by some factors, and it should be dealt with by some effective solutions.

There are some reasons why people now have to face serious risks no matter where they are. Firstly, due to climate change that is happening all around the world, people might face the danger of natural disasters even when they are at home. For example, in Japan,

earthquakes and tsunamis occur every year, and many people have been killed during those events. Secondly, when being out on the streets, individuals are usually exposed to different types of pollution such as noise or air pollution. This might negatively affect people's health and can even lead to fatal consequences.

Feasible solutions should be produced to tackle these aforementioned problems so that people would feel safer. The first measure would be to develop new technologies that can help minimise or prevent the damages caused by natural disasters. For instance, scientists have come up with machines that can forecast the occurrence of earthquakes. Additionally, it is necessary to reduce noise and air pollution on the streets. This can be done by encouraging citizens to use public transport in order to limit the levels of noise and exhaust fumes caused by private vehicles.

In conclusion, there are some reasons why people today usually do not have the feeling of safety either at home or when they are out, and some measures could be taken to solve this problem.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **tsunami:** an extremely large wave in the sea
- **fatal:** causing or ending in death

Example: a fatal accident/blow/illness

- **occurrence:** the fact of something happening or existing

Example: the occurrence of skin cancer.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2015

Some people think that young people should be required to do unpaid work helping people in the community. Are disadvantages of this requirement greater than the benefits for the community and individuals?

It is true that volunteer work provides great benefits for both participants and the community. However, forcing the youth to engage in those activities may be counterproductive, as now will be explained.

On the one hand, if young people were required to do social jobs for free, there would be certain advantages for all sides related. A vast majority of the younger population are energetic, dynamic and passionate about improving themselves, and it is the unpaid work

that can satisfy that demand. Charitable campaigns such as teaching primary schoolchildren or helping the elderly with their daily activities provide the participants with not only new knowledge and skills, but also a sense of community and a belief that they are a pivotal part of societies. Vice versa, the government, with the assistance from young people, has a productive workforce available for charity work without wasting money on the recruitment process.

On the other hand, I believe that the disadvantages of this are more important. Working on a volunteer basis may distract young people from their priorities. For example, students of state universities and colleges are expected to attend lessons, complete homework and even consult external academic materials. With such a heavy workload, those students should spend their little remaining time relaxing or playing sports rather than joining free social activities. Regarding those who do not go to school, vocational or internship courses are what they should seek for. Professional skills from such classes are tools for these individuals to achieve a stable later life; therefore, the community should allow them to pursue their career.

In conclusion, the youth can choose to support others, and the volunteer work should never be made obligatory.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Counterproductive**: Having the opposite of the desired effect

Example: *child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove counterproductive*

- **Charitable**: Relating to the assistance of those in need

Example: *he has spent £50,000 on charitable causes*

- **Pivotal**: Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else

Example: *Japan's pivotal role in the world economy*

- **Productive**: roducing or able to produce large amounts of goods, crops, or other commodities

Example: *the most productive employees*

- **Workforce**: The people engaged in or available for work, either in a country or area or in a particular firm or industry

Example: *a quarter of Galway's manufacturing workforce are being put out of a job*

Priority: The fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important than others

Example: *the safety of the country takes priority over any other matter*

- **Workload**: The amount of work to be done by someone or something

Example: *he had been given three deputies to ease his workload*

- **Vocational**: Relating to an occupation or employment

Example: *vocational training*

- **Internship**: The position of a student or trainee who works in an organization, sometimes without pay, in order to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for a qualification

Example: *they encouraged students to apply for newspaper internships*

- **Obligatory**: Required by a legal, moral, or other rule; compulsory

Example: *use of seat belts in cars is now obligatory*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2015

Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us want to be and to look the same. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

An often debated topic is whether advertising has a major influence on the growing similarity of people's lifestyle in the modern world. Personally, I partly agree with this opinion for a number of reasons.

On the one hand, the power of advertising is undeniable. The growth of the advertising industry has resulted in many people buying products of the same manufacture, which can be seen in the case of consumer goods. Today, the advertising campaigns of multinational companies such as Unilever have been so successful that their products almost dominate the market. Smaller enterprises tend not to be able to compete with these giant market leaders due to their disadvantages of capital poured into advertising programs. Thus, costumers are often swayed to buy products of famous brands rather than those made by less well-known companies.

On the other hand, it is also true that people have the tendency to copy others' lifestyles without being affected by advertising. For example, it is valid to argue that many young people are trying to emulate the fashion styles of their idols. Many Vietnamese youths manage to purchase the same clothes, dye their hair and wear the same perfume as their stars do. People can also turn to their social relations for advice when they need to buy something. For instance, junior citizens usually ask their friends before they come to a final decision on buying a smart phone.

In conclusion, it is true that advertising has bridged the gap between each individual's lifestyle in modern society. However, I believe that it is not the sole factor that contributes to the trend.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To dominate something:** to control or have a lot of influence over somebody/something, especially in an unpleasant way

Example: He tended to dominate the conversation.

- **Giant market leaders**
- **To sway somebody:** to persuade somebody to believe something or do something

Example: Don't allow yourself to be swayed by emotion.

- **To bridge the gap between A and B**

Example: Mr Vinh always tries to bridge the gap between theory and reality so that his students can write essays

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2015

Some people say taxes should be spent on health care. Other people say that there are more important priorities for tax-payers' money. Discus both these views and give your own opinion.

People hold different views about how taxes should be spent. Although I agree that medical care is a field that requires huge investments, I believe that the government should also allocate the money for other priorities, such as education and transport.

On the one hand, a certain amount of tax money has to go to healthcare services. Today, a number of particular diseases are on the rise in terms of popularity, and it would be costly to supply vaccines, medicines or treatments. For example, a large proportion of the population is now suffering from respiratory diseases or lung cancer due to exhaust fumes from vehicles and gas emissions from industrial factories. The remedies for those patients and the treatment facilities are often expensive, and the hospitals may find themselves in the struggle with financial problems without the assistance from the tax system.

On the other hand, healthcare is not the only industry that needs money to be kept running. Take education as an example. The quality of the schooling system is proportional to the

competence of the future workforce. Therefore, a country can benefit from such skillful human resources in the long-term if they invest the tax budget to build schools, provide lecturers with training courses or hire native speakers to teach foreign language. In addition, the government should also spend money solving transport problems. Traffic congestion is a global issue these days, and the scenario can be handled only if new highways are opened, and narrow public roads are expanded.

In conclusion, I believe that the government should use tax-payers' money to improve not only the healthcare services, but also the education and transportation system.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Allocate**: Distribute (resources or duties) for a particular purpose

Example: in past years we didn't allocate enough funds to infrastructure maintenance

- **Respiratory**: Relating to or affecting respiration

Example: We transferred the patient to the intensive care unit for respiratory and inotropic support.

- **Fumes**: An amount of gas or vapour that smells strongly or is dangerous to inhale

Example: clouds of exhaust fumes spewed by cars

- **Emissions**: The production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation

Example: the effects of lead emission on health

- **Remedy**: A medicine or treatment for a disease or injury

Example: Once estrogen replacement is prescribed, a medical practitioner calibrates the remedy.

- **Proportional**: corresponding in size or amount to something else

Example: the punishment should be proportional to the crime.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2015

As well as making money, businesses also have social responsibilities. Do you agree or disagree?

People have different views about what kinds of obligation a company should have. While I accept that the top priority of companies is to generate profits, I believe they should also have social responsibilities.

On the one hand, I believe businesses already contribute to society by simply focusing on making money. The first reason is that when companies earn much profits, they can expand their businesses, which creates more job opportunities for people. Some big multinational corporations such as Apple or Microsoft can be a great illustration. They have been employing hundreds of thousands of individuals around the world, which helps to reduce unemployment rates in many countries. Additionally, when companies make higher profits, they will pay more taxes for the government. This money can be used to invest in important fields such as education or health care, which will benefit society as a whole.

On the other hand, I would argue that apart from making money, companies also need to have social responsibilities. Firstly, since the rising number of factories these days has led to serious environmental damage, companies need to take immediate actions to help protect the natural environment. For example, they could try new technologies to recycle their wastes instead of disposing of them right away. Secondly, corporations should also consider helping those who are less fortunate such as homeless or disabled citizens. This will contribute to better society and also help to enhance the image of the company or the brand.

In conclusion, although companies should prioritise the need to make profits, I believe they should also have social responsibilities.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **obligation:** the state of being forced to do sth because it is your duty, or because of a law

Example: You are under no obligation to buy anything.

- **priority:** something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first

Example: Education is a top priority.

- **illustration:** an example
- **dispose:** to get rid of sb/sth that you do not want or cannot keep

Example: the difficulties of disposing of nuclear waste.

- **fortunate:** lucky

Example: I have been fortunate enough to visit many parts of the world as a lecturer.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in August 2015

The world natural resources are consumed at an ever-increased rate. What are the dangers of this situation? What should we do?

Essay 01:

It is true that there is the growing consumption of natural resources in many parts of the world. This has potential problems, and we need to take actions to combat the issue.

The over exploitation of natural resources results in a number of negative effects. Chief among them is a greater level of environmental contamination. In recent years, emissions from traffic have increased significantly due to the growing demand for fossil fuels in the world. This impairs the quality of life and decreases life expectancy of people. In Vietnam, for example, a growing number of people are suffering from respiratory problems as a result of the deterioration in the air quality. Another consequence is that the natural resources will be dwindling shortly in near future. A possible scenario of this is that countries may fall into a fuel war, which threatens mankind as a whole.

The situation calls for prompt actions. One measure would be that campaigns should be continued to raise public awareness about saving energy. We can, for example, opt for public transport whenever possible rather than relying on our private vehicles. This will contribute to a reduction in the level of exhaust emissions released into the environment, slowing down the progress of global warming. The second remedy is that alternative sources of energy should be developed to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Solar power, wind power and nuclear energy ought to be invested in to make them viable for public use in the coming years.

In conclusion, an increase in the world's demand for natural resources is posing a number of threats to society. However, this can be handled by adopting abovementioned suggestions.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **exploitation**: the use of land, oil, minerals, etc

Example: commercial exploitation of the mineral resources in Antarctica.

- **Dwindle**: to become gradually less or smaller.

Example: Supplies of coal are dwindling fast.

- **To opt for something**: to choose to take or not to take a particular course of action.

Example: After graduating she opted for a career in music. Many students opt for a course with Mr.Bill due to his physical attractiveness.

- **To reduce dependence on something**

Essay 02:

The overconsumption of natural resources has evolved has a major topic of concern in recent years. This alarming trend poses a number of serious threats to the world, and must be addressed with a number of definite actions.

The increasingly high level of natural resources exploitation can be hazardous in many ways. The most obvious threat is that once the resources come to the verge of depletion, humans would have to face the scarcity of fuels and materials. When oil becomes scarce and more expensive, transport and heating would become less accessible and affordable to most people. The shortage of resources also leads to stagnation in other industries, for example, there would not be enough wood for furniture production and not enough seafood for food processing. This would threaten the business of thousands of companies, as well as the employment of millions of workers in these fields.

Some measures can be taken to mitigate the problem of over-consuming natural resources. The most practical measure is to lower the demand for energy in every household. This can be done by mass-producing energy-efficient household appliances and selling them at a low price. Energy demand may also be cut by making saving energy the focus in propaganda campaigns in various media channels. Another sustainable solution is to promote environmentally-friendly technology. For instance, solar cells are now sold in a small quantity and at a relative high price; they should be made readier and cheaper for the public. Finally, the conservation and recovery of natural resources, including seafood and forests, must be regulated by law.

To conclude, the overexploitation of the world's resources may result in severe consequences, threatening many industries and people's life. Strong measures, such as reducing energy use and resource conservation and recovery laws, must be implemented to tackle this situation.

Useful words/ phrases:

- **Overconsumption** is a situation where resource use has outpaced the sustainable capacity of the ecosystem.

Example: *A prolonged pattern of overconsumption leads to inevitable environmental degradation and the eventual loss of resource bases*

- **Scarcity**: if there is a scarcity of something, there is not enough of it and it is difficult to obtain it.

Example: *a time of scarcity / a scarcity of resources*

- **On the verge of**: very near to the moment when somebody does something or something happens.

Example: *These measures brought the republic to the verge of economic collapse.*

- **Stagnation**: the fact of no longer developing or making progress.

Example: *a period of economic stagnation*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in August 2015

Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later. Some people think that having these people to give a talk to school students is the best way to tell them about dangers of committing a crime. Do you agree or disagree?

Crime education is of paramount importance in any country, but the way it can be conducted is often a subject of debate in society. While I agree that asking those who are released from prison to have a talk to school students is a good education method, I also believe that there are better alternatives to the problem, as will now be discussed.

On the one hand, I agree that students may be aware of the consequences of engaging in criminal activities when attending a talk given by ex-prisoners. Their life stories are often vivid and persuasive, and this can attract the attention of school students easily. These ex-criminals are real examples that people have to pay for their unlawful activities, which can raise awareness about law-abiding citizens among young people. The success of a series of educational programs on Vietnamese Television channels about the price that offenders have to pay proves that the narrative forms of crime education can work. It is hoped that a speech of used-to-be wrongdoers is promoted at all school levels in future.

However, I believe that a combination of different education methods would produce a more desirable result compared to a former prisoner holding a talk. Primarily, parents should act as pioneers to educate children at an early age about social evils and how to avoid them. It has long been acknowledged that the home environment has a profound effect on the development of a child, and a significant percentage of juvenile crime stems from insufficient education criminals receive in their childhood. Teachers at schools also

play an important role in raising the awareness of students about crime. Moral lessons ought not to be neglected in the classroom, and a positive education environment should be promoted, contributing to crime prevention.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that a talk given by ex-offenders, albeit effective, is not the best education method for crime education.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To engage in something:** to take part in something; to make somebody take part in something

Example: Even in prison, he continued to engage in criminal activities.

- **Vivid**: producing very clear pictures in your mind

Example: a wonderfully vivid imagination.

- **Narrative***:* describing events or telling a story.

Example: a narrative poem.

- **Wrongdoer**: a person who does something dishonest or illegal

Example: Most people believed that wrongdoers should be made to suffer.

- **A profound effect**

Example: Mr Vinh has a profound effect on his students' writing style.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in September 2015

Many people are afraid to leave their homes because of the fear of crime. Some believe that more actions should be taken to prevent crime. Others feel that little can be done. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The popularity of crime today has made people stay indoors for self-protection. While it is a common belief that reducing the crime rate is a nearly impossible mission, I hold the view that there are certain measures which can convert the world into a safer place to live in.

On the one hand, many people argue that in such current era of moral decadence, any attempts to prevent crime would turn out to be a failure. Poverty and unemployment are considered chief precursors to law violation, and only when these two social issues are eliminated will crime disappear. However, it is true that a society can only provide a limited

number of jobs for its residents, and those who are not lucky enough to receive good education from childhood would find it difficult to pursue a career to make ends meet. Such individuals are lack of both skills and orientation, and from their perspective, becoming a thief might be a better way to survive compared to unstably living on governmental subsidies or performing menial work. It seems that the root of this problem cannot be solved completely, and this is why how to halt law-breaking may remain as an insurmountable question for the government.

On the other hand, I am of the opinion that there are still solutions to maintain criminal justice. Firstly, stricter sets of laws are required, and the penalties should be corresponding to the severity of the wrongdoings. In a variety of countries, such as the United Kingdom or Italy, the capital punishment has been abandoned; but I believe it should be reintroduced as the fear of death may deter the potential offenders and stop them from committing serious crime. Secondly, the government should encourage companies and organizations to expand and run more projects. These actions create jobs; therefore, those who live under the poverty line not only do not have to become pickpockets or burglars for survival but also stand a chance to earn a living with their own clean money.

In conclusion, I believe that the aforementioned measures can create more peaceful communities and ensure the safety of the residents.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Crime rate**: A measure of the number of crimes recorded in a particular area, over a given period of time, etc.

Example: The crime rate in the UK has reduced in recent years

- **Measure**: a plan or course of action taken to achieve a particular purpose

Example: there are certain cost-cutting measures to this issue

- **Convert**: cause to change in form, character, or function

Example: The industry has come up with production processes that converted raw material into useful forms.

- **Decadence**: moral or cultural decline as characterized by excessive indulgence in pleasure or luxury.

Example: He denounced Western decadence.

- **Precursor**: a person or thing that comes before another of the same kind; a forerunner.

Example: A high population density is the precursor to traffic congestion.

- **Violation**: the action of violating someone or something

Example: the aircraft were in violation of UN resolutions.

- **Eliminate**: completely remove or get rid of (something)

Example: The new policy would eliminate inflation.

- **Subsidy**: a sum of money granted by the government or a public body to assist an industry or business so that the price of a commodity or service may remain low or competitive.

Example: Poor families rely on the governmental subsidies to satisfy their basic demands, such as eating or maintaining the domestic costs.

- **Menial**: (of work) not requiring much skill and lacking prestige

Example: Most menial works do not require expertise or intricate skills.

- **Insurmountable**: too great to be overcome

Example: Environmental pollution has remained as an insurmountable problem for governments for the last few years.

- **Justice**: a judge or magistrate, in particular a judge of the supreme court of a country or state.

Example: It is, therefore, a matter of public interest who becomes judges of the lower courts and justices of the Supreme Court.

- **Corresponding**: similar in character, form, or function

Example: We discussed our corresponding viewpoints.

- **Capital punishment**: the legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime

Example: The fact that the International Covenant sanctions capital punishment must be seen in this context.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in September 2015

Fewer and fewer people walk on a daily basis. What are the reasons and how to encourage them to spend their time walking?

People seem to be increasingly reluctant to have a walk regularly. As there are certain causes of such a trend, some solutions are also available to urge people to walk more.

Amongst the reasons for the lack of people's interest in the walking activity, the convenience of modern technology in travelling and the boredom of walking activity are

the two significant ones. Firstly, some technological applications which support travelling such as electric lifts and escalators are very common in public places. These devices help people to move to the higher levels of a building more easily and quickly than using the stairs, so people would feel unnecessary to walk. Secondly, walking for exercise can seem monotonous to many people because they have to repeat a series of actions every day, unlike going to the gym where they can use different exercising machines; additionally, it is less boring to train with and talk to other members at the gym. In order to raise people's interest in walking, there are some workable solutions to be adopted. To begin with, walking the stairs can be made a more enjoyable experience by adding some attractive decorations to them. For example, some 3D painting artists can be hired to paint their eye-catching works of art on the walls and the stair cases, which may make people excited to use the stairs the next time. In addition, companies can offer some incentives such as free gym membership to the employees who use the stairs instead of the lift. They can also hold a company event in form of a walking competition with prizes to promote the benefits of walking for health.

In conclusion, people dislike walking for several reasons, and this problem of inactivity can be addressed with some measures suggested.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To be reluctant to do something**
- **Monotonous**: never changing and therefore boring

Example: a monotonous voice/diet/routine.

- **eye-catching**: immediately noticeable because it is particularly interesting, bright or attractive

Example: an eye-catching advertisement.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in September 2015

Everyone should become vegetarian because they do not need to eat meat to have a healthy diet. Do agree or disagree?

Many people in the world currently choose not to eat meat in their daily meals. While I accept that this tendency can help people to live healthily, I believe not everyone should become vegetarian.

In my opinion, there are several benefits of being vegetarian. Firstly, since there are many types of vegetables that can provide people with enough nutrients, it has become less necessary for people to eat meat. For example, potatoes and beans are two popular dishes for families in England because of the large amount of calories they can provide. Secondly, vegetables and fruits contain vitamins that are highly beneficial for people. For instance, it has been proven that eating an apple every day can help individuals improve their health and avoid illness. Finally, if more people refuse to eat meat, fewer animals will be slaughtered.

However, I believe this tendency is not suitable for everyone. First, it is not advisable for children to become vegetarian. As they are in the process of growing up, they need to eat a wide range of food, including meat which contains essential nutrients, to improve their physical health. If children only eat vegetables, they might become less healthy than they should be. Furthermore, athletes are the people who should not be vegetarian. Since their job involves intense training on a regular basis, they need to consume meat such as beef or pork which provides them with enough calories.

In conclusion, while I agree that becoming vegetarian can help people have a healthy diet, I do not think it is an option that everybody should take.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **nutrient:** a substance that is needed to keep a living thing alive and help it to grow

Example: a lack of essential nutrients

- **refuse:** to say that you will not do sth that sb has asked you to do

Example: She refused to accept that there was a problem.

- **slaughter:** to kill an animal, usually for its meat

Example: The lambs are taken to the local abattoir to be slaughtered.

- **intense:** serious and often involving a lot of action in a short period of time

Example: It was a period of intense activity.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in September 2015

Studies show that criminals get low level of education. Some people believe that the best way to reduce the crime is educating people in prison so they can get a job after leaving prison. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Education for offenders during imprisonment as a method to reduce the rate of crime has evolved as a major topic of concern in today's society. While I agree that such a solution is effective to reduce crime, I am convinced that it is far from being the best method and there are many better ways of reducing crime.

I accept that education for prisoners may contribute to the reduction of the crime rate. The primary reason is that such a form of education could provide offenders with the working skills that are essential when they return to the community. With fortified job prospects, prisoners may therefore earn a living after leaving the prison and are less likely to commit a crime again. Another significant reason is that education could show the offenders that they are still appreciated by society. By this way, they may feel an enhanced sense of humanity and community, and become better citizens after their prison years. These people may then inspire many others in the public to live without crime.

However, I am firmly of the opinion that education for offenders is not the best solution to reduce crime. This form of education is offered only to those who have committed a crime, and therefore has far less preventive value, compared to other stronger solutions. For example, severe punishments such as longer imprisonment for criminals could deter criminal acts by many people in the public who have the intention to carry out a crime. There are also other educational methods that may have a stronger and more long-lasting impact on the reduction of crime. An excellent example of this is crime education at school, which helps equip students with the necessary knowledge about crime and crime prevention. This measure is undeniably a more sustainable crime-fighting solution than education for criminals.

To conclude, I firmly believe that although educating prisoners is an effective way to reduce crime, it is not the best solution, as there are more preventive and sustainable measures such as crime education at school and stricter punishments for criminals.

Useful words/phrases:

- **Appreciate**: to recognize the good qualities of somebody/something.

Example: His talents are not fully appreciated in that company.

- **A sense of something**

Example: "he has a sense of humour" ="he has a sense of community" , "I feel a sense of perfection in his work". "A sense of

- **Sustainable**: that can continue or be continued for a long time.

Example: sustainable economic growth

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2015

In some countries, secondary schools aim to provide a general education across a range of subjects. In others, children focus on a narrow range of subjects related to a particular career. Which of these two systems is more appropriate in today's world?

Secondary school curriculum can be organised in a variety of ways. While several countries adopt the education system which orientates the students in a specific profession, I believe that the teenagers should have access to a comprehensive learning programme with a wide range of subjects.

To begin with, a learning programme providing knowledge of a major subject is beneficial in some ways. Being exposed to expertise and skills required by a certain speciality at the young age, the students would stand a great chance to not only have a well-defined career path, but also become competent workers in their later life. For example, with students having ambition to work as translators or applied language researchers in the future, it is a course of basic grammar and vocabulary at their secondary school that can realise the dream. In addition, current society of specialization tends to favour employees with a good grounding in a single field over those who have general knowledge but are not experts in a particular area. Therefore, it is absurd to say that such career-driven programmes are not appropriate to today's world.

In stark contrast, however, it is better for the teenagers to have access to a curriculum containing basic knowledge of various fields. The final purpose of developing the comprehensive thinking of children should lie at the heart of any secondary school learning programme, as they seem to be too young to decide on a specific occupation to follow at that age. An ideal job is one that provides enjoyment for the workers, and it is a well-rounded course that can help children seek for a major they are interested in and nurture the passion for it. To illustrate, secondary schools in the UK aim to teach children different subjects ranging from Math to Arts, and their educational philosophy is to put job orientation in the high school curriculum.

In final words, my opinions are on par with the idea that secondary schoolchildren should be supplied with knowledge in as many fields as possible.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Expertise**: expert skill or knowledge in a particular field.

Example: Throughout four years learning university, he has deepened his technical expertise and now is receiving offers from numerous big firms.

- **Speciality**: a pursuit, area of study, or skill to which someone has devoted much time and effort and in which they are expert.

Example: His specialty was watercolors.

- **Specialization**: A method of production where a business or area focuses on the production of a limited scope of products or services in order to gain greater degrees of productive efficiency within the entire system of businesses or areas.

Example: There is a wide choice of subject specializations at the highest levels of the school.

- **Grounding**: basic training or instruction in a subject.

Example: every child needs a good grounding in science and technology.

- **Expert**: a person who has a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area.

Example: Most psychologists are experts in creating motivation and soothing negative feelings.

- **Appropriate**: suitable or proper in the circumstances.

Example: Exporting commodities to boost monetary benefits as well as enhance international reputation is a measure appropriate to the emerging economies.

- **Comprehensive**: complete; including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.

Example: Buying technical products from this shop, customers have access to a comprehensive aftermarket support.

- **Occupation**: a job or profession.

Example: His prime occupation was as editor.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2015

Some people think that in order to prevent illness and disease, governments should make efforts in reducing environmental pollution and housing problems. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

The prevention of illness and disease is a challenging problem for any community. Although many people may be skeptical about the effectiveness of an investment in improving the environment and providing more housing for the public, I believe that it is a good solution to the issue, as will now be discussed.

On the one hand, ameliorating environmental contamination can hinder the spread of disease and illness. Today, people's health is deteriorating due to the adverse effects of poor air quality, making us more vulnerable to viruses and health problems. A number of urban citizens suffer from lung cancer and throat cancer due to the dangerous level of exhaust emissions from traffic and industrial activities in many big cities such as Beijing and Hanoi. Therefore, improving the environment should be treated as the top priority among other concerns of the government. For example, an outright ban on the use of private vehicles can decrease the amount of harmful fumes released into the atmosphere, contributing to the clean-up of the environment.

On the other hand, the provision of more accommodation for the public is also a highly effective measure to reduce health risks. Many people are still homeless in society while many others have to live in slums under poor living conditions with poor access to medical services when they are sick. This triggers the rise of endemic diseases such as malaria in society, putting the life of other citizens in jeopardy. By providing more social apartments of affordable prices and incentives for the poor, the government would not only mitigate the dearth of housing but also prevent disease and illness effectively at an early stage.

In conclusion, it is my belief that environmental pollution and lack of housing are root causes of the proliferation of illnesses and diseases in society, requiring the government to take actions to tackle the problem.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **To be skeptical about something:** having doubts that a claim or statement is true or that something will happen

Example: I am skeptical about his chances of winning.

- **To ameliorate something:** to make something better

Example: Steps have been taken to ameliorate the situation.

- **Deteriorate:** to become worse (kém đi).

They had to cope with deteriorating weather conditions.

- **The clean-up of something**: the process of removing dirt, pollution, or things that are considered bad or immoral from a place

Example: the clean-up of the river.

- **Slum:** an area of a city that is very poor and where the houses are dirty and in bad condition

Example: city/urban slums.

- **Endemic:** regularly found in a particular place or among a particular group of people and difficult to get rid of.

Example: Malaria is endemic in many hot countries.

- **The dearth of something:** a lack of something; the fact of there not being enough of something

Example: There was a dearth of reliable information on the subject.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2015

Students today can easily access information online, so libraries are no longer necessary. Do you agree or disagree?

Students are currently able to acquire information on the Internet in a much easier way than in the past. While I accept that online sources of information have advantages over traditional libraries, I would argue that there is still a great need for libraries in today's world.

It is true that accessing information online has several clear benefits. The first one is that online sources can store a huge amount of information that is greater than any physical library. This allows researchers to easily get the information they need without having to travel to a local library. Furthermore, students can look for information on the Internet whenever they want, while most libraries can only be visited during several hours per day. As a result, it might be better for those who are busy to utilise online information sources.

However, I believe that physical libraries still have special features that online sources can never replace. Firstly, libraries usually provide quiet areas, which is a great environment for students to learn and research since they are less likely to be distracted by things around them. For example, some of my university friends claim that they can only concentrate

when they are in a quiet study area in my university library. Secondly, since everyone can easily write and post information on the Internet, these online sources are not always reliable for research. Therefore, we need libraries whose staff members have the responsibility to select and provide readers with the most credible materials.

In conclusion, while I agree that there are great benefits of getting information on the Internet, I disagree with the idea that traditional libraries are no longer important.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **distract:** to take sb's attention away from what they are trying to do

Example: You're distracting me from my work.

- **credible:** that can be believed or trusted

Example: a credible explanation

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2015

Scientist agree that people are damaging their health by eating too much junk food. Some people think that the answer to this problem is to educate people. Others think education will not work. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Scientific findings have clearly indicated that the excessive consumption of fast food is leading the health of people to deterioration. According to some people, this unhealthy practice can be stopped by means of education; however, some others have little faith in this solution. As the supporters of each view have their own justifications, whether education is effective remains to be seen in this essay.

On the one hand, raising the awareness of people towards the dangers of unhealthy food can certainly yield some promising outcomes. Firstly, many fast food products provide very little or no information on the nutritional content in them, deterring the consumers from knowing the amount of fat, sodium or cholesterol which they take in. By being informed of how much of these harmful substances is contained in their favourite hamburgers or chips, as well as being shown the likely consequences of over-eating these foods, consumers can be more cautious the next time they choose their food. Secondly, education at schools can help to form healthy eating habits for children and parents. For instance, schools can hold some extracurricular activities such as growing and selling

vegetables with the attendance of both students and parents, in order to promote the benefits of healthy diets and warn against the potential risks of junk food.

On the other hand, some people doubt the effectiveness of education for certain reasons. To begin with, despite being aware of the negative effects of fast food, many people who are too busy persist to eat it due to its being convenient and time-saving. In this case, education hardly makes a difference as they have made a choice. In addition, compared with the wide range and availability of fast food stores and menus, healthy food is seriously limited. Furthermore, healthy food is commonly inferior to fast food in terms of taste and prices as a matter of fact. As a result, however convincing education is, it is almost impossible for people to change their eating habit without a ready alternative to their unhealthy food choices.

In conclusion, people have different opinions about whether to support education so as to reduce people's consumption of fast food. In my opinion, education can be a viable measure with careful consideration of other impediments.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **faith:** trust in somebody's ability or knowledge; trust that somebody/something will do what has been promised

Example: He has blind faith (= unreasonable trust) in doctors' ability to find a cure.

- **To deter somebody from doing something:**

Example: The high price of the service could deter people from seeking advice.

- **Extracurricular**: not part of the usual course of work or studies at a school or college

Example: She is involved in many extra-curricular activities.

- **Inferior:** not good or not as good as somebody/something else

Example: Modern music is often considered inferior to that of the past.

- **Impediment**: something that delays or stops the progress of something

Example: The level of inflation is a serious impediment to economic recovery.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in November 2015

Whether or not someone achieve their aims is mostly a question of luck. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay 1:

The debate whether luck is the primary determinant of success in achieving targets has been heated constantly. My position is that hard work and determination are far more important than luck, while luck must not be considered as the main precursor of the attainment of one's goals.

I advocate the notion that the role of being industrious and determined is more significant than luck. Thomas Edison, one of the greatest inventors in the 20th century, is an excellent example of such a notion. He conducted numerous experiments with the filament until the finest light bulb was produced; and his hard work, rather than luck, was acknowledged by all the human race. Another clear evidence of this notion is the case of Nguyen Ngoc Ky. This disabled man could not write by hand, but he was determined enough to teach himself to write by foot. The fact that he would then became one of the greatest teachers in the history of education in Vietnam provides a concrete foundation that even with bad luck, determination could result in goal achievement.

By contrast, I believe the saying that fortune has a major part to play is just a fallacy. One clear reason is that although there may have been a number of people reaching their goals with good luck, such good luck in most cases only comes to people who have worked hard. Take Mendeleev as an example. As a research chemist, he worked tirelessly for a few decades, until one day in his dream, the complete arrangement of the elements appeared. The appearance of this arrangement could be ascribed to luck, but no one could deny the extreme effort that Mendeleev had exerted. Another clear reason for my belief is that luck could only lead people to short-term achievements, and there is nothing to ascertain that it would continue to exist in the long run. The over-reliance on good fortune, as a result, would prevent people from achieving their long-term or life-long aims.

In brief, I think the importance of luck in determining goal attainment is overstated, while there are much more significant factors to consider, namely hard work and determination.

Useful words/phrases:

- ***Determine*** *(v) to make something happen in a particular way or be of a particular type.*

Example: *Age and experience will be determining factors in our choice of candidate.*

- ***Conduct*** *(v): to organize and/or do a particular activity.*

Example: *to conduct an experiment/an inquiry/a survey*

- ***Ascribe (v):*** *If you* ***ascribe*** *an event or condition* ***to*** *a particular cause, you say or consider that it was caused by that thing.*

Example: *He ascribed his failure to bad luck.*

Essay 2:

People have different views about what elements contribute the most to a person's success. While I accept that luck does have an important role in helping people reach their targets, I would argue that hard work and determination are much more crucial factors leading to the achievement of an individual.

On the one hand, I agree that luck can be an important factor. Some people are fortunate enough to be born in a wealthy family, which allows them to have better education or to easily start their own business without having to borrow money from someone else. As a result, these people tend to have better opportunities to succeed than those coming from poor families. Furthermore, some individuals are lucky to be given great talents which others do not have. For example, Mozart was able to play music when he was very young, or Lionel Messi already had great football skills when he was born.

However, I would argue that although luck can be necessary, it is not the most crucial factor leading to success. Firstly, people need to work really hard and put much effort into their jobs if they want to be successful. For instance, before becoming one of the best football players in the world, Cristiano Ronaldo had to go through intense training hours every day for many years. Secondly, a person is less likely to reach his targets if he does not have determination. On the way leading to success, there might be many difficulties, and people need to keep moving forward to overcome those challenges.

In conclusion, while I agree that luck is important in helping people become successful, I believe that hard work and determination are the most important elements.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **determination:** the quality that makes you continue trying to do sth even when this is difficult

Example: He fought the illness with courage and determination.

- **wealthy:** having a lot of money, possesions, etc

Example: a wealthy nation

- **crucial:** extremely important

Example: a crucial factor/issue/decision

IELTS Writing Task 2 in November 2015

The consumption of the world's resources (oil, and water etc.) is increasing at a dangerous rate. What are causes and solutions?

Essay 01:

The accelerating rate of natural resources consumption has been a major topic of concern in recent years. As some factors are likely to trigger this alarming trend, a number of drastic measures can be employed to slow down the pace.

Perhaps it is the key role of natural resources in boosting economic growth and the heavy reliance on natural resources that accompany each other to create this dire situation. Today, precious commodities from nature such as gas, oil and coal still remain crucial to the operation of a country as transport and industries would grind to a halt without the energy and fuel generated from these resources. In emerging economies which are striving to rise, the demands for resources are certainly on the increase. The dependence on natural resources is also to blame as it is easier to exploit them from nature than developing and converting to sustainable alternatives such as wind and solar energy, which requires many years and great determination to produce changes on a large scale.

In order to alleviate the existing problem, there are some feasible solutions. One step to be mentioned is that the authority should impose higher taxes on the use of natural resources to deter further consumption. On the other hand, renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power can be developed to substitute fossil fuels in transport and manufacture. Lastly, governmental campaigns need to be launched to make individuals acknowledge the risks of overusing natural resources through the mass media.

In conclusion, the overuse of the world's resources may result in severe consequences, threatening the environment and many people's life, and strong measures must be implemented to tackle this situation.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **accelerate**: to happen or to make something happen faster or earlier than expected

Example: Inflation continues to accelerate.

- **To boost something**: to make something increase, or become better or more successful

Example: The movie helped boost her screen career.

- **Dire:** very serious.

Example: Such action may have dire consequences.

- **To grind to a halt:** to go slower gradually and then stop completely.

Example: Production ground to a halt during the strike.

Essay 02:

The overconsumption of natural resources has evolved as a major topic of concern in recent years. This alarming trend is caused by a few factors, and it must be addressed by a number of definite actions.

The increasingly high level of exploitation of natural resources could be ascribed to a number of reasons. The most obvious reason is the tremendous demand for resources in developing countries, such as China and Brazil. The citizens of these countries are becoming increasingly wealthy, and they may now afford a living standard that is associated with a higher level of resource consumption. A clear example of this is the widespread use of cars among tens of millions of middle-income Chinese nationals, which may have contributed substantially to the burning of oil on a global scale. Besides, the over-dependence on natural resources, such as fossil fuels, is another significant reason to consider. In Vietnam, for example, the majority of electricity is generated in thermal power stations, in which a vast amount of coal is the burnt on a daily basis.

Some measures can be taken to mitigate the problem of over-consuming Earth's resources. The most practical measure at the moment is to reduce the demand for resources in developing countries. This can be done by mass-producing energy-efficient products, such as hybrid cars, and selling these items at a low price to citizens of these nations. If such a measure is implemented, these people may still benefit from the modern living standard without overconsuming natural resources. Besides, the most sustainable solution is to lower the reliance on natural resources by taking advantage of alternative sources. For instance, wind and tidal power in the Netherlands, nuclear power in Japan and solar power in the United States have all proven their efficiency in energy production. These forms of energy

should be used in other parts of the world as well, to minimise the global dependence on fossil fuels.

All the existing data provides a concrete foundation that the overexploitation of natural resources derives from the strong demand in developing countries and the over-reliance on these types of resources. Strong measures, such as reducing the aforementioned demand and making use of alternative energy sources, must be implemented to tackle this situation.

Useful words/phrases:

- **Demand:** the desire or need of customers for goods or services which they want to buy or use.

Example: to meet the demand for a product

- **Such**: of the type already mentioned.

Example: She longed to find somebody who understood her problems, and in him she thought she had found such a person.

- **Take advantage of something/somebody:** to make use of something well; to make use of an opportunity.

Example: She took advantage of the children's absence to tidy their *rooms*.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in November 2015

Too much emphasis is placed on going university for academic study. People should be encouraged to do vocational training, because there is a lack of qualified tradespeople such as electricians or plumbers. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It goes without saying that society always needs a skilled workforce to function. Employees of different professions contribute differently to the thriving of the community, and therefore I disagree with the statement that vocational courses should be given any more weight than before.

The fact that many people deem it more important to take tertiary education than a vocational training program has resulted in a shortage of qualified workers. It is universally accepted that knowledge and qualifications gained from university can help one to have a head start over other candidates when it comes to job hunting. In Vietnam, for instance, a majority of high school graduates are content to spend four to five years more studying at

a university with the hope for a bright career ahead. This results in a lack of skilled manual workers such as plumbers and electricians in society.

However, if we encourage more people to become blue-collar workers, then there will be a shortage of while-collar workers who may otherwise create more wealth for society. For example, fewer engineers would mean lower productivity; a dearth of scientists may inhibit scientific discoveries which can provide us with a better life in the future. In contrast, those doing blue-collar jobs may face redundancy when too many applicants compete for the same position. An unbalanced workforce might, therefore, hold society back from development in the long term.

In conclusion, the workforce will adjust itself to cater for the need of the community, so there is no need to direct young people to follow a particular career path.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in December 2015

The government and individuals are spending too much money on national celebrations like new year or festivals. Do you agree or disagree?

People have different views about whether public expenditure on national occasions such as new year or festivals is too much nowadays. While I agree that governments and individuals are spending a significant amount of money on those celebrations, I would argue that this activity is necessary and therefore can be considered acceptable.

It is true that a large amount of money is currently spent on some important celebrations of a country. Firstly, governments are spending a proportion of their budget on holding events to celebrate these occasions. For example, much money is being paid for fireworks on New Year's eve in many countries around the world. Secondly, individuals also spend money to have celebrations and parties with their families, which is a common habit in many areas. For instance, my parents and I often have a special dinner on the final day of every year.

However, I believe there are great benefits of public spending on national celebrations, and therefore it is completely justifiable. The first advantage is that this is a great way to preserve the culture of a nation. To illustrate, Lunar New Year is an important part of the Vietnamese culture, and holding celebrations for this occasion is necessary to remind younger generations of this tradition. Additionally, since these occasions are usually the only times for family members to have time and enjoy together, it is understandable that

people would want to spend money on something that makes them happy. Finally, as there are only a few national celebrations in a year, the amount of money spent on those days is unlikely to be too much.

In conclusion, I disagree with the idea that people and governments are spending too much money on national occasions.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **expenditure:** an amount of money spent

Example: The government plans to increase expenditure on health.

- **fireworks**
- **justifiable:** existing or done for a good reason, and therefore acceptable
- **preserve:** to keep sth in its original state in good condition

Example: a perfectly preserved 14th century house

- **remind:** to help sb remember sth

Example: That smell reminds me of France.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in December 2015

There is a general increase in anti-social behaviours and lack of respect for others. What are the causes and solutions?

The widespread problem of anti-social behaviours and disrespectful attitudes towards others has long been a major topic of concern in society. Some of the major culprits of this problem will be discussed before the most important solutions are drawn.

Reasons for this alarming situation vary. In some cases, people may hold an anti-social attitude or disrespect others because they live in an environment where violence and discrimination are the norms. For example, children of sexist parents in rural families in Vietnam, irrespective of their gender, show a worrying tendency of disrespecting women. In some other cases, it is the lack of parental guidance that is to blame. As modern parents are becoming increasingly busy with their jobs, they may have the proclivity to be indifferent to children education. When there is no one to help young children distinguish between the good and the bad, ill-mannered attitudes may emerge and develop among them without being controlled.

A number of definite actions could be taken to mitigate the problem. On the national level, the first obvious solution is to reduce violence and discrimination. As this would be a massive act, the all voters and legislators should be responsible. Together, they could call for stricter enforcement of the laws on violent and discriminatory acts to deter them from happening. In addition, on the nuclear-family level, parents must not underestimate the significance of their guidance for children. If they notice any signs of an anti-social or insolent manner in children, they must provide them with negative evaluations of these signs. At the same time, parents could also educate their children about social manners by instilling a pro-social sense in them. These actions, albeit small, could have a strong influence on children when they mature.

To conclude, it is clear that violence, discrimination and the indifference of parents to children education are the major catalysts for increase in anti-social behaviours and disrespect for others. Strong measures, such as stringent law enforcement on violent and discriminatory acts, must be taken to alleviate this distressing situation.

Useful words/phrases:

- **Disrespect**: a lack of respect for somebody/something.

Example: disrespect for the law/the dead

- **Irrespective of**: without considering something or being influenced by it.

Example: Everyone is treated equally, irrespective of race.

- **Proclivity:** a natural tendency to do something or to feel something, often something bad.

Example: the government's proclivity for spending money

- **Indifferent to**: having or showing no interest in somebody/something.

Example: The government cannot afford to be indifferent to public opinion.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in December 2015

When people live in a foreign country, they should follow local traditions and customs. Do you agree or not?

As the immigrants in many countries are rising in number, an opinion emerges that it is necessary for these outsiders to embrace the culture of the natives. In my personal view, such assimilation is completely justifiable for certain reasons.

In the first place, non-native residents should consider adopting the cultural changes for the sake of their easy immigration. It can be universally acknowledged that the people of a nation take pride in their own cultural features such as beliefs, lifestyle and cuisine which greatly influence their life. Therefore, any slight sign showing the lack of respect for the native culture is likely to result in the unfriendliness or even isolation from the local community. To facilitate the integration process and prevent any potential trouble, it is highly advisable that the settlers conform to the standards of behaviour expected by the foreign society.

In addition, it is beneficial for emigrants to accept new traditions and customs as such an action boosts mutual understanding between cultures and alleviates the conflicts. If foreign people are willing to change themselves a little to blend in, for example, avoiding the consumption of beef in India or joining the traditional celebration of Tet in Vietnam with the natives, the local people will definitely exhibit a very amiable attitude towards the foreigners. As a result of strengthened understanding and friendship, it is reasonable to say that there will be almost no room for discrimination or conflicts.

In conclusion, I entirely support the view of encouraging immigrants to accept the culture of their new homelands, as there will be significant benefits for them eventually.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Assimilation**: the act of assimilating somebody or something, or being assimilated.

Example: his assimilation into the community

- **To facilitate something:** to make an action or a process possible or easier.

Example: Structured teaching facilitates learning.

- **To conform to something:** to obey a rule, law, etc.

Example: The building does not conform with safety regulations.

- **Amiable**: pleasant; friendly and easy to like.

Example: Mr Vinh seems very amiable.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in December 2015

Children are facing more pressures nowadays from academic, social and commercial perspectives. What are the causes of these pressures and what measures should be taken to reduce these pressures?

There is a current distressing situation that the external life has burdened the youth with a wide range of pressures. In this essay, I would discuss several precursors to this issue, before some viable measures are drawn.

The fact that children are coerced into pressures and responsibilities stems from a number of root reasons. As far as the academic burden is concerned, it is the escalating competitiveness of the job market accompanied with the parental over-expectation that is to blame. The organisations' demand of a qualified workforce pours into the parents' mind a thought that their children have to be successful at school, and many youths today take studying as an obligation. In addition, some children, mostly those who have special talents or are born in famous families, may find their personal life in the public interest. The appearance on the media at such a young age may deprive the junior citizens of an innocent and carefree childhood. Regarding the commercial pressure children have to encounter, fast food chains or sweetshops have made them the target customers; and they are dragged into a chaotic influx of information by both the online and offline advertising campaigns.

In order to reverse such pressures on children, I would like to propose a number of drastic remedies. Firstly, parents should create a mentally and physically healthy domestic environment, involving a balance between learning and relaxing. Cooling-down activities such as sports, drawing or traveling, which are normally affordable, can release the stress of children brought on by both academic and social burdens. In addition, business morality has to be emphasised and penetrated by all firms. They should keep their online advertisements inaccessible to the youth by putting age restrictions on their websites.

In final words, it is unfair for the children to bear any kind of pressure, and every part of society should exert effort to provide them with a happy youth life.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

- **Viable**: capable of working successfully; feasible.

Example: the proposed investment was economically viable

- **Coerce**: persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats.

Example: they were coerced into silence

- **Escalate**: increase rapidly.

Example: the price of tickets escalated

- **Competitiveness***:* The quality of being as good as or better than others of a comparable nature

Example: High-protein soybean varieties may improve competitiveness of livestock producers.

- **Deprive**: deny (a person or place) the possession or use of something.

Example: the city was deprived of its water supplies.

- **Drastic**: Likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect; radical and extreme

Example: This is likely to mean a drastic reduction of overheads and also of headcount.

- **Emphasise**: give special importance or prominence to (something) in speaking or writing

Example: he jabbed a finger into the tabletop to emphasize his point.

- **Penetrate**: succeed in forcing a way into or through

Example: the shrapnel had penetrated his head and chest.

- **Inaccessible**: unable to be reached

Example: We continue to sign collective agreements that are generally written in complex and inaccessible language.)

- **Restriction**: a limiting condition or measure, especially a legal one. .

Example: The company is now planning restrictions on commercial development.

- **Exert**: make a physical or mental effort.

Example: He needs to exert himself to try to find an answer.

IELTS Writing Recent Actual Tests (Task 2) 2016

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2016

It is more important for schoolchildren to learn about local history than world history. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Teaching history for schoolchildren has been a heated topic constantly. There is a common belief that local history is more important to children than world history. However, I disagree with this belief.

I believe the notion that local history is more valuable than world history should be rejected. Some people may claim that the insights into the local historical values are completely enough for one to live. Their argument could be true a few decades ago when most interpersonal communications were between people of the same race and origin. However, this view is now outdated, as the world has become globalised and international business and migrant workers have made any community a global village. In this context, an understanding of a foreign country's history would enable future local workers to reinforce the relationship between them and the expatriates from that country.

In addition, I am strongly convinced that children would benefit the most only when the learning of local history is placed parallel to that of world history. To understand a local historical event, children should put the regional and sometimes even world context in that historical era into consideration. For example, children should acknowledge that the event that Vietnam regained its independence after defeating the Japanese troops in Indochina in 1945 only happened after a series of relevant events in the World War II, one of which is the surrender of Japan to the Allies.

In this way of learning, children would understand history more deeply and thoroughly.

All the existing data has provided a concrete foundation that the study of local history should always be parallel to that of world history. This practice would guarantee that children learn history more comprehensively and be able to tighten the bond with migrant workers in their country.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Notion**: A **notion** is an idea or belief about something. Example: *I reject absolutely the notion that privatisation of our industry is now inevitable...*
- **Insight**: If you gain **insight** or an **insight into** a complex situation or problem, you gain an accurate and deep understanding of it. Example: *The project would give scientists new insights into what is happening to the earth's atmosphere...*
- **Interpersonal**: **Interpersonal** means relating to relationships between people. Example:*Training in interpersonal skills is essential.*
- **Globalise**: When industry **globalizes** or **is globalized**, companies from one country link with companies from another country in order to do business with them. *As the world becomes more complex, some things do, of course, standardize and globalize...*
- **Global village**: People sometimes refer to the world as a **global village** when they want to emphasize that all the different parts of the world form one community linked together by electronic communications, especially the Internet. Example: *Now that we are all part of the global village, everyone becomes a neighbour.*
- **Reinforce**: If something **reinforces** a feeling, situation, or process, it makes it stronger or more intense. Example: *A stronger European Parliament would, they fear, only reinforce the power of the larger countries...*
- **Expatriate**: An **expatriate** is someone who is living in a country which is not their own. ...*British expatriates in Spain.*
- **Context**: The **context of** an idea or event is the general situation that relates to it, and which helps it to be understood. Example: *We are doing this work in the context of reforms in the economic, social and cultural spheres.*
- **Era**: You can refer to a period of history or a long period of time as an **era** when you want to draw attention to a particular feature or quality that it has. Example:...*the nuclear era...*

- **Concrete**: You use **concrete** to indicate that something is definite and specific. Example: *He had no concrete evidence...*
- **Parallel** (a): **Parallel** events or situations happen at the same time as one another, or are similar to one another. Example:...*parallel talks between the two countries' Foreign Ministers...*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2016

Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists but not local people. Why is this the case and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

There are a number of factors that explain why many museums and historical sites fail to attract the attention of the locals. However, this issue can be resolved by adopting a number of solutions, as will now be discussed.

Perhaps the primary reason is that local inhabitants often do not have interest in visiting these places as they tend not to be attracted by places and objects that are familiar to their cultural backgrounds. For example, many museums in Ho Chi Minh City welcome thousands of travelers from Hanoi annually, in contrast to the number of local residents who visit the museums and historical sites here in my home city of Hanoi.

Another reason stems from historical attractions themselves. They are often poorly conserved due to a low budget for operation while the authority does not make an attempt to improve the situation. Take the Air Defense museum in Hanoi as an example. For years, there has been no change for the better, at least visually, to attract the locals, and this is the reason why most of its visitors are tourists.

However, a range of available options can be taken to tackle the problem. The simplest one is that the authority should continue campaigns aiming at encouraging local people to visit these attractions. They could also consider rearranging and redecorating historical places to make them more interesting and attractive for all visitors. To achieve this, the government ought to allocate more public money to the conservation of these places.

In conclusion, various measures need to be taken to gain back local residents' interest in museums and historical sites.

Useful words and phrases:

- **To stem from**: to be the result of something. *Example: Most people's insecurities stem from something that happened in their childhood.*
- **To allocate smth to smth**: to give something officially to somebody/something for a particular purpose. *Example: More funds will now be allocated to charitable organizations.*
- **To gain someone's interest back**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2016

Although more and more people read the news on internet, newspapers will remain the most important source of news for the majority of people. Do you agree or disagree?

There is a common belief that newspapers will still be the most vital means of reading news despite the innovation that the Internet has brought to the **information provision process**. Personally, I disagree with this view.

At the outset, I admit that newspapers may remain as the most popular source of information for certain parts of society. **Take the senior citizens as a salient example**. Journals were present on virtually every corner of the world a few decades ago, and the **unremitting** availability of this type of publication shaped a **long-lasting** reading habit among the previous generation. This explains why those individuals are not willing to change their way of accessing information. In addition, to the understanding of some people, the information published by newspapers is better censored. This view is, to some extent, justifiable due to the fact that the majority of websites and social networks are open for all members to post about their opinions, creating a **chaotic influx** of online information.

However, from my perspective, it is not reasonable to state that most people will consider newspapers their primary means of reading news in the future. At its simplest, the Internet has **revolutionised** the way we are exposed to information, and how **online platforms** place the entire world at our fingertips is simply superior to the way gazettes or broadsheets provide us with daily news every morning. To exemplify, an online newspapers can publish

vivid live reports of events or football matches, while traditional newspapers only supply brief summaries of such occasions on the following day. Plus, the audience, with an Internet-connected device, is allowed to access news under the form of video clips, which are by no means available on newspapers.

All the aforementioned points lead me to a firm conclusion that the Internet will replace the newspapers as the most important source of news in the foreseeable future.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2016

Prison is the common way in most countries to solve the problem of crime. However, a more effective solution is to provide people a better education. Agree or disagree.

People have different views about the most effective way to reduce crime. While I agree that prison can be a good solution, I would argue that it is much better for governments to educate citizens in order to minimise the problem of crime.

On the one hand, I accept that prison is a necessary measure to help governments deal with crime. Firstly, this is an effective method of punishing criminals. For example, those who commit murders in many countries might have to face a life sentence. As a result, people would be afraid of these severe punishments and are therefore less likely to offend. Secondly, when offenders are kept in jail, they cannot get out and interact with others in society. This prevents them from committing more crimes, which helps to guarantee safety for all citizens. If dangerous criminals are not sent to prison, this might be a great threat for other people.

On the other hand, I believe giving education for citizens is a much better solution to minimise the problem of crime. The first reason is that many crimes occur due to a lack of awareness. For instance, many people do not know that it is illegal to have sex with a teenager who is less than 16 years old. Therefore, it is important to educate individuals about law, which can help them to avoid making mistakes. Additionally, when people are properly educated, they can have sufficient knowledge and skills needed to get jobs and support themselves. This is likely to lead to a reduction in several types of crime such as robberies or burglaries.

In conclusion, while it is true that prison is a good way to prevent crime, I believe that education is a more effective method that should be adopted.

Useful words and phrases:

- **life sentence:** a punishment for a felon of imprisonment for life.

  Example: His life sentence was to have to live without her.
- **offend:** to commit a crime or crimes

  Example: He started offending at the age of 16.
- **jail**: a prison.

  Example: She spent a year in jail.
- **guarantee**: to make sth certain to happen.

  Example: Tonight's victory guarantees the team's place in the final.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2016

New technologies have changed the way children spend their free time. Do advantages of this outweigh disadvantages?

In this modern age, the introduction of new technologies is often accompanied by major impacts on our life. Children, accordingly, have altered their usual habits in their leisure time due to such technological influence. There can be both benefits and drawbacks of this change, but I believe it is still more negative than positive.

In the positive aspect, children certainly have benefited much from technology. Firstly, technology has added more options to the range of entertainment sources when other ways are unavailable. For example, children can play online games at home with other players in case of the bad weather; alternatively, social networks such as Facebook are a nice way to talk to friends who are far away. Secondly, technology has created many affordable activities for enjoyment for even the children whose families are not too wealthy. While some pastimes such as golf and stamp collection can be too expensive for many, video games and portable music players seem to be more popular amongst average people.

Nevertheless, new technologies also have more significant adverse effects. The first one is a sedentary lifestyle which results from spending too much time using the computer or

mobile phone and neglecting some outdoor activities. This lifestyle is prone to entail many health problems such as obesity and damaged eye-sight. Another outcome is poor academic performance when children become seriously addicted to the games and social networks and lose their attention in the classroom. Besides, some healthy sports and arts activities can disappear in the future if there are too few people interested in them.

In conclusion, beneficial as new technologies have been for the quality of children's leisure time, they are likely to cause more problems and need to be appropriately controlled.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Accompany** (v): *to go with someone or to be provided or exist at the same time as something*
- **Accordingly** (adv): *in a way that is suitable or right for the situation*
- **Alter** (v): *to change something, usually slightly, or to cause the characteristics of something to change*
- **Leisure time (noun phrase):** *the time when you are not working or doing other activities*
- **Option** (noun): *one thing that can be chosen from a set of possibilities*
- **Alternatively** (adv): *used to suggest another possibility*
- **Pastime** (n): *an activity that is done for enjoyment*
- **Average** (adj): *typical and usual*
- **Adverse effect** (noun phrase): *an effect that is harmful or negative*
- **Sedentary lifestyle** (noun phrase): *a life in which there is little physical exercise*
- **Result from** (prepositional verb): *be caused by something*
- **Be prone to V/ st** (adjective phrase): *be likely to suffer from something negative*
- **Entail** (v): *to involve something/ to make something happen as atieeuult*
- **Eye-sight** (n): *the ability to see*
- **Outcome** (n): *the result or effect of a situation or action*
- **Academic performace** (noun phrase): *how well a student does in class or at school*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2016

Some people believe government should spend money on building train and subway lines to reduce traffic congestion. Others think that building more and wider roads is the better way to reduce traffic congestion. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The methods of mitigating traffic congestion have been a heated topic of controversy. Some people argue that the construction of larger roads is the answer for the problem. However, I contend that such a solution is ineffective in the long term, while the option to construct railways and subways is a far better measure.

There is a common fallacy that governmental spending on building larger roads could sustainably address the problem of traffic congestion. An increase in road size could reduce the traffic intensity in the short term, but larger roads also mean that the citizens are encouraged to purchase more individual vehicles. This leads to the fact that the roads, albeit larger, would soon be filled with intense traffic again. For instance, traffic jams returned to Shanghai's main streets not long after they were expanded in the early 1990s. In brief, if this solution is implemented, traffic jams would still persist in the long run.

Rail and subway systems, however, could ensure that traffic congestion is properly addressed. Unlike cars and buses, trains are capable of transporting hundreds of people simultaneously and thus would meet the transport demand of a vast number of passengers. Moreover, trains do not have to go through intersections and traffic lights, and dedicated lines ensure their travel is hardly interrupted. In other words, trains are always on time regardless of the level of traffic. This level of punctuality would encourage many people to choose railways and subways as their primary means of transport, and the number of individuals vehicles would decrease accordingly. As a result, traffic congestion could be tackled successfully.

The existing data provides a concrete foundation to conclude that building more and larger roads in an unsustainable measure, while train and subway lines would be a much more effective solution for the problem of traffic congestion.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Mitigate**: *To mitigate something means to make it less unpleasant, serious, or painful. (FORMAL)* ...ways of mitigating the effects of an explosion...
- **Ineffective**: *If you say that something is ineffective, you mean that it has no effect on a process or situation. Economic reform will continue to be painful and ineffective...*
- **Measure**: *When someone, usually a government or other authority, takes measures to do something, they carry out particular actions in order to achieve a particular result. (FORMAL) The government warned that police would take tougher measures to contain the trouble...*
- **Sustainable**: *You use sustainable to describe the use of natural resources when this use is kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment. Try to buy wood that you know has come from a sustainable source.*
- **Intensity**: *Intensity is used to describe something that is very great or extreme in strength or degree. The attack was anticipated but its intensity came as a shock.*
- **Albeit**: *You use albeit to introduce a fact or comment which reduces the force or significance of what you have just said. (FORMAL). Charles's letter was indeed published, albeit in a somewhat abbreviated form.*
- **Persist**: *If something undesirable persists, it continues to exist. Contact your doctor if the cough persists...*
- **Demand**: *If you demand something such as information or action, you ask for it in a very forceful way. Mr Byers last night demanded an immediate explanation from the Education Secretary...*
- **Intersection**: *An intersection is a place where roads or other lines meet or cross.*

...at the intersection of two main canals.

- **Dedicated**: *You use dedicated to describe something that is made, built, or designed for one particular purpose or thing. Such areas should also be served by dedicated cycle routes.*
- **Interrupt**: *If someone or something interrupts a process or activity, they stop it for a period of time. He has rightly interrupted his holiday in Spain to return to London...*
- **Punctuality**: *doing something or arrive somewhere at the right time and are not late.*

  I'll have to have a word with them about punctuality.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2016

More and more young people from wealthy countries are spending a short time in communities in poorer countries doing unpaid work such as teaching or building houses.

Why? Who benefit from this, the community or these young people?

It is true that a growing number of young people from **affluent** countries are doing temporary jobs without payment in less wealthy countries. Reasons for this vary, and I believe that both these young individuals and the community **reap the benefits**.

There are several reasons why the youth in rich nations tend to do unpaid work in less affluent countries. Chief among them is the growth of the **aviation industry**. The emergence of **low-cost airlines** allows young individuals who are **on a tight budget** to travel to remote corners of the world. For example, having a voluntary foreign English teacher in Sapa, a mountainous area in Vietnam, used to be **far-fetched** several decades ago, but cheap carriers such as Tiger Airlines and Jetstar Airlines have made it happen. Another reason is the spread of information. The development of technology has brought images and the living condition of poor communities to the richer world, which **creates an urge** for the young to **take action**. Many graduates decide to **take a year out** to help the

inhabitants of **poverty-stricken countries** partly because of the television programs and the news they watch and read.

Doing unpaid jobs **pays dividends for** both young volunteers and the community. On the one hand, young people can experience the life of **indigenous** people, **gain hands-on experience** and **enjoy the breathtaking view** of the places where they work. They may then come back to their normal life and decide on the **career path** that they want to pursue. On the other hand, people in poor countries might benefit from the work of young citizens from rich nations. Knowledge received can have lasting effects on the locals' future, while housing built will provide a **better living condition** than before.

In conclusion, various factors contribute to the **influx** of young volunteers to poor communities. Personally, I believe that this is beneficial to both these young people and the community as a whole.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2016

In recent years, the structure of a family and the role of its members are gradually changing. What kinds of changes can occur? Do you think these changes are positive and negative?

Recently, there has been a gradual transformation in the household structure and the way each member makes contribution to the family. In this essay, I would like to discuss several possible changes and demonstrate that those changes are totally beneficial.

To begin with, the way a family is organised is far different from that in the past. Firstly, men and women are now sharing the role of breadwinners. A few decades ago, fathers were those who earned money to raise the family, while nurturing progenies was the responsibility shouldered by mothers. Today, as a logical effect of gender equality, professional opportunities are available for people of both sexes, leading to the fact that both men and women should exert effort to make ends meet. Secondly, people now have an inclination to form nuclear families. The escalating competitiveness of the job market accompanying with the higher demands of living standards drives people to work overtime and have fewer children.

From my perspective, the aforementioned changes are totally advantageous. The first benefit is that the financial pressure that parents of medium-sized families have to burden

is far less significant than that of large families. This allows them to save money for long-term purposes, such as affording a house or sending their children overseas for tertiary education. Another significant advantage is that the children of such busy parents can learn how to live independently and acquire a diverse mixture of qualities at a young age. For example, many youths today have to prepare meals and arrange the study schedules themselves, which helps to sharpen up their self-reliance.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my position that the household structure and the role of each family member are altering in a positive way.

Useful words and phrases:

- **change/ alter/ transform** *(synonyms)*
- **breadwinner**: *(eg: My father is the breadwinner of the family).*
- **progenies**
- **shoulder responsibility** = **take responsibility** *(eg: Every team member should shoulder the responsibility for each of their actions).*
- **make ends meet** *(eg: Does the government really think elderly people can make ends meet on their pensions?)*
- **escalating**: *gradually increasing (eg: The escalating cost of healthcare)*
- **sharpen (up)** *(eg: Their reading skills will be sharpened up)*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2016

Some people think that it is good for a country's culture to import foreign movies and TV programmes. Others think that it is better to produce these locally.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People have different views about whether it is better for a country to purchase foreign movies or to create domestic ones. While importing movies from other countries can have some advantages, I would argue that producing local movies is a much better option.

On the one hand, there are some clear benefits of buying movies from other countries. Firstly, when a country imports movies that are produced overseas, it can help its people

learn about other cultures in a much easier and more effective way. This would help its citizens to be more knowledgeable. Secondly, individuals can learn the good things of other more civilised societies and alter the way they behave. For example, the habit of queuing is a nice thing in many Western countries, and people from other countries can learn and copy this action when watching foreign movies.

On the other hand, I believe it is better for countries to produce movies domestically because of some reasons. The first one is that movies made by local people would help to preserve the traditions and customs of their own cultures. For instance, many TV programmes remind young generations of how people celebrate Traditional New Year, which is the most important public holiday in some Asian countries. If young people only watch foreign movies, the traditional values might be gradually forgotten. Another reason is that the film industry often create jobs such as actors, directors or cameramen. Therefore, it is necessary to invest in producing movies in order to provide more employment opportunities for local people.

In conclusion, while purchasing foreign movies is beneficial for a nation's culture to some extent, it seems to me that making local ones is a much better choice.

Useful words and phrases:

- **domestic**: *of or inside a particular country; not foreign or international. EX: domestic flights*
- **civilised**: *well-organized socially with a very developed culture and way of life. EX: the civilised world*
- **queue**: *to wait in a line of people, vehicles in order to do sth, get sth or go somewhere EX: We had to queue up for an hour for the tickets.*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2016

Many people now live in societies where comsumer goods have become cheap.
Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?

The prices of goods have reduced significantly owing to increased productivity, technology and other factors, which allows people to afford various products. Beneficial as this development may seem instantly, there are some drawbacks worth considering.

On the positive side, the life of the population has largely improved in many areas. In terms of daily necessities such as food and clothing, lower costs enable even the impoverished to live on a tiny budget without their serious concern about hunger or the cold. Furthermore, those with average incomes can enjoy products of higher quality more than before. As for higher needs such as entertainment and education, affordable prices provide the majority of the population with access to better and higher education, whereas most common forms of leisure activities have been added to the options of ordinary people for better life quality. For instance, travelling by air for a holiday has become very common because of cheap airline, and more people are now able to attend courses with reasonable fees at centres.

However, price reduction is also accompanied by several disadvantages. One of them is the decline in product quality generally caused by the failure to comply with mass manufacture standards. An obvious example of this is China made goods which are notorious for poor durability as a result of using unqualified materials and unskilled labour in exchange for price competitiveness. Another problem is that people can waste products and resources when the goods are too cheap to mind. For example, households and restaurants throw away a massive amount of leftovers every day worldwide; similarly, water is wasted in many developed countries.

In conclusion, it is obvious to acknowledge the dominant benefits of humans' effort to make products financially available for everyone, but the adverse effects of this development should not be overlooked.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Increased productivity** (noun phrase)
- **Afford** (verb)
- **Daily necessities** (noun phrase)
- **The impoverished** (noun phrase)
- **To live on a tiny budget** (expression)
- **To enable sb to V** (verb phrase)
- **Average incomes** (noun phrase)
- **Affordable/ Cheap/ Reasonable/ Lower Prices/ Costs** (noun phrase)
- **Ordinary people** (noun phrase)
- **Price reduction/ Price competitiveness** (topic phrases)

- **Be notorious for st** (adjective phrase)
- **Poor durability** (noun phrase)
- **Unqualified materials** (noun phrase)
- **Unskilled labour** (noun phrase)
- **In exchange for** (complex preposition phrase)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2016

It is impossible to help all people in the world, so governments should only focus on people in their own countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

The role of one government to support citizens of other countries has been a major topic of concern in today's society. From my perspective, this practice is feasible and there are compelling reasons why governments should help people in the global community rather than only focusing on the citizens of their own countries.

In this context of globalisation and international integration, the provision of assistance for peoples of all countries in the world is not an impossible task anymore. One explanation for this is that modern means of transport have transformed the way that international assistance could be given, and now assistance could reach even the most remote places on Earth. For example, thousands of victims of a deadly earthquake in a mountainous city in Nepal were rescued by US and German military helicopters in 2014. One further explanation is that thanks to international banking, the international community could offer a helping hand to any country where the financial system is on the verge of collapse. An excellent example of this is that the saving money of millions of taxpayers and pensioners in Greece was saved by a timely act of the European Commission of injecting a huge amount of bailout money into Greek banks in 2009.

I strongly believe any government must assume the responsibility of helping citizens in other countries. This is mainly because assisting inhabitants in other countries, to some extent, is synonymous to assisting people in the home country. In 2014, hundreds of US and UK doctors and nurses were sent to African countries to cope with the outbreak of Ebola, a dreadful plague, which had killed many thousands by that time. This action prevented the plague from further spreading to other nations, including the US and the UK

themselves, considering that there was a free movement of people between countries and there were millions of African migrant workers in the US and the UK at that time. In addition, the act of supporting people all around the world may promote a sense of humanity, which is essential to the sustainable development of the world, because humanity is the foundation of peace and stability.

To conclude, governments must provide assistance for citizens of other countries for a clear reason that this feasible act could simultaneously enhance a global sense of humanity and assure their own nationals of a proper living environment.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Feasible**: If something is feasible, it can be done, made, or achieved. *She questioned whether it was feasible to stimulate investment in these regions.*
- **Compelling**: A compelling argument or reason is one that convinces you that something is true or that something should be done. *Factual and forensic evidence makes a suicide verdict the most compelling answer to the mystery of his death.*
- **Integrate**: If someone integrates into a social group, or is integrated into it, they behave in such a way that they become part of the group or are accepted into it. *He didn't integrate successfully into the Italian way of life.*
- **Transform**: To transform something into something else means to change or convert it into that thing. *Your metabolic rate is the speed at which your body transforms food into energy.*
- **Plague**: Plague or the plague is a very infectious disease which usually results in death.
- **Sustainable**: You use sustainable to describe the use of natural resources when this use is kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment. *Try to buy wood that you know has come from a sustainable source.*
- **Stable**: If something is stable, it is not likely to change or come to an end suddenly. *The price of oil should remain stable for the rest of 1992.*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2016

In the future, it seems more difficult to live on the Earth. Some people think more money should be spent on researching other planet to live, such as Mars. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Advances in technology make the prospect to find the second Earth potentially viable. While I agree that terrestrial life has become increasingly difficult, I do not believe that we should invest money in finding a new planet to live on.

On the one hand, there is no doubt that life is not as easy as it was in the past. The main problem is the growing level of environmental pollution that adversely affects humankind in all parts of the world. The rising consumption of natural resources such as gas, oil and coal has resulted in an enormous amount of carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere, which impairs the air quality and accelerates climate change. The consequences of this are grave. People in many big cities are suffering respiratory diseases; more lands are being shrunk due to the rise of sea levels; and there are frequent heat waves in tropical countries. Apparently, human life is now put in danger.

On the other hand, I would contend that spending money finding another home for all creatures on the Earth is not an effective measure. There is little hope of seeking a planet that has favorable conditions for life while the expenditure can be extremely huge. In contrast, a much better solution would be that we should invest in environmental projects and encourage people to lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. For example, green energy should be harnessed and made more available to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and individuals ought to opt for public transport rather than driving their vehicles. Such actions can cut exhaust emissions and slow down the effects of global warming, making the earth a more desirable place for us all.

In conclusion, although global warming is a global malady, it seems ludicrous to suggest that people should find another planet to settle down.

Useful words and phrases:

- **terrestrial life**
- **to impair the air quality**
- **To accelerate climate change**

- **Frequent heat waves**
- **To harness green power**

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2016

Nowadays, more and more older people who need employment compete with younger people for the same jobs. What are the problems this causes? What are solutions?

Today, the **labour market** is becoming more competitive than ever before, with increasing competition between candidates of different age groups. This has led to a number of problems that need to be tackled, as will now be explained.

Firstly, there might be an **increase in the rate of unemployment** among young **job seekers**. Compared to the young, older candidates often possess **a rich source of experience** and thus have an **obvious advantage** when it comes to the **recruitment process**. The younger they are, the fewer chances people have in **job hunting**, and this is the case of many Indian youths who are **struggling to secure a job** after graduating from university.

Secondly, the **workforce** will be less productive. Experience of older workers cannot be used to justify their low levels of productivity due to the **constraint of health**. Companies that employ **senior workers** are often **at risk** of having their business delayed because of the frequent **sick leave** of these employees. In contrast, **junior workers** tend to be more dynamic and more **content** with working overtime, which **contributes to** the success of their firms.

However, there are a range of available options to **combat the issue**. One remedy is that the government should offer **incentives** for older people and encourage them to retire. This will **paves the way for** young people to fill the vacancies created. Another measure is that companies ought to hire both junior and senior employees because a mix of experienced and energetic staff members can be extremely beneficial for them to grow.

In conclusion, various solutions can be taken to handle the problems caused by growing competition between young job seekers and their older counterparts.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2016

Nowadays, more and more people decide to have children later in their life. What are the reasons? Do advantages of this outweigh disadvantages?

In contemporary society, adults are **inclined** to delay having children until they **reach their middle age**. In this essay, I would like to demonstrate several reasons for this tendency and discuss that its drawbacks outweigh its benefits.

To begin with, there are some explanations for people's avoidance of becoming parents too soon in their life. A **prominent justification** is that they want to be **better-prepared** for the family life financially. Individuals **at their early stage of career** may find it **daunting difficult** to afford a youth's **basic demands**, so it is reasonable for them to wait until they have **accumulated a sufficient amount of money** to **guarantee a fulfilled material life** for their children. Another reason would be that the adults may want to enjoy their life before having a new family member. In illustration, it is easier for married couples to travel without a child to nurture.

It is true that this **proclivity** of **procrastination** is advantageous to some extent. To be more specific, families living on a stable income is capable of providing their **offspring** with **high quality education** and **nutritious diets**. However, I hold the view that the disadvantages of this trend are more convincing. It has been scientifically proven that older parents are more likely to **give birth to** less healthy **progenies**. Those children may suffer from a number of serious diseases, ranging from **rickets** to **autism**. **In the long run**, this may **have an adverse effect on** the overall competence of the **future workforce**.

In conclusion, it is understandable why people want to have children in their middle age, but they have to stay alert to the aforementioned significant threats.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2016

It is observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subject. What are causes? And what will be effects on society?

In several parts of the world, there is currently a lack of students choosing to study science in universities and colleges. This problem happens due to some reasons, and it can have some adverse impacts on society.

There are several reasons why fewer university students are choosing science as their major. Firstly, these subjects are usually more difficult and demanding, which requires students to put much effort into their study. For example, my friend who is doing a course in Biology said that he had to conduct too many experiments and complete numerous projects, which prevented him from having any free time. As a result, science subjects seem to be less attractive to students compared to economics or business-related subjects. Secondly, as there are currently fewer employment opportunities available for graduates in science fields, learners are less likely to decide to select these majors. Instead, they tend to choose other subjects which allow them to find jobs more easily.

A shortage of learners in science fields can result in some negative effects. The first impact is that when fewer students decide to learn about science, there would be a serious shortage of employees working in these fields. This would lead to fewer technological developments, which would also prevent improvements in people's life quality. For instance, it would be difficult for humans to produce newer smart phones with better functions. Additionally, while a significantly increasing number of students are choosing economics and business to study, the number of job vacancies in these areas is limited. Therefore, many university graduates would have to face unemployment, which increases burden on society.

In conclusion, the shortage of students choosing science subjects is caused by several factors, and this problem might bring about serious impacts.

Useful words and phrases:

- **adverse:** negative and unpleasant. EX: adverse effects/impacts
- **demanding:** needing a lot of skill, patience, effort... . EX: the work is physically demanding
- **numerous:** existing in large numbers. EX: He has been late on numerous occasions
- **vacancy:** a job that is available for sb to do

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2016

In developing countries, children in rural communities have less access to education. Some people believe that the problem can be solved by providing more schools and teachers, while others think that the problem can be solved by providing computers and Internet access. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is true that a **proper education** is still **out of reach** for the children born in rural parts of developing countries. While some people suggest building more schools and sending more teachers to these areas, others would propose the provision of computers and Internet access. In my personal view, the latter seems more feasible.

On the one hand, schools and teachers are still **fundamental** to the objective of making education accessible to countryside students. Firstly, schools serve a number of purposes other than providing places for classes. More importantly, schools also function as meeting places for students to learn the importance of **collaborating** and **socialising with** other people, provide an **ideal learning environment** for further study and maintain the discipline of students through regular attendance. Secondly, **owing to** poor access to a systematic and constant education in the first place, students in remote areas are unlikely to study by themselves effectively. In other words, teachers are required in the **learning process** because they can acknowledge these students' **deficiencies** and help them to solve their problems by repeating the same explanation, giving suitable exercises or even tutoring them privately.

On the other hand, I believe there are good reasons to supply these rural students with computers and Internet connection. The first reason is that these devices enable the students to pursue study programmes despite the fact that these students live in distant areas. For example, students can use the computer and the Internet to participate in **webinars** from universities or work with the teachers through emails. This idea would seem more feasible than sending teachers to **remote regions** to teach. Another reason is that the computer can be a useful learning tool with educational softwares. There are many computer programmes which contain a **comprehensive course** of self-study these days, so that the students can use these **software applications** without travelling out of their hometowns.

In conclusion, as people have their own views in how to provide education for rural students, I think that technology would offer a more **plausible solution** for the reasons mentioned.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2016

Nowadays, young people admire sports stars though they often do not set a good example. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Although top sports athletes are often poor role models, they gain the admiration of millions of youngsters. This is overall a negative trend for the young generation and society despite one single benefit it may bring about.

I think this trend could be profitable only if the young **disregard the negative** and **focus on the positive aspects** of sports stars' lives. Ronaldo, a **world-class central forward**, for example, is infamous for his **extreme individualism**, but is still a **role model** of diligence and determination for all the efforts he has exerted in football training. Many adolescents who are Ronaldo's fans have **overlooked** his undesirable **personal traits** and trained themselves hard to achieve **extraordinary** results in their lives. In this way, the young may still benefit from sports stars' valuable life lessons.

However, I contend that this is generally an adverse trend because with the majority of youngsters, it may lead to unpleasant consequences. This is because the young could be immature and they may **imitate** all the actions of the stars, **irrespective of** whether these actions are **beneficial** or not. What these young people may copy may range from a **materialistic lifestyle**, an individualistic way of living to more problematic behaviours such as sexism, **racism** and **discrimination**. These **outcomes** are negative not only for the juveniles themselves but for society as a whole in the future.

All the existing data provides a **concrete foundation** that even though youngsters may learn some useful life experiences from top athletes who do not set good examples, the proclivity of admiring and imitating these stars may result in a **wide range** of adverse effects and thus is a negative issue in today's society.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2016

It is suggested that everyone wants to have a car, a television and a fridge. Do disadvantages of this development for society outweigh advantages?

It is true that almost everyone wants a car, a TV and a fridge as some of the basic essentials of a good lifestyle. Despite the benefits, I believe that on a **long-term view** these are outweighed by the disadvantages.

On the one hand, the **growing consumption** of cars, televisions and fridges has several benefits. At its simplest, the rise of the consumer society **stimulates economic growth**. The increasing sales figures of cars and household equipment are often **associated with** more jobs and wealth being created for society. Another advantage is that people can have a higher **standard of living** than before. Travelling on the road is no longer tedious because individuals can sit in a car, listening to music and enjoying the **comfort of air conditioning**. In the same way, people may watch television to relax or to **gain knowledge**, and fridges help them preserve food longer without being stale.

On the other hand, I believe that the above benefits are outweighed by potential problems. Primarily, the use of cars is often **held responsible for** environmental pollution. **Exhaust emissions** from **automobiles** impair the air quality and consequently affect people's health. For example, in many big cities in the world, urban citizens are suffering from **chronic respiratory** problems due to the poor air quality. Using fridges and televisions also places a pressure on electricity supply in the world. The growing use of these devices in the home merely compounds the problem of insufficient electricity that has become **intractable** in many parts of the world.

In conclusion, taking a **long-term perspective**, I would argue that the drawbacks of this trend outweigh the advantages.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2016

Nowadays, most large companies operate multi-nationally. To what extent those companies should have responsibility towards local communities in which they operate?

In the globalisation process, a variety of organisations run on an international scale. However, I believe that these firms should not forget to place more of an emphasis on contributing to the development of the local societies where they are located in several aspects.

The first responsibility that the multinational companies should take is to preserve the local environment. Companies of any size would exert negative influence on the region's air and water quality by running factories, disposing of waste to the waterworks or simply using

airconditioners. Therefore, it is encouraged that they are active in placing restrictions on the level of the contaminants released and endeavouring to operate on an environmentally friendly basis.

Second of all, paying tax on schedule is also an obligation. The tax money is used to upgrade the public constructions and regulate the socio-economic activities, thus facilitate people's life. Accordingly, not paying tax properly, the companies not only violate the national laws, but also indirectly deprive the inhabitants of a wide range of benefits they are well-deserved to reap.

Finally, the major global companies can support the regional communities by creating jobs. Provided with career opportunities at a firm near their homes, the workers can not only save time and money for traveling but also find it easier to take care of their family. In a broader view, this action helps reduce the unemployment rate at the area, which boosts the local economic development in the long run.

In conclusion, I believe that helping the local communities thrive should be considered a must for the international organisations, and there are many ways to implement the task.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Place (more of) an emphasis on smth** (V)
- **Exert influence (collocation)**
- **Waterworks** (N)
- **Dispose** of N (V)
- Place **restriction** on (collocation) = limit
- **Endeavour** = **Strive** = **Exert effort** (v)
- On **schedule**
- **Regulate** (V)
- **Socio-economic** (Adj)
- **Violate** (V)
- **Reap benefits** (Collocation)
- **Boost the economic development**
- **Thrive** (V)
- An **obligation** = a must (N)

- **Implement** = **Execute** = **Perform** (V)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in June 2016

Cycling is more environmentally friendly than other forms of transport. Why is it not popular in many places? And how to increase its popularity?

Although riding a bicycle is clearly a better way to protect the environment than using other types of vehicles, not many people around the world prefer this means of transport. There are several causes of this unpopularity, and some solutions could be proposed to promote the usage of bicycles.

To begin with, there are several reasons why few people use bicycles to travel on a regular basis. Firstly, since modern life is getting much busier than in the past, individuals nowadays want to spend as little time on transport as possible. Therefore, they prefer to use other types of vehicles such as motorbikes or cars which would take less time. Secondly, cycling is more physically demanding than riding a motorbike or driving a car. This tends to discourage people from choosing this method, especially on a hot and sunny day or when they have to travel a long distance.

Several actions can be taken to increase the popularity of bicycles. The first solution would be to make it more costly to own a motorbike or a car. This can be done by increasing the price of petrol or raising tax on these vehicles. As a result, more people would choose bicycles as their primary means of transport. Additionally, more lanes should be built to serve only cyclists, which would make it much faster to travel with bicycles. The final solution is to launch campaigns to raise citizens' awareness of the harmful effects of motorbikes and cars on the environment, and this could encourage people to cycle more often.

In conclusion, there are some reasons why bicycles are becoming less common in today's world, and solutions should be produced early to promote this environmentally friendly means of transport.

Useful words and phrases:

- **unpopularity**: not liked or enjoyed by a person, a group of people in general
- **physically demanding** Example: mountain climbing is very physically demanding
- **primary**: main; most important; basic
- **cyclist**: a person who rides a bicycle

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2016

Studies have suggested that nowadays children watch much more television than they did in the past and spend less time on active or creative things. What are the reasons and what measures should be taken to encourage children to spend more time on active or creative things?

There has been a worrying trend that children watch an excessive amount of television and do not engage much in active or creative activities. This trend can be ascribed to a number of reasons and it must be addressed by definite actions.

Reasons for the trend vary. The primary reason is that children's television programmes are being broadcast all day with addictive contents, such as vivid and colourful animations. Cartoon Network and Disney Channel with their all-day-long series of animation shows are an evident example of this. Another clear reason is that parents nowadays are busy with their work, so they want children to focus on an activity that does not require much of their attention such as watching television. These two reasons make children spend more time in front of the television screen; this sedentary lifestyle prevents them from participating in active or creative activities.

A number of strong measures must be implemented to tackle the issue. The first solution is limiting the amount of time that a child can watch television. This could be done by activating the parental control mode and setting a fixed operating time limit on their television set. Another feasible solution is that parents must spend more time with their children and together they could engage in outdoor or creative activities. For example, parents could form a family sport team that practices on a regular basis, which may appeal to children more than television.

To conclude, there are obvious reasons why children watch too much television and spend little time on active and creative activities. This negative trend could be tackled by a number of remedies, such as activating the parental control mode on television sets.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Excessive** (a): If you describe the amount or level of something as excessive, you disapprove of it because it is more or higher than is necessary or reasonable. *Example: The government says that local authority spending is excessive.*
- **Additive** (a): Something that is addictive is so enjoyable that it makes you want to do it or have it a lot. Example: *Video movie-making can quickly become addictive.*
- **Sedentary** (a): Someone who has a sedentary lifestyle or job sits down a lot of the time and does not take much exercise. *Example: Obesity and a sedentary lifestyle has been linked with an increased risk of heart disease.*
- **Activate** (v): If a device or process is activated, something causes it to start working. *Example: Video cameras with night vision can be activated by movement.*
- **Parental** (a): Parental is used to describe something that relates to parents in general, or to one or both of the parents of a particular child. *Example: Medical treatment was sometimes given to children without parental consent.*
- **To appeal to** (v): If something appeals to you, you find it attractive or interesting. *Example:*

  On the other hand, the idea appealed to him.
- **Remedy** (n): A remedy is a successful way of dealing with a problem. *Example: The remedy lies in the hands of the government.*

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2016

Every day, millions of tons of food are wasted all over the world. Why do you think this is happening? And how can we solve this problem?

Food wastage has now become a big problem in many parts of the world. There are several factors that are attributable to this situation, and solutions need to be adopted to combat the issue.

Primarily, people have become wealthier than before. Increased personal wealth means that individuals no longer appreciate food, and they tend to throw food away after eating rather than storing it in the fridge for the next meal. Fresh vegetables, meat and fish at the supermarket are now sold at an affordable price for middle-class people, so many of them are willing to discard the food as soon as they satiate their hungry stomach.

Another reason is that the food industry has been developing fast, with a variety of choices and marketing techniques that encourage food spending. Television programs are often interrupted by food advertisements that are digitally altered to trigger the craving for a wide range of delicious food. It is, therefore, not surprising why consumers do not feel the need to preserve the food that they have not eaten for later use.

However, food wastage is not an intractable problem. The simplest measure the government can do is to step up campaigns to raise public awareness with the aim of changing public attitudes to food consumption. The deleterious effects of food waste on the environment should be highlighted via posters and television programs to draw the attention of the public to the problem. Also, a heavy tax ought to be imposed on the food industry, which may causes the price of everyday food to rise and consequently deter people from taking food for granted.

In conclusion, people throw food away after meals because of several reasons, which requires the government to take action to mitigate the problem.

Useful words and phrases:

- **Food wastage**
- To be **attributable** to smth
- To **satiate** smth
- The **craving for** smth

- To **deter** smb **from doing** smth

IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2016

In many countries, governments are spending a large amount of money on improving internet access. Why is it happening and do you think it is the most appropriate use of government money?

Recently, an ample amount of governmental investment money is being **poured into** the **amelioration** of the Internet supply. This phenomenon has its root from a host of factors, and I would discuss that there are various available ways to **allocate** this money more effectively.

To begin with, it is understandable why enhancing the quality of the Internet provision has become a key national **investment portfolio**. Firstly, with the availability of a better Internet connection, an extensive **avenue of information** is **opened up** for the inhabitants. Most residents would have **omnipresent** access to both international and local social news, and it has never been easier for those who live in remote areas to reach a wide range of information at a click of a button. Secondly, an improved Internet supply can facilitate the operation process of governmental companies. With **stably-functioning** online platforms, corporations today would no longer find it difficult to approach their customers, manage their employees or organise **video conferences**, which **boosts the overall productivity**. **In the long run**, the development of such firms makes great contribution to the **thriving** of the national economy.

However, I believe that upgrading the Internet access is not the best way to allocate the government money. The primary reason is that the **broadband connection** in most countries today is fast enough to satisfy the basic demands of the public. For example, in Vietnam, hardly do individuals have to wait a long time for a web page to load, while online business meetings have even become popular years ago. Therefore, an improvement in the quality of the Internet supply can be deemed not obligatory and urgent. Another justification is that there are several other fields which are **being placed under strain** and require the **capital disbursement** to function. To illustrate, a number of state hospitals in the UK have been conducting research on a complete cure for cancer, and it seems that this should be the **investment priority**.

In final words, all aforementioned standpoints lead me to a concrete inference that it is reasonable of the authorities to spend money bettering the Internet provision, but there are ways to allocate the capital more appropriately.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in August 2016

Fossil fuel is the main source of energy. In some countries, the use of alternative sources of energy is encouraged. To what extent do you think is it a positive or negative development?

In several parts of the world, fossil fuel plays a primary role in producing energy. However, governmental leaders also promote the utilization of nontraditional sources of power. I believe that this policy could generate both advantages and shortcomings.

There are various benefits of putting renewable power sources into practice. Firstly, when the exploitation of the non-conventional energy sources gains more popularity, followed by a decrease in the utilization of fossil fuel, natural renewable resources, which are being overexploited at an alarming rate and in danger of being exhausted, can be saved with a view to being preserved for later generations. Secondly, non-traditional sources of power like solar energy or wind power are considered to be environmentally friendly. In other words, they may discharge almost no toxic chemical emissions or pollutants. Consequently, the environment can be protected. Finally, factories or corporations generating renewable power can make contributions to supplying more job opportunities for the community and satisfying the increasing requirements for energy for daily social life and industrial production.

Nevertheless, in my view, countries can be confronted with several problems when making use of these kinds of energy. In various cases, when nuclear power plants could leak radioactive substances, the community health will be endangered and the living environment may be poisoned. Additionally, national authorities are obliged to allocate a huge amount of state budget for constructing nuclear power factories, installing windmills or purchasing solar panels, followed by a shortage of national fund for other key sectors like educational systems or health services.

Another trouble is that on days with little wind or sunlight, wind power or solar energy can hardly be produced. Moreover, in dry seasons, there is nearly no rain, leading to a lack of water for turbines to produce power. All the above mentioned matters may give rise to a deficiency in electricity for community life and manufacturing.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that it is beneficial and problematic for nations to exploit renewable sources of energy.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in September 2016

Topic: Some people think studying from the past offers no benefits to today's life, while others believe that history is a valuable source of information for us. Discuss both views and give our own opinion.

There has been considerable debate about the values of studying history. While it is argued that there are no advantages of learning history, I believe that history can bring more benefits.

It is claimed that it is not beneficial to learn from the past. At various schools, students may put exam-based learning methods into practice to satisfy the requirements of exams and tests. Consequently, they are obliged to make every effort to memorize historical developments and events. In several cases, they get stressful and overloaded with history-related knowledge which does not provide foundations for their doing research into scientific fields like engineering or medicine. For example, in my hometown, most school students apply test-oriented approaches in historical lessons, causing students to be bombarded with historical knowledge, which is not beneficial in supplying background knowledge for them to realize their dream to major in computer engineering or medical sciences at university.

Nonetheless, from my viewpoint, history should become a more precious informative source. Thanks to history classes or museum artifacts related to past wars, there is every likelihood of young generations accumulating a profound knowledge of the sacrifice and contributions of their ancestors in the resistance war against foreign invaders, followed by cultivating their national pride and patriotism. As a result, they may have a tendency to be supplied with motivation and inspiration to put almost every effort into perfecting themselves and making contributions to national development. Another explanation may be that no sooner are students exposed to history lectures than they could enhance their understanding of valuable lessons about successes and failures in the process of predecessors' national construction and defense. Hence, they might reach higher maturity and greater confidence in avoiding the same mistakes and making wise decisions for their future careers and life.

In conclusion, although people think history lessons can be of no importance, I am of the opinion that there are more benefits of studying history as a huge reservoir of knowledge.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2016

Some people think that everyone has the right to have access to university education, and that government should make it free for all students no matter what financial background they have. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is unquestionable that every citizen has equal opportunities to follow higher education. I believe that the government should allow students to attend university free of charge. However, I disagree with the policy of providing free higher education for all students regardless of their financial background.

Supplying free tertiary education for students is a sensible national investment. Numerous students, if not obliged to pay tuition fees can afford to cover their living costs; thereby concentrating on academic performance or cultivate their professional skills. Therefore, they may be well qualified for future employment. Additionally, university graduates who have received governmental grants for all university tuition fees can become productive citizens contributing to social betterment. More specifically, after graduation from university, some graduates may become loyal and strong-willed soldiers who could ensure national security and sovereignty or teachers serving to raising people's intellectual levels and shaping young generations' behavioral patterns.

However, I oppose the idea of providing tuition fees subsidies for all students irrespective of whether they are rich or poor. Several learners who live in poverty are entitled to free tertiary education although they have no desire to enrich academic knowledge or professional skills. In this case, this policy proves to be a waste of money. Another explanation is that no sooner do national leaders pay all tuition fees for university education than there is high likelihood of a deficiency in state budget for community health services or public transport services which also require a huge amount of fund investment from the government for the benefits of the whole society.

In conclusion, in my view, there are several benefits of free education at university level. However, I disapprove that all students have free higher education opportunities no matter how rich or poor they are.

(297 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in October 2016

Some people think that men and women have different qualities. Therefore, some certain jobs are suitable for men and some jobs are suitable for women. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is natural that both genders possess distinct features. While it is believed that several occupations are appropriate for men or women on the basis of their own qualities, I partly approve of this viewpoint because each sex can expose equal performance at work to the opposite gender in various cases.

On the one hand, several respective characteristics of each gender may enable them to be compatible with certain jobs. As regards males, they are blessed with good physical stamina, decisiveness or strong will, allowing them to be well qualified for armed forces. For example, men can perform military service or enter the security force because they are able to be confronted with aggressive robbers or combative foreign invaders. Similarly, women, considered to be the weaker sex, tend to be emotional, considerate or meticulous, which makes it possible for them to become prominent at doing household chores or taking responsibility for childcare.

Regardless of the above-mentioned explanations, I accept that males and females can work equally effectively and hold the same social status. At home, there is likelihood of men becoming outstanding at doing the work which is usually given to women. More especially, various males are skilled chefs and a large number of husbands in modern families are excellent at childcare skills compared with their wives. By contrast, various modern women can become breadwinners instead of men. Additionally, in the modern society, women may undertake the same important social positions as their male counterparts. For example, like other male elite members, Angela Markel was elected as the prime minister of Germany, permitting her to reveal her leadership talents and powerful influence on national development policies.

In conclusion, although it is argued both genders have their own separate qualities making them become suited for several jobs, I believe that they are capable of having the same type of jobs irrespective of whether they are male or female.

(317 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in November 2016

Advertisements are becoming more and more common in everyday life. Is it positive or negative development?

Advertising is gaining more popularity in the marketing of products or services. While advertisements are considered to be advantageous, they can have numerous negative influences.

It is unquestionable that there are several benefits of advertising. By dint of the large-scale expansion of advertising in almost every kind of mass media and nearly all hoardings, this sector is likely to generate a diversity of employment opportunities. In other words, it provides occupations for artists, painters or copywriters in designing and preparing logos, contents or ideas for advertisements. Another advantage is that advertising may enable the massages involved in products and services to reach potential customers, followed by an increase in sales for businesses. Additionally, only thanks to advertisements, can customers be kept informed about newly-launched products. Therefore, they have more choices to make about their beloved products, contributing to the enhancement of their comforts and standard of living.

However, advertising could cause several disadvantages for customers. No sooner might companies or business exaggerate or even distort the facts related to their products for commercial purposes than the customers can experience feelings of confusion about these items, making them have troubles in selecting the products to their taste. Furthermore, the facts show that the more advertising expenses increase, the higher the product price is. The reason can be that the high cost of advertisements is covered by the selling price of advertised items. As a result, the advertised products can cost more than they should. Finally, when customers cannot resist the temptation of products which are advertised beyond customers' expectations, there is every likelihood of them purchasing products which may be unnecessary. This trend could be seen as a waste of money.

In conclusion, based on the above mentioned explanations, individuals may gain both considerable benefits and drawbacks through the growing prevalence of advertisements.

(305 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in December 2016

Topic: International travel has many advantages to both the travellers and the country visited. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?

It is true that citizens around the world tend to show fancy for travelling overseas. From my perspective, journeys to foreign nations bring more benefits than drawbacks.

Admittedly, several problems could arise along with international tours. Firstly, visitors from overseas may be required to pay considerably higher prices for their accommodation or other holiday services because numerous native citizens take the chance to make a huge profit from foreign individuals. Secondly, in fact, several international tourists bring infectious diseases, especially Ebola or MERS to tourist attractions, posing a threat to the local community health. Finally, there is every likelihood of holiday destinations being put under environmental threats as a consequence of a massive influx of foreign tourists to these venues with low awareness of the importance of environmental protection.

However, international visits have more positive impacts on tourists as well as host countries. With regard to travelers, thanks to setting foot in a strange nation, they would have an opportunity to become more broad-minded when getting to know about different customs, lifestyles and rituals. Additionally, enjoying the breath- taking views of destination countries and their diverse delicacies may assist visitors to escape from the hustle and bustle of their busy life to have unforgettable memories and recharge their own batteries. In terms of local countries, an increase in the number of travelers from abroad to their localities could generate a variety of job opportunities related to tour guide or accommodation services for local residents and help reduce unemployment rate, followed by an improvement in economic prosperity. Equally importantly, international tourism is attributed to the enhancement of cultural communication and mutual understanding between nations.

To summarize, despite several mentioned-above shortcomings, I personally believe that international tourism denotes a positive trend for both individuals and society.

(293 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2017

Some universities offer online courses as an alternative to classes delivered on campus. Do you think this a positive or negative development?

The idea of providing distance education of numerous universities has become quite fashionable. Whilst I believe online courses to have great benefits in several cases, I presume that this trend may give rise to some downsides.

On the one hand, it is my belief that this tendency is likely to be profitable. One noticeable advantage is an increase in academic chance for social members. The adoption of video-conferencing technology and free-to-use group chats in Internet-bases courses may serve to facilitate the study of busy workers without leaving their current jobs. Furthermore, students could get access to academic lectures by prominent professors from World-famous universities via e-learning classes. Another point in favor is convenience. Online distance education enables students not only take the initiative to plan their study schedule but also review lectures, discussion, comments or share notes with each other on demand.

On the other hand, there appear to be potential shortcomings stemming from this trend. One disadvantage is the lack of interaction with the instructors and fellow classmates in the light of the internet disconnect. This procrastination may discourage learners from meeting their deadlines and completing their assignments. Students' plagiarism and dishonesty are areas of concern as well. Some critics feel that it is easier to plagiarize or share answers owing to reduced surveillance and increase connectivity. Consequently, this copyright infringement could drive them to the verge of being expelled from the course of study.

Overall, based on what have been discussed above, it seems to me that learning activities through the medium of the internet has both the desired and adverse effects.

(265 words)

IELTS Writing Recent Actual Tests (Task 2) 2017

IELTS Writing Task 2 in January 2017

In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts while boys like science. What are the reasons for this trend and do you think this tendency should be changed?

It is undeniable that scientific domains of study seem to be preferred by schoolboys whilst schoolgirls are inclined to show fancy for ones related to arts. From my perspective, several reasons could explain this tendency and it should undergo a change.

There are two main causes responsible for the difference in subject selections between boys and girls. First and foremost, it derives from natural strengths of each gender. It is an inescapable fact various male students are better at rational and logical thinking in science; hence, they reveal preference for mathematical and physical realms while the other sex may be more emotional and sensitive to have advantages in perceiving arts or languages. Equally importantly, the traditional belief is another contributing factor deciding that divergence. In fact, a number of parents orientate their girls towards the choice of artistic fields to become elegant and their sons to pursue science subjects for their future career.

I believe that there is a necessity to change the aforementioned trend. Both male and female children should be encouraged to find the right balance between arts and science subjects. Several scientific studies prove that learning arts could boost children's creativity and imagination power, enabling them to get insight into scientific subjects with greater efficiency; meanwhile, majors namely maths or physics also generate opportunities for female learners to develop their left brain and enhance problem-solving competences. Furthermore, as regards numerous female students who have a flair for maths and engineering, forcing them to specialize in artistic scopes may produce counterproductive outcomes. This compulsion is likely to cause resentment and negative attitudes towards their study, followed by low levels of academic performance.

To conclude, that girls prefer arts but boys tend to choose science subjects for education could be justified for several above-mentioned reasons. Nonetheless, I argue for a change of this situation.

(305 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2017

It is better for college students to live far away from home than live at home with their parents. Do you agree or disagree?

Student accommodation wields direct influences in their life and academic performance. I uphold the conviction that it is more necessary for student life to be spent a long distance from their parents.

Life on campus may be more advantageous for university students. It is undeniable that with the absence of parental care, students seem to have a chance to shoulder almost all the blame for their private life , ranging from doing household chores to managing personal finance, meticulously preparing certain life skills for their later life. Additionally, thanks to their shared accommodation , students might learn how to live and work in harmony with others, giving rise to improvements in social skills. Finally, students can accomplish higher academic outcomes by dint of mutual aid and support from friends by sharing learning materials or developing proper study strategies for each other, facilitating their study when sharing the room.

However, although living with parents during student life may bring several benefits ranging from parental care to feeling of safety, this lifestyle can be more detrimental. In fact, commuting to universities from home daily may deprive various students of a remarkable time which should have been allocated for participating in recreational and extracurricular activities or sports events with a view to enhancing their physical health and develop their teamwork skills or communication competences. This physical stamina and these soft skills are prerequisites for paving the way for academic as well as professional success. In other words, were it not for these soft skills which appear easier to be developed in a self-reliant life, students would be at a disadvantage in the process of accumulating academic knowledge and professional qualifications for future employment.

In conclusion, based on the aforementioned explanations, it seems to me that, enjoying campus life far from their parents is a more sensible decision than living under the same roof with their parents.

(309 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in February 2017

Some people think international car-free days are an effective way of reducing air pollution, others think there are some other ways. Discuss both views and give your own opinion

A wide range of feasible measures have been proposed in an attempt to enhance the quality of air across the globe. Although it is universally accepted that global car-free days can be an effective solution. It is my conviction that numerous other policies seem to become more possible.

On the one hand, it is undeniable that when almost all citizens on a global scale are willing to resort to other means of transport in order to celebrate a so-called international car-free day, this practice seems to be fruitful. On a day-to-day basis, cars, which are widely regarded as the most prevalent transportation means running on petrol or diesel, discharge a huge quantity of exhaust fumes ranging from carbon dioxides to unburnt hydrocarbons. Therefore, there is, in all likelihood, a considerable decline in the amount of pollution-causing gas, meaning that the air quality may become cleaner and healthier. This situation might encourage individuals to reduce car usage in the next days to diminish air contamination.

However, I advocate the viewpoint that several more attainable policies could be introduced with a view to minimizing the number of air quality pollutants. The most immediate solution would be that all factories need to apply cutting-edge pollution-free technologies in production so that exhaust fumes from these factories would become more environmentally friendly. Another remedy may be to construct and put into operation more nuclear power plants as opposed to thermal power stations which release thousands of tons of carbon dioxides into the atmosphere. Other alternative sources of energy namely solar energy and wind power should be exploited. The two latter policies may contribute to fulfilling the increasing requirements for energy for industrial production and daily household consumption without causing serious damage to the air quality.

To conclude, despite the productive global car-free day celebration as aforementioned, I uphold the standpoint that various other methods seem to be more achievable.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2017

Some people think that governments should ban dangerous sports, while others think people should have freedom to do any sports or activity. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is stated that hazardous sports should be prohibited. However, numerous arguments have been made in aid of the idea that citizens ought to participate in any sports they are interested in. This essay will discuss the debate and give a concluding view.

On the one hand, those who advocate the ban cite that it is governments' responsibility to forbid perilous sports for several reasons. Firstly, when those engaging in extreme sports make any mistake, they can be seriously injured or even killed. More specifically, boxing, skiing or mountaineering could give rise to hundreds of physical disabilities from grave injuries or even deaths to athletes. Secondly, spectators can also be injured in these contests. In car races, for example, if the racing car brakes or driving wheels become problematic and uncontrollable, this car may dash into spectators and hurt them. Finally, hazardous sports like boxing or car racing may provoke individuals into illegal betting, which might trigger social problems involved in stealing or fighting.

However, opponents of this view point out that social members should feel free to do any sports. The reason can be that several people can assert their passions and talents in their favorite sports with a view to realizing their aspirations to become sports professionals. Additionally, when there is no limit to any sport individuals can do, people from all walks of life and of different ages should have chances to engage in any events suited to their age groups and taste. This paves way for the increasing popularity of sports activities among the community. Therefore, numerous employment opportunities could be created for local residents in the domains related to constructing sport facilities and supplying other services ranging from selling souvenirs to offering accommodation to tourists.

In conclusion, it seems advisable that a ban on dangerous sports might be beneficial. Nevertheless, it would appear to me that there are more advantages of permitting people to be involved in any sport they show interest in.

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2017

The society would benefit from a ban on all forms of advertising because it serves no useful purpose, and can even be damaging. Do you agree or disagree?

It is regularly argued that prohibition of all categories of advertisement, which are thought to be pointless and even detrimental, could generate numerous benefits for the community. Notwithstanding, from my standpoint, social members tend to not only reap advantages but also tolerate demerits from this trend.

On the one hand, it seems undeniable that the ban on multiple kinds of advertisement can be beneficial for consumers. Forbidding advertising is synonymous with the fact that purchasers may not have to pay a remarkable measure of money for advertising services included in product prices. This can serve to reduce consumers' expenditures for shopping. Moreover, no sooner are numerous advertisements exaggerating the functions, values and qualities of commodities with a view to pressing citizens to purchase their products prohibited than individuals may select their items to fulfill their requirements without being adversely affected by the messages in which the truths related to these goods can have been exaggerated or even distorted.

On the other hand, it would appear that the bar to advertisement services likewise pose untold drawbacks to the community. The first shortcoming could be the joblessness which employees involved in advertising could be confronted with, in all likelihood, giving rise to an increase in the unemployment rate. Another disadvantage might be that this prohibition can keep consumers in ignorance of the latest goods available on the market. Hence, they may be faced with obstacles in searching for and comparing the quality and price concerning the products of the same category before deciding to purchase them.

In conclusion, it is my conviction that banning advertisements can wield both desired and adverse effects on community members.

(273 words)

IELTS Writing Task 2 in April 2017

Some people think that people who choose a job early and keep doing it are more likely to get a satisfying in their career life than those who frequently change jobs. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is often said that individuals settling down with a permanent career soon seem to experience further satisfaction in their work than social members regularly altering their employment. However, from my standpoint, both these options could bestow comparable feelings of fulfillment.

On the one hand, it is undeniable that numerous people who can opt for a job early and maintain it may reap pleasure in their work. When realizing the job they have a craving for earlier in their life and might land this kind of job, individuals are likely to grasp privileges to expose the majority of their aptitudes, skills and their expertise on their work. As a result, it is easy for them to achieve progress in their career and receive a high salary which may satisfy their requirements for entertainment or education. It is unquestionable that these appear to help create satisfactory with their job.

Notwithstanding, it is my conviction that individuals, who frequently hopping their position, can be likewise content with their employment. The first explanation is that when regularly changing their jobs, they may have multiple opportunities to accumulate diverse majors, skills and knowledge. Thus, they may step out of their comfort zones in order to experience feelings of satisfaction. Another cause could be that by virtue of regularly shifting their employment, social workers are likely to find the most appropriate position with their personal competences and aspiration. Hence, it would seem that job hoppers can also achieve exaltation in working.

Overall, it is sensible to conclude that not only people making an early choice of work and pursue it for their whole life but also individuals often changing their position can equally get satisfactory in their career.

(283 words)